

SEA WORLD



Marine animals aren't big on body language. Instead they use sound and bioluminescence to communicate.

SOUND

Marine animals use sound to communicate with each other. Whales and dolphins, for example, can make a complex combination of noises such as clicks, whistles, squeaks. They can recognize their family voices and those of their same species.

Why sound is important

As marine animals dive, the light dwindles to little or none. Even with eyes designed to see in low light, the sense of sound becomes much more important. Sound helps family groups to stay together or find each other if they are separated.

How sounds work underwater

People hear sound vibrations as they travel through the air, but marine animals can hear sounds from much farther away because sounds travel better through water than air.

Noise pollution

The ocean is full of noises that can interfere with animals communication; human interference can be more dangerous and it's more widespread.

BIOLUMINESCENCE



Some fish dangle a lighted lure in front of their mouths to attract prey, while some squids shoot out bioluminescent liquid, instead of ink, to confuse their predators.

Who makes it?

Bioluminescence is found in many marine organisms: bacteria, algae, jellyfish, worms, crustaceans, seastars, fish and some sharks. In some cases animals take in bacteria or other bioluminescent creatures, to gain the ability to light up.

What colour is bioluminescence?

When the waves hit our eyes, they are translated into colours by the brain depending on their wave length. But light travels differently underwater because longer wavelengths can't travel as far. Most of bioluminescence produced is in the form of blue-green light. However, some animals evolved to emit and see red light, including the dragonfish.

Feeding

Animals can use their light to attract prey towards their mouths, or even to light up the area nearby, so that they can see their next meal a bit better.