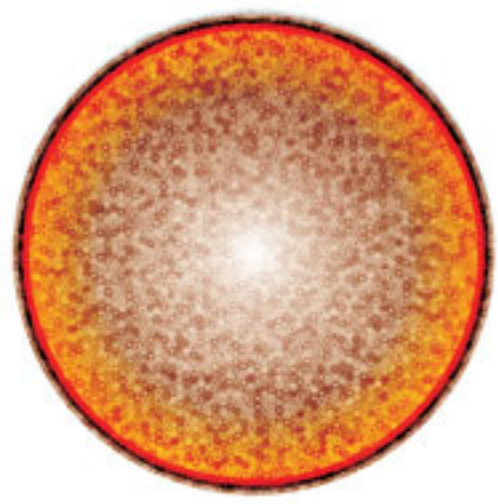


SEA LIFE

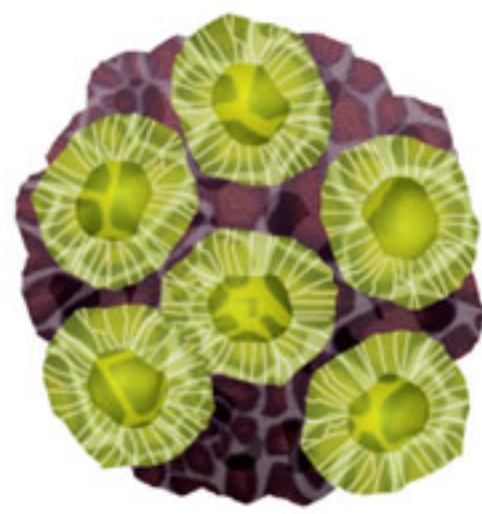


Diatoms (phytoplankton)

Diatóim (fíteaplanctón)

Diatoms are the most prominent species of phytoplankton in our waters. They often group together in chains, which are less prone to sinking. Diatoms reproduce by subdivision, or splitting in two. Not all diatoms are planktonic, and some species attach to surfaces in shallow water.

Is iad diatóim an speicis fíteaplanctón is coitianta inár n-uiscí. Is minic a nascann siad iad féin ina slabhraí sa chaoi gur lú an baol dóibh dul go grinneall. Atáirgeann diatóim iad féin trí fhoroinnt, nó iad féin a roinnt ina dhá leath. Níl gach cineál diatóim ina bplanctón agus greamaíonn speicis áirithe díobh iad féin don dromchla in uisce éadomhain.



Coccolithophores (phytoplankton)

Cocailiteafóir (fíteaplanctón)

Coccoliths are more common in warmer seas than in northern temperate seas. Large numbers give water a milky-white appearance. Millions of years ago, dead coccoliths sank to the bottom of the ocean. Through time and geological processes, these formed limestones such as chalk.

Tá cocailití níos coitianta sna farraigí teo ná i bhfarraigí measartha an tuaiscirt. Fágann siad dath bán an bhainne ar an uisce nuair a bhíonn siad flúirseach. Thit cocailití marbha go grinneall an aigéin na milliúin bliain ó shin. Rinneadh aolchlocha ar nós cailce díobh trí phróisis gheolaíocha le himeacht aimsire.



Dinoflagellates (phytoplankton)

Dinea-lascnaidigh (fíteaplanctón)

Some dinoflagellate species produce brilliant displays of phosphorescence – glowing in the dark – caused by the planktons' oxidation process. Often a ghostly light follows a boat, or as oars stir the water; occasionally a flash of light occurs at the breaking of a wave.

Cuireann roinnt speiceas de dhinea-lascnaidigh taispeántais lonracha de thine ghealáin ar fáil. Bíonn siad ag lonrú sa dorchadas de bharr próiseas ocsaídithe na bplanctón. Is minic a leanann solas taibhsiúil bád, nó bíonn sé le feiceáil nuair a chorraíonn na maidí rámha an t-uisce; uaireanta feictear splanc solais nuair a bhriseann tonn.

