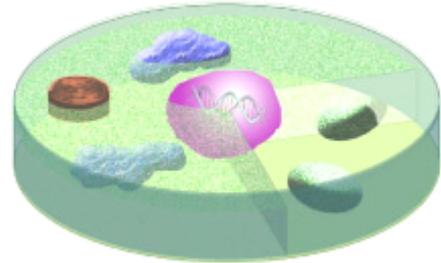




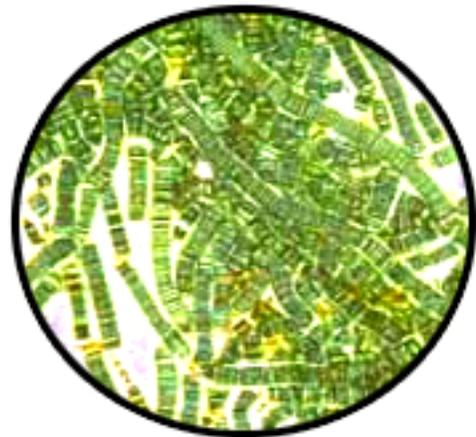
Diatoms

One-celled phytoplankton.



Cyanobacteria

A type of phytoplankton and one of the most important groups in the ocean. Scientists believe these were the first producers on Earth.



Lobster Larvae

A type of zooplankton that feed on phytoplankton until they grow large enough to sink to the bottom of the sea.



Photo: Russell Bradford/CSIRO

Sea Star Larvae

A type of zooplankton that feed on phytoplankton until they grow large enough to sink to the bottom of the sea.



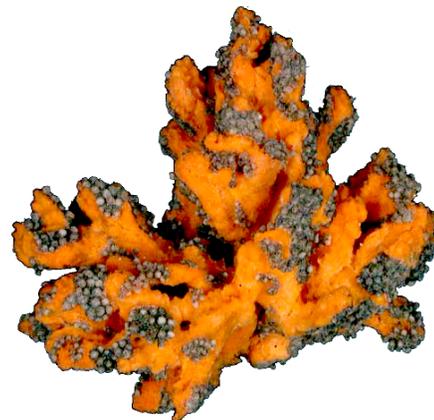
Copepods

Tiny shrimp-like animals that spend their entire lives with the plankton population. They are food for baby fish, krill, and many other animals.



Sponges

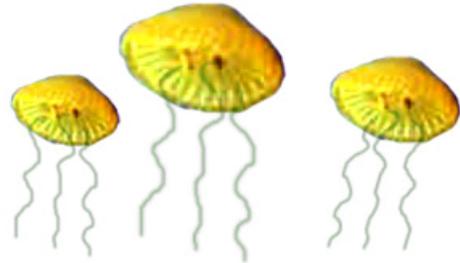
Simple animals that live on rocks, shells, docks, or other hard places. Sponges filter phytoplankton and zooplankton out of the water.





Jellyfish

Not fish at all, these slimy invertebrate animals use their tentacles to catch zooplankton and other prey. Jellyfish are an important food source for some sea turtle species.



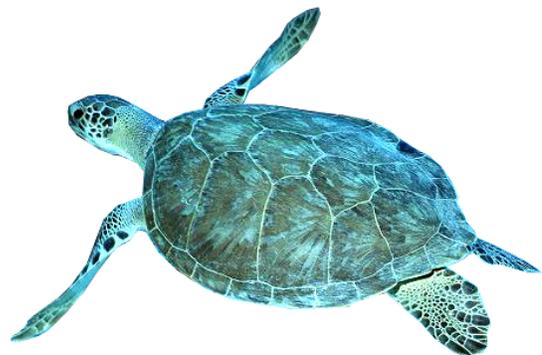
Krill

Shrimp-like creatures that thrive in cold water. They are the most important food source for baleen whales such as the Humpback.



Sea Turtles

While there are several different species of sea turtle with slightly different diets, these vertebrates eat invertebrates like sponges, jellyfish, crabs, and mussels. Adult sea turtles can be vulnerable to attacks by sharks. The young have many more predators.





Herring

This small fish is an important food source for larger fish, marine mammals, and sea birds. The main food source for herring is copepods, but they also eat other types of plankton.



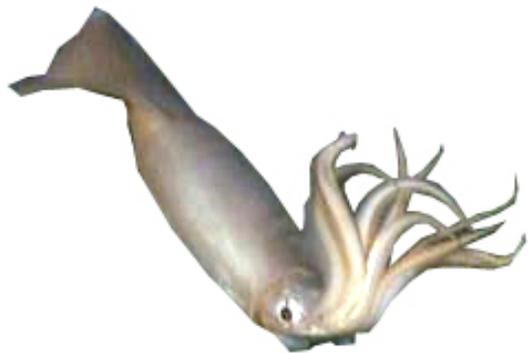
Mackerel

These fish eat copepods and other plankton, as well as other small invertebrates. They are an important food source for larger fish, marine mammals, and seabirds.



Squid

These invertebrates are well known for their tentacles, which they use to catch their prey. There are many different types of squid in many different sizes. Squid eat small fish and invertebrates like crabs, shrimp, and krill. Squid are eaten by seabirds, sea turtles, seals, sea lions, and others.





Humpback Whales

These huge mammals filter feed by straining their food through broom-like plates in their mouth called baleen. Their diet consists mostly of krill, small fish like herring and mackerel, and squid. Since they are so big, adult Humpback whales have few natural predators, other than humans. Sharks and Killer whales sometimes prey on young or sick Humpbacks.



Seals

These marine mammal predators eat primarily small fish, but will also feed on squid and other invertebrates. Seals fall prey mostly to sharks.



Seabirds

Seabirds like albatrosses, gulls, and others feed on small fish, fish eggs, and squid.





Porpoises

These close relatives of dolphins eat mostly fish and squid. Shark attacks are common.



Sharks

Most sharks eat seals, sea birds, sea turtles, fish, and squid. They are considered to be some of the ocean's top predators.



Bacteria

Many bacteria in the ocean (not the cyanobacteria) are decomposers. Being a decomposer means that they break down dead organisms and waste, and return nutrients to the water.

