

Seas for Life

All marine life in our seas is linked. Tiny plants, or phytoplankton, capture the sun's energy and provide food for the rest of the food chain - from small crustaceans, to fish and marine mammals. Humans, at the end of this food chain, are very much linked to it and the impacts of our daily lives affect the delicate balance of the marine ecosystem. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly there is a wealth of marine diversity under the waves. The ecosystem illustration, presented here by Surfers Against Sewage, depicts just some of the most important commercial species found in local waters.

Cornish fish guide

You can help protect the marine ecosystem by making sustainable choices when it comes to buying seafood...

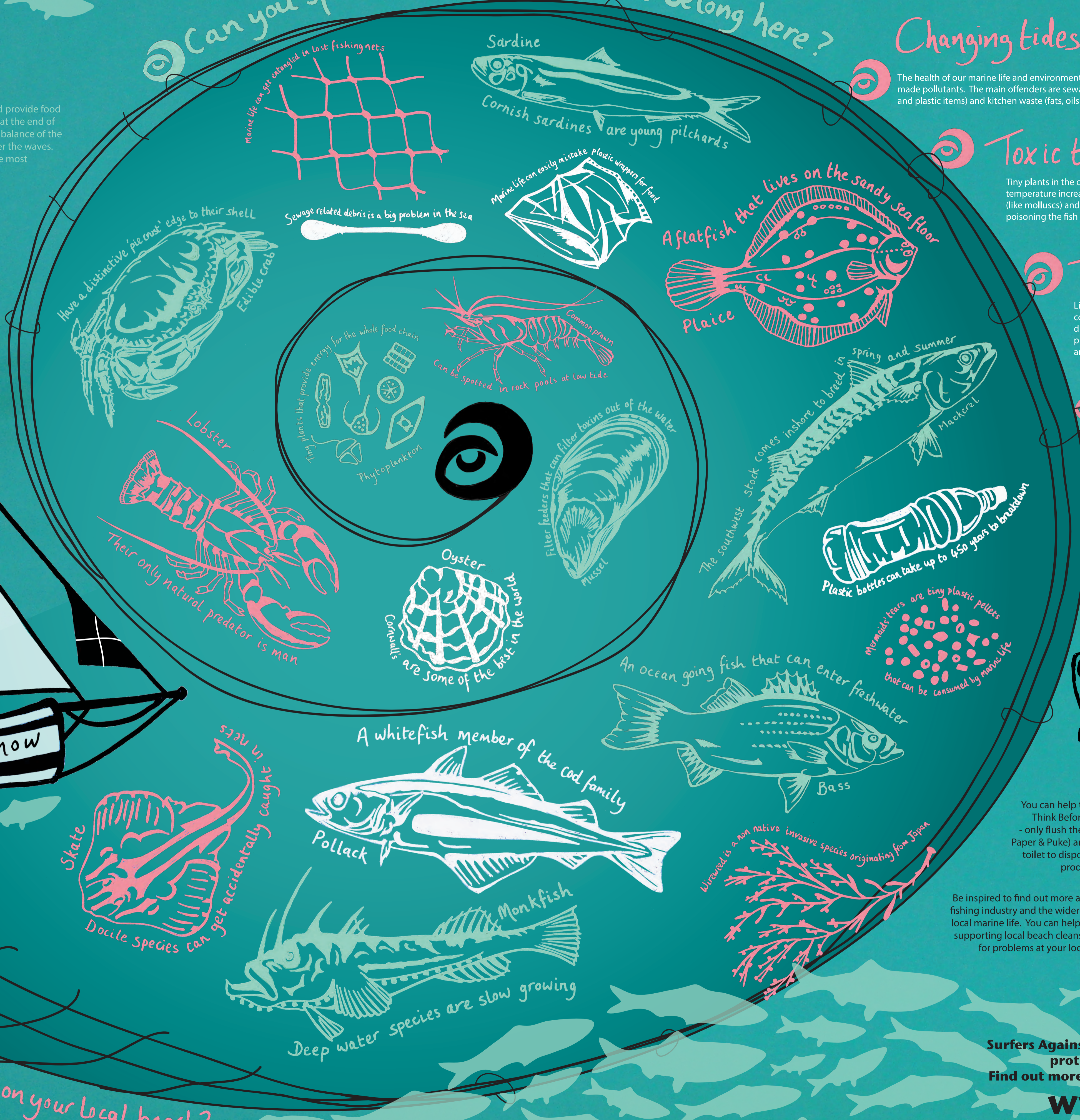
- Buy local: support your local fishmonger
- Think before you buy: is there a more sustainable option?
- Ask about provenance: where, when and how was your seafood caught?

Fish for thought

There are 49 coves and harbours around Cornwall that shelter fishing boats of all sizes, so fishing is woven into the very fabric of Cornish life, culture and heritage. Fishing is also part of Cornwall's future so it is important that we do not over-exploit our fish stocks and care for our marine environment to ensure that fish are plentiful for future generations.



Can you spot the items that don't belong here?



Changing tides

The health of our marine life and environment is at risk from a range of man made pollutants. The main offenders are sewage and related debris (sanitary and plastic items) and kitchen waste (fats, oils and greases).

Toxic tides

Tiny plants in the ocean (plankton) can bloom in response to toxics or temperature increases. Toxic algae are consumed by filter feeders (like molluscs) and the toxins can build up (bio-accumulate) in them, poisoning the fish and humans that eat them.

Tides of Litter

Litter can poison, entangle and kill marine life and costs the fishing industry a lot of time and money due to damaged nets. The main offenders are plastic bottles, bags and wrappers, lost fishing nets and tiny plastic pellets known as mermaids' tears.

Rising tides

Our climate is changing, with changes to sea levels and temperatures that can upset the balance in the marine ecosystem. One of the impacts is the appearance of non-native species of animals and plants in our seas and on our shores. These alien invaders can be transported on marine litter.

Turn the tide

You can help turn the tide...
Think Before You Flush
- only flush the 4Ps (Poo, Pee, Paper & Puke) and never use the toilet to dispose of sanitary products.

Be inspired to find out more about your local fishing industry and the wider issues affecting local marine life. You can help to protect it by supporting local beach cleans and watching for problems at your local beach.

Why not look for these litter items on your local beach?

Answers: Cotton bud, fishing net, fishing rod, bottle, wireweed and mermaid's tears.