

# School Talk

Sherkin Island Marine Station  
 Sherkin Island  
 Skibbereen  
 Co Cork  
 Ireland

Hi everyone,  
 Here are some emails I received recently asking questions about sea creatures from around the world. I love reading facts about different creatures in the environment and hope you do too!

Keep those emails coming in!

Best Wishes  
 Audrey, The Editor.

editor@naturesweb.ie

Dear Editor,  
 Can you please tell me which fish is the most poisonous?  
 Thanks, **Mary Age 9**

Hi Mary, the most poisonous fish is the stonefish. It's poison is powerful enough to kill a human. Although it is not a real fish, the Box jellyfish is the most poisonous jellyfish. It's poison is so deadly it shocks the human heart so much it causes a heart attack! Luckily these are found around Australia and not around Ireland.



Dear Editor,  
 I have a turtle that moves really slowly but would like to know if there is a fish in the sea that moves even slower. Thank you,  
**Charlie, age 10.**

Hi Charlie,  
 The slowest fish is the seahorse which travels at the really slow speed of 0.01 mph!!! That's pretty slow isn't it! And did you know the male seahorse carries the eggs in his pouch until they hatch?!

Dear Editor,  
 Can you please tell me which is the smallest fish in the sea and which is the largest?  
**Robbie, Age 10**

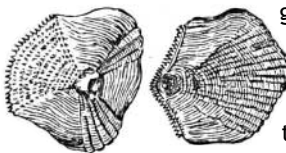


Hi Robbie, the smallest fish is the goby. An adult goby is about half an inch, which is about the size of your thumb nail! The largest fish is the whale shark, which grows to more than 50 feet in length, that's about the length of five cars!



Dear Editor,  
 I have a goldfish which is six years old and I know that because I bought it when it was a baby but how can you tell how old other fish are?  
**Jack, Age 12**

Hi Jack, you can tell how old a fish is by counting the growth rings on its scales just like you count the rings on a tree. You need a microscope to see the rings but it's a fun thing to do. A



good magnifying glass may work so have fun trying!

Dear Editor,  
 I love hearing the names of groups of creatures, some of them sound funny like a gaggle of geese, do you know any others?  
**Sarah, age 11**



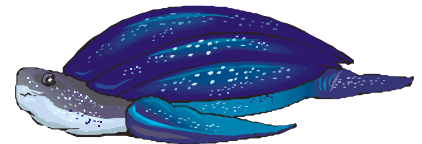
Hi Sarah, I like hearing them too, some of my favourites are a siege of herrings, a smack of jellyfish, a business of ferrets, a charm of finches, a kindle of kittens, a leap of leopards, a tiding of magpies, a parliament of rooks but the best one has to be a blush of boys!

Dear Editor,  
 I saw clams on a beach on holidays recently but they were small, what size can they grow to?  
**Niall, Age 11**

Hi Niall, I once went diving at the Great Barrier reef in Australia and I saw a clam that was over two feet long! But I was told that was a small one as the largest one ever seen was four and a half feet long! Guess what it is called....the giant clam! It weighed as much as four grown men!



Dear Editor,  
 While I was on my holidays a trawler brought in a turtle that got caught in the nets. I think they called it a leatherback turtle, can you tell me a little bit about it.  
**Megan, Age 12**



Hi Megan, unfortunately many turtles get trapped in fishing nets and drown because they cannot get out. The leatherback turtle gets its name as it has a tough leathery back instead of a hard shell. It is the largest of all turtles (growing up to 8ft long) and can occasionally be found around Ireland and in many areas around the world. They love to eat jellyfish and often dive down very deep looking for food. But remember, be careful with your plastic bags as turtles often mistake them for jellyfish and choke on them if they eat them.