

SEA LIFE



Gannet *An Gainéad*

Ireland's largest sea bird, the gannet has long narrow wings and a cigar-shaped body. Adults are pure white with golden heads and black wing-tips. Juveniles have dark brown speckled plumage. Gannets breed colonially on cliffs and rocky islands. They plunge-dive for fish in the open sea.

Is é an gainéad an éan mara is mó in Éirinn. Tá sciatháin fhada chaola aige agus dealramh todóige ar a chorp. Dath plúrbhán a bhíonn ar na cinn fásta le cloigne órga agus dath dubh ar reanna na sciathán. Cluimhreach breac dorchadonn a bhíonn ar na cinn óga. Póraíonn na gainéid i gcoilíneachtaí ar aillte nó ar oileáin charraigeacha. Tumann siad anuas san fharraige mhór le breith ar éisc.



Mackerel *An Ceadharlach*

Mackerel are a streamlined, predatory, common fish able to live for more than 25 years. They move quickly and easily in huge shoals, migrating coastward to feed on small fish and prawns during the summer, ceasing feeding on their winter return to deeper water.

Éisc choitianta iad na maicréil. Creachadóirí sruthlineacha iad ar féidir leo maireachtáil ar feadh breis agus 25 bliain. Gluaiseann siad go tapa agus go réidh i scuainí ollmhóra i dtreo an chósta chun éisc bheaga agus cloicheáin a ithe i rith an tsamhraidh ach éiríonn siad as sa gheimhreadh nuair a fhillíonn siad ar uisce níos doimhne.



Common Dolphin *Deilf Choiteann*

Common dolphins live in herds of a few tens to several thousands. They often bow-ride boats, and even large whales! They feed mainly on squid, herring and sardines, can live for 30 years, and are most frequently sighted around the southwest of Ireland and the Aran Islands.

Maireann na deilfeanna coitianta i ngrúpaí móra ó fiche nó tríocha go dtí na mílte. Téann siad ag snámh ar thonnta ar chinn bád agus fiú ar thonnta míolta móra. Itheann siad scuideanna, scadáin agus sairdíní agus is féidir leo maireachtáil go ceann 30 bliain. Feictear is minice iad san iardheisceart agus amach ó Oileáin Árann.



Fin Whale *An Droimeiteach*

Fin whales are large mammals measuring up to 26m. Their robust blow can reach 6m. They have a baleen comb-like structure instead of teeth, which they use to sieve the water for fish such as mackerel, cod and herring. They travel in groups of three to ten.

Mamaigh mhóra is ea iad agus is féidir leo a bheith 26m ar fad. Is féidir leo scaird uisce a shéideadh 6m san aer. Níl fiacail ar bith acu ach struchtúr bailíneach cosúil le cior a úsáideann siad ag criathrú an uisce le breith ar éisc mar mhaicréil, throisc agus scadáin. Gluaiseann siad i ráthanna a mbíonn ó thrí go deich gcinn acu iontu.



Starfish *An Chrosóg Mhara*

Starfish have hundreds of tiny tubes beneath their five arms, ending in suckers which they use to move and feed. They can eat hard-shelled species, and can grow replacement arms if they lose one. Common starfish and spiny starfish are common in Irish waters.

Tá na céadta feadán beag ag crosóga mara faoina gcúig lámh agus súiteoirí ag a ndeirí. Úsáideann siad iad le gluaiseacht agus ithe. Is féidir leo speicis le sliogáin chrua a ithe agus fásann lámh nua in áit aon cheann a chailleann siad. Tá an chrosóg mhara choiteann agus an chrosóg choilgneach go flúirseach i bhfarraigí na hÉireann.



Leatherback Turtle *An Turtar Droimleathair*

Up to 2m long and weighing up to 1000kg, leatherback turtles have soft leather shells, unlike other sea turtles which have hard, plate-like shells. They travel from the tropics to Ireland, arriving in the summer and autumn months to feed on our abundant jellyfish.

Is féidir le turtair dhroimleathair a bheith 2m ar fhad agus 1000kg a bheith iontu. Cé go mbíonn sliogáin chrua ar thurtair fharraige eile sliogáin bhoga ar nós leathair a bhíonn ar na cinn seo. Gluaiseann siad ó na farraigí teochreasa agus sroicheann siad Éire sa samhradh agus san fhómhar chun na smugairlí róin atá go flúirseach anseo a ithe.



European Eel *An Eascann*

European eels are believed to spawn in the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic. The larvae spend three years migrating towards Europe, transforming into elvers before entering rivers. They remain in fresh water for most of their lives, returning to the Sargasso Sea to lay eggs.

Creidtear go sceitheadh eascanna sa Mhuir Shargasach san Atlantach Thuaidh. Caitheadh na larbhaí trí bliana ag gluaiseacht leo i dtreo na hEorpa. Tiontaíonn siad ina luathóga sula dtéann siad isteach sna haibhneacha. Caitheadh siad formhór a saol san fhionnuisce sula bhfillíonn siad ar an Muir Shargasach chun uibheacha a bhreith.



Basking Shark *An Liamhán Gréine*

Generally found in Irish seas during the summer months, basking sharks are usually seen alone, cruising slowly at the surface with their dorsal fins visible, their mouths open to filter coastal waters. They feed mainly on plankton, and can grow up to 11m long.

Faightear liamháin ghréine i bhfarraigí na hÉireann i rith an tsamhraidh. Bíonn siad ina n-aonar de ghnáth agus iad ag gluaiseacht go mall ar bharr uisce lena n-eití droma le feiceáil go soiléir agus a mbéal ar leathadh chun an uisce a scagadh. Planctón is mó a itheann siad agus is féidir leo fás go 11m ar fhad.