

Green Sea Turtle  
*Chelonia mydas*



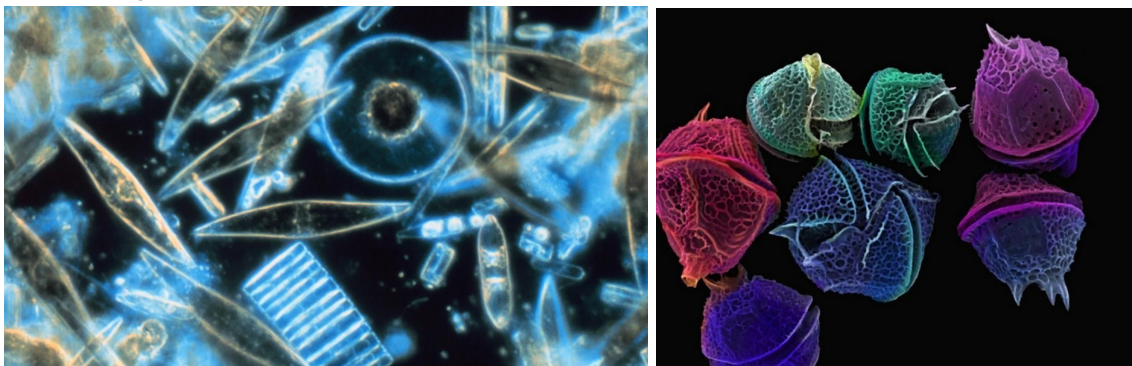
Fun facts:

- Turtles eggs are laid in nests in the dunes on beaches with warm climates.
- A turtle's top shell is called a carapace, and the bottom shell is called a plastron.
- Turtles main source of food are jellyfish, and they have glands in their mouth and throat that make it so they are not stung.

Threats:

- Green Sea Turtles, along with other turtle species, are endangered due to ocean pollution.
- When the eggs hatch, the small baby turtles, have to make their way to the ocean by themselves and avoid predators.
- Turtles can confuse plastic shopping bags with jellyfish and attempt to eat them, causing the turtle to suffocate or get very sick.
- Turtles can get caught in fishing nets and 6 pack holders, which make it difficult to swim and can suffocate or cut them.

Phytoplankton  
*diatoms and dinoflagellates*



Fun facts:

- Phytoplankton are producers and use photosynthesis to make food for themselves.
- They are found at the water's surface where there is a lot of sunlight for photosynthesis.
- Phytoplankton are microscopic, which means they cannot be seen without a microscope.
- Phytoplankton can not swim on their own and instead are carried by currents.

Threats:

- Phytoplankton are affected by ocean acidification, which is when the oceans become more acidic. Ocean acidification is caused by the ocean absorbing carbon dioxide.
- Increased nutrients, such as Phosphates and Nitrates, allow the phytoplankton population to increase to an unstable size. These "blooms" in the phytoplankton population can be toxic to other marine animals and suck up the oxygen in the water, creating a dead zone.

Humpback whale  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*



Fun facts:

- Despite being 42 feet long, humpback whales eat krill, which are about 2 inches long.
- The Humpback whale is part of the Baleen Whale family, which gets its name from its special long, thin teeth called baleen.
- These teeth allow the whales to take gulps of water, and then push the water out through their teeth, so they can catch many krill at once.
- Humpback whales are mammals.
- Blubber, an insulating fat in whales, allows whales to swim in water colder than 32°F.

Threats:

- Humpback whales can become entangled in fishing gear such as nets and fishing lines.
- Ship strikes and close encounters with boats can injure and put stress on whales.
- Whales are endangered because they used to be hunted for their oil, which was used for oil lamps before electricity.

Zooplankton (Krill)  
*Euphausia superba*



Fun facts:

- Zooplankton are consumers and eat Phytoplankton.
- Zooplankton live in all bodies of water near the surface.
- Zooplankton are microscopic, which means they cannot be seen without a microscope.
- Zooplankton cannot swim on their own and are carried by currents.

