

# FISHY FACTS



## FEATURED CREATURE:

A **harlequin blue sea goddess nudibranch** is a tiny sea slug, some only a few centimetres long. With fabulous names inspired by their jewel-like colours they are very exciting finds for scuba divers! Found in St Helena.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

It's no wonder **thresher sharks**, with their fantastically long tail fins, always seem to look worried. They are badly affected by overfishing and the shark fin trade.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Basking sharks** are the second largest sharks in the world, yet they only eat plankton. In the UK, they can be spotted around the south west of England, Wales and the west coast of Scotland.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Atlantic blue marlin** are one of the largest fish in the world. Females can reach lengths of around 12 feet (4 metres). They use their spears to hunt – it's a weapon to be reckoned with.

## FISHY FACT

The fastest shark in the ocean is the shortfin mako shark, it can reach speeds of over 70 kilometres per hour in short bursts. (So if it drove past your school, it would get a speeding ticket!)



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Dumbo octopus** is the deepest living kind of octopus, and can hover above the seafloor at depths of over 3,000 metres. And it has fins shaped like Dumbo's ears!

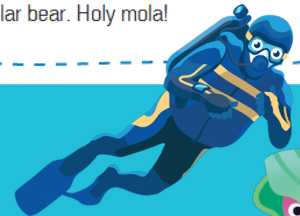
## FISHY FACT

The ocean sunfish or Mola mola is the heaviest bony fish in the seas. Reaching a vertical height of 14 feet, it can weigh up to 2.5 tonnes. That's far heavier than a polar bear. Holy mola!



## FEATURED CREATURE:

The **fairy penguin**, or **little blue**, is the smallest penguin in the world and never grows much bigger than a ruler.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

The **pan tropical spotted dolphin** has something to smile about. Because of dolphin friendly tuna fishing methods, millions of dolphins have been saved. It is now one of the world's most plentiful dolphin species.

## FISHY FACT

The ocean is blue because water absorbs the colour blue last. Sunlight looks white but is really made up of all the colours of the rainbow each travelling on their own wavelength. When these colours hit water the red, yellow and orange colours get absorbed first. The blue light, however, travels deep underwater before it is absorbed.

## FISHY FACT

The Pacific Ocean has around twice as many coral species as the Atlantic Ocean.

## FISHY FACT

Despite covering only a tiny area of the ocean floor (just 0.2%) coral reefs support at least 25% of all marine species. They are very important habitats that provide a home for many different animals.





## FEATURED CREATURE:

The **blue whale** can sometimes reach 30 metres in length, over two busses. Its tongue can weigh more than an elephant. Its heart can weigh as much as a car.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

The **resplendent pygmy angelfish** is only found around Ascension Island, so you can see how important it is to protect these waters.

## FISHY FACT

It's not just humans that surf for fun. As far as we can tell, bottlenose dolphins catch those waves for the sheer joy of it!

## I AM WATER. SO ARE YOU. WE ALL ARE.



**70%** OF OUR BODY IS WATER.



**71%**

OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE IS OCEAN TOO.

## THE MALDIVES IS A UNIQUE COUNTRY.



**99%** OF IT IS MADE UP OF WATER

**1%** OF IT IS LAND



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Wisdom the albatross** is the oldest tagged wild bird. She has flown over 3 million miles in her 68 years. Albatrosses mate for life and lay one egg a year.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Loggerhead turtles** need a powerful jaw if they are to eat hard-shelled creatures like clams and sea urchins. The big head that keeps this jaw working gives loggerheads their name.



ONE ADULT OYSTER CAN FILTER 200 LITRES OF WATER A DAY

ONE ACRE OF OYSTER REEF FEEDS 1.5 TONNES OF FISH AND CAN FILTER UP TO 36 OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOLS/DAY

## FISHY FACT

According to the United Nations, there are 3 million shipwrecks on the ocean floor.



## FEATURED CREATURE:

**Harbour seals** may be known as the common seal but each one has a unique pattern of spots. They are called harbour seals because they like to live near sheltered coastal areas.

## FISHY FACT

Herring fart to communicate with each other. Bubbles from the fishy fart make a high-frequency sound that can only be heard by herring, so predators don't notice. The fish use the noise to form protective shoals at night to help them stay safe.

## FISHY FACT

With three hearts, nine brains (a central brain and a control for each arm), and blue blood, the octopus is an ocean aristocrat. Two hearts pump blood through its gills and one through the rest of its body. The copper rich protein that makes its blood blue helps it to get oxygen in cold, deep oceans.



BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION



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