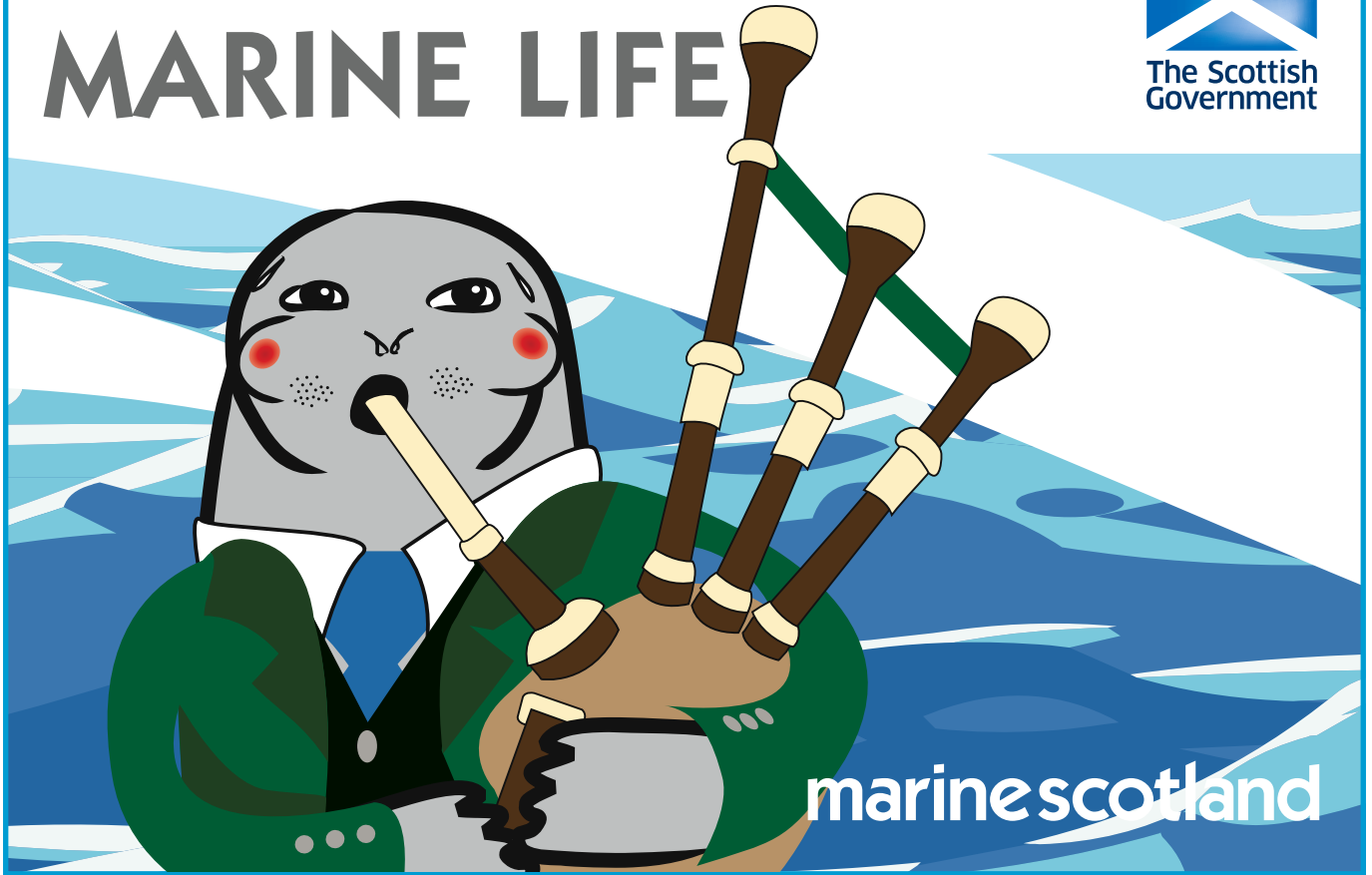


DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT **MARINE LIFE**





WHO EATS ALL THE FISH?

When scientists were studying who ate the most fish, it was discovered that more fish eat other fish than humans eat fish.

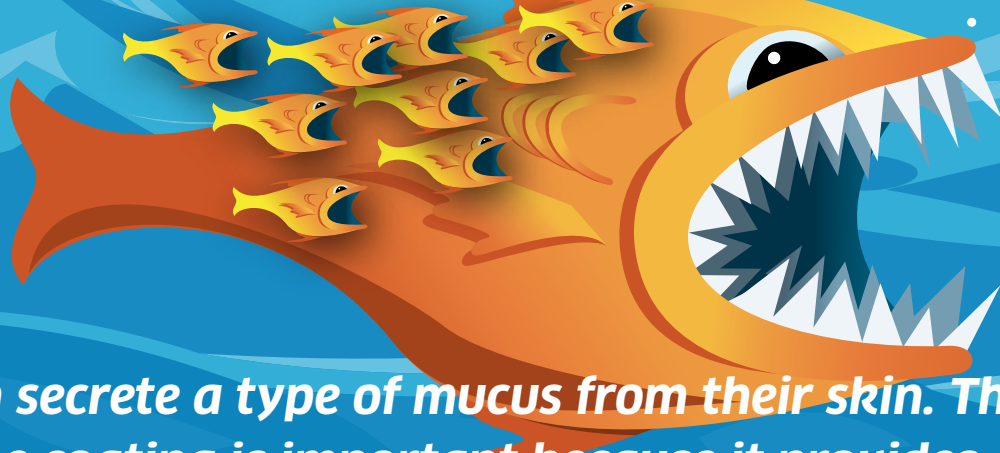
DO FISH SLEEP?

Yes, they do. But they don't have eyelids.



Some fish like sharks don't possess an air bladder to help keep them afloat and must either swim continually or rest on the bottom.

WHY ARE FISH SLIMY?



Fish secrete a type of mucus from their skin. This slime coating is important because it provides protection against parasites and diseases, covers wounds to prevent infection and helps fish move through the water faster. Some species release toxins in their slime which ward off attacking creatures while others use their slime to feed their young.

HOW CAN YOU TELL HOW OLD A FISH IS?

Fish have a bone in their ear called an otolith. Scientists can use growth rings in the otolith to tell the age of the fish.



Angler fish ear bone (otolith), age 5

HOW DO FISH BREATHE?



Waste products

Dissolved oxygen

Some fish have lungs and breathe air, but most breathe through gills. Gills are made up of thin sheets of tissue richly supplied with blood vessels. As water passes over them dissolved oxygen is absorbed into the blood and waste products such as carbon dioxide pass out into the water. The gills are protected by a large bony plate called an operculum.

TRACKERS

Tracking devices have been developed by UK researchers to follow the movements of fish, sea mammals and turtles. For seals, mobile phone technology is used to transmit data back to researchers.



Selection of different tags used in tracking





**90% of the
grey seals
and 80% of
the harbour
(common)
seals that
breed in
Britain
come from
Scotland.**

Link to the Marine Scotland EDUCATION ZONE to find out more!

- **View the complete Marine Atlas**
www.scotland.gov.uk/marineatlas
- **Explore interesting and fun websites**
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/education/websites
- **Download free posters**
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/education/atlas/Posters
- **View the Marine Atlas video – we’ve even included the script so you could even make your own version!**

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