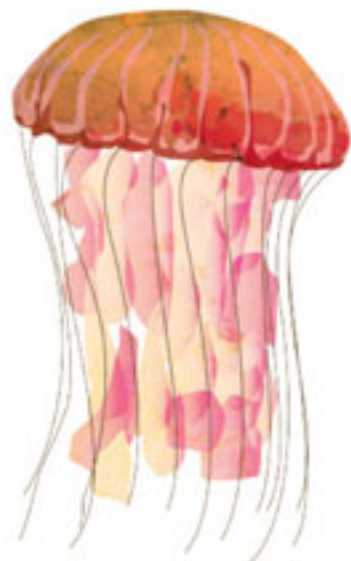


Copepods (zooplankton)

Cópapóid (zóplanctón)

Meaning 'oar-footed', copepods – perhaps the most abundant zooplankton species – are an important food-source for fish. They travel through the water with jerky movements. Females are often seen carrying egg sacs. Some copepods act as parasites on fish, sharks and sea mammals.

Ciallaíonn an focal cópapóid go bhfuil cosa mar mhaídí rámha acu agus b'fhéidir gurb iad seo an speiceas zóplanctóin is líonmhaire ar fad. Is bia tábhachtach iad ag éisc. Déanann siad iad féin a shracadh tríd an uisce. Is minic a fheictear málai uibheacha á n-iompar ag na cinn bainneanna. Bíonn cuid de na cópapóid ina bparaisítí ar éisc, siorcanna agus ar mhamaigh na mara.



Jellyfish (zooplankton)

Smugairlí Róin (zóplanctón)

Jellyfish, the largest type of zooplankton, have no bones, brains, hearts, eyes or ears. They capture food with their nets of tentacles. When the tentacles brush against prey (or a person's leg), thousands of tiny cells explode, launching barbed stingers and poison into the victim.

Is iad na smugairlí róin an cineál zóplanctón is mó. Ní bhíonn cnámha, inchinn, croí, súile nó cluasa acu. Beireann siad ar a gcuid bia leis na braiseoga a bhíonn mar eangacha acu. Nuair a déanann na braiseoga teagmháil lena gcreach (nó le cos duine) pléascann na mílte cealla beaga agus scaoileann siad gathanna deilgneacha agus nimh isteach inti.



Floating Seeds and Fruits

Siolta agus Torthaí ar Snámh

Tropical drift-seeds and fruits are remarkable because they can survive for months or even years at sea. Coconuts are very buoyant, and have thick protective shells which are impervious to salt water. Once they arrive on our shores, it is too cold for them to survive.

Tá bua iontach ag sióbshiolta agus torthaí na teochreasa toisc gur féidir leo fanacht beo ar feadh míonna nó fiú blianta san fharraige. Snámhann cnónna cócó go maith agus tá blaoscanna tiubha acu nach ligeann an sáile isteach. Nuair a shroicheann siad cladaigh na tíre seo, áfach, bíonn sé ró-fhuar dóibh fanacht beo.



Break-off Seaweed

Feamainn scaoilte

Seaweeds are plant-like and have 'holdfasts' or anchors, which they use to attach themselves to rocks, or even whales! Holdfasts can weaken over time and storms can lead to the seaweed breaking off. Once unattached, seaweeds float at sea, before dying or getting washed ashore.

Tá feamainn cosúil le plandaí agus tá greamacháin nó ancairí acu a úsáideann siad chun iad féin a ghreamú le carraigeacha nó fiú le míolta móra. Is féidir leis na greamacháin seo lagú le himeacht aimsire agus uaireanta briseann stoirmeacha a ngreim. Snámhann feamainn scaoilte ar an bhfarraige go dtí go bhfaigheann siad bás nó go gcaitear isteach ar an gcladach iad.



Lophelia Coral

Coiréal Lophelia

Lophelia is a cold-water coral that builds reefs and provides homes for other animals, including sponges, worms, starfish, sea urchins, crustaceans and fish. Lophelia coral looks like a plant but is actually an animal, related to sea anemones and jellyfish. It feeds on zooplankton.

Coiréal fuaruisce is ea lophelia a thógann sceireacha agus a chuireann áit chónaithe ar fáil le haghaidh ainmhithe eile, lena n-áirítear spúinsí, péisteanna, crosóga, cuáin mhara, crústaigh agus éisc. Tá dealramh planda ar choiréal lophelia ach is ainmhi é agus é gaolmhar le bundúin leice agus smugairlí róin. Itheann sé zóplanctón.