Threats:

- Zooplankton can mistake microplastics, small pieces of plastic, for Phytoplankton and eat them. Microplastic is poisonous to zooplankton.
- When Zooplankton population decline due to microplastics, other animals that eat the Zooplankton are also harmed because they lose their source of food.

## Atlantic salmon

*Salmo salar*



### Fun Facts:

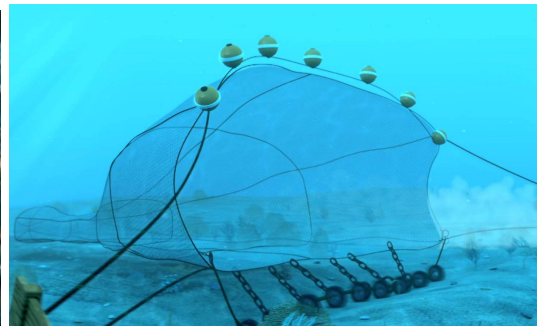
- The Atlantic Salmon is a very large fish and can weigh up to 30 pounds.
- They usually eat large prey such as arctic squid, sand eels, arctic shrimp, and herring.
- While Atlantic salmon live in the Atlantic Ocean, they travel up rivers to lay their eggs.

### Threats:

- Salmon are legally protected in England, Scotland, Canada, and the United States due to their former status as an endangered species.
- Salmon are affected by the pollution of watersheds because they travel up rivers to lay their eggs.
- Salmon are also heavily affected by the threats to herring because herring are their main source of food. A decline in herring population due to the consumption of plastics can also cause a decline in Salmon population because the salmon have less food available to them.

## Atlantic Herring

*Clupea harengus*



### Fun Facts:

- Herrings are often called the “silver of the sea,” due to their silver color and because they are valuable in the fish market.
- The bottom of the herring is blue, which allows them to camouflage with the water and sky above them and trick predators that are below them.
- Herrings eat phytoplankton, zooplankton, copepods, worms, krill, and fish eggs.
- Herrings are filter feeders, they swim with open mouths, swallow the plankton, and filter the water through their gills.
- Herrings swim in groups called schools that can sometimes have billions of herring at once.

### Threats:

- Herring and other small fish can mistake plastics for food. The plastics can harm the fish’s digestive system and toxins in the plastic can poison the fish.
- Herring populations can be overfished by large trawls, large nets dragged behind ships to catch fish. These nets can damage habitats on the ocean floor and sometimes get loose from boats, contributing to pollution.

Sea Gulls  
*Laridae*



Fun facts:

- Seagulls learn, remember and even pass on behaviors, such as stamping their feet in a group to imitate rainfall and trick earthworms into coming to the surface.
- Seagulls are caring parents and both the female and male take turns incubating the eggs and feeding and protecting their chicks.
- Unlike other organisms, Seagulls can drink saltwater.
- Seagulls eat many marine organisms including fish and mollusks.

Threats:

- Seagulls do not have good eyesight, and sometimes mistake trash for fish and bottle caps for oysters.
- Eating trash can cause a Seagulls to choke and die. As caring parents, seagulls sometimes mistake trash for food and feed their chicks the plastics.

Eastern oyster  
*Crassostrea virginica*



Fun facts:

- Oysters are found in bays and gulfs.
- Oysters have been around for 15 million years.
- Oysters can live as long as 20 years and are considered adults at age 1.
- Oysters can change their gender and often do so more than once in their lives.
- Oysters filter water and get their nutrients from the phytoplankton in the water they filter.
- One oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.

Threats:

- The eastern oyster is endangered because they are over harvested for human consumption.
- Oysters are affected by the threats to Phytoplankton because Phytoplankton are their only food source.
- Oysters can eat microplastics because they are the same size of phytoplankton. Microplastics can make it hard for oysters to reproduce.