

## **Fish Facts**

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- ★ There are more species of fish than mammals, reptiles and birds combined.
- ★ The slowest fish is the seahorse which travels at 0.01 mph.
- ★ The largest fish is the whale shark, which grows to more than 50 feet in length.
- ★ There are more than 20,000 identified species of fish.
- ★ A newly hatched fish is called a “fry.”
- ★ The male seahorse carries the eggs in his pouch until they hatch.
- ★ Sturgeons live to be 50 or more years old.
- ★ You can tell how old a fish is by counting the rings on its scales but a more accurate way is to count the rings one of their bones! Called otoliths (oto’ meaning ear and lith’ meaning stone), these bones help the fish to keep its balance in the water. An otolith contains a pattern of light and dark rings, just the like the rings on a tree (1 ring = 1 year).
- ★ The oarfish is the longest bony fish in the world reaching a length of 50 feet.
- ★ The most poisonous fish is the stonefish. Its poison is powerful enough to kill a human.
- ★ The bluefin tuna is among the fastest marine fish to live in the oceans. An adult can swim up to 55 miles per hour.
- ★ *Paedocypris progenetica* is the world’s smallest fish. It was found in 2006 in Indonesia. It grows to only a ¼” long, which would make them not only the world’s smallest fish but the smallest vertebrate, or animal with a backbone.
- ★ A group of herring is sometimes called an army and a group of jelly fish is called a smack.
- ★ The gurnard, a fish found in Florida, grunts when a thunderstorm is brewing, and it’s said to be more reliable than meteorologists.
- ★ The average discharge from an electric eel is 350 volts of electricity, but as much as 650 volts have been measured.

