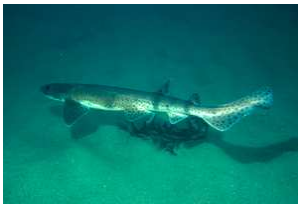




Ocean Tank Spotting Guide

From the open waters to the rocky hiding places, our ocean tank is the perfect place to see some of Ireland's native marine life. Use our spotting guide to see who's who in our open tank.

Greater Spotted Dogfish



This species of Catshark is also known as a Bull huss or Nursehound. It is found in waters all around Ireland and usually lives in waters 65m or deeper. It feeds on bottom dwelling invertebrates such as molluscs and crustaceans and females have their young in egg cases, which are also known as mermaid's purses.

Size: up to 170 cm

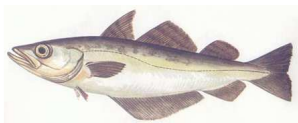
Starry Smooth Hound



This species of Houndshark gets its name from the many white spots it has along its back. It lives in waters from the surface down to 350m deep. It likes to eat crustaceans and females have live young, with 20 pups being born in a litter.

Size: up to 140 cm

Pollack



This fish is a cousin of the Cod and is found in waters all around Ireland. It is often found near the shore and is regularly caught by sea-anglers. It likes to live as a member of a shoal and feeds on small fish.

Size: up to 130cm

Sea Bass



This fish lives in shoals in shallow waters around rocky shorelines and cliff edges. It has excellent eyesight and can chase prey such as small Whiting, Cod, Pollack and Sandeels through the surf and bubbles.

Size: up to 40cm



Ballan Wrasse

This fish is found in shallow waters all around the Irish coastline. It feeds on molluscs and other invertebrates. Juveniles often clean other fish. This fish is a hermaphrodite, with females changing into males as they get older.

Size: up to 130cm



Thornback Ray

This fish is the most common ray to live in Irish waters. It likes to live on sandy seabed from the shore down to a depth of 100m. It feeds on Crabs, Prawns, Sandeels and Flatfish. Like our Bull huss, thornback rays have their young in egg cases. Empty egg cases can often be found along our shoreline.

Size: up to 120cm