

HOW FISH MAKE MORE FISH

Marine fish reproduce in many ways, some are live bearers, some lay eggs on rocks, plants or other surfaces. But did you know that 75% of all marine fish release their eggs into the open ocean?

This is called **pelagic spawning**. And despite how common it is, we know surprisingly little about it!

READY... SET... SPAWN!

During **pelagic spawning** fish release clouds of eggs and sperm into the open water. **Fertilization** happens right there, in the water column. Fish need to release the eggs and the sperm at the same time, so timing is crucial here!



The fertilized eggs float in the water column until they hatch about a day later. Way faster than other hatching strategies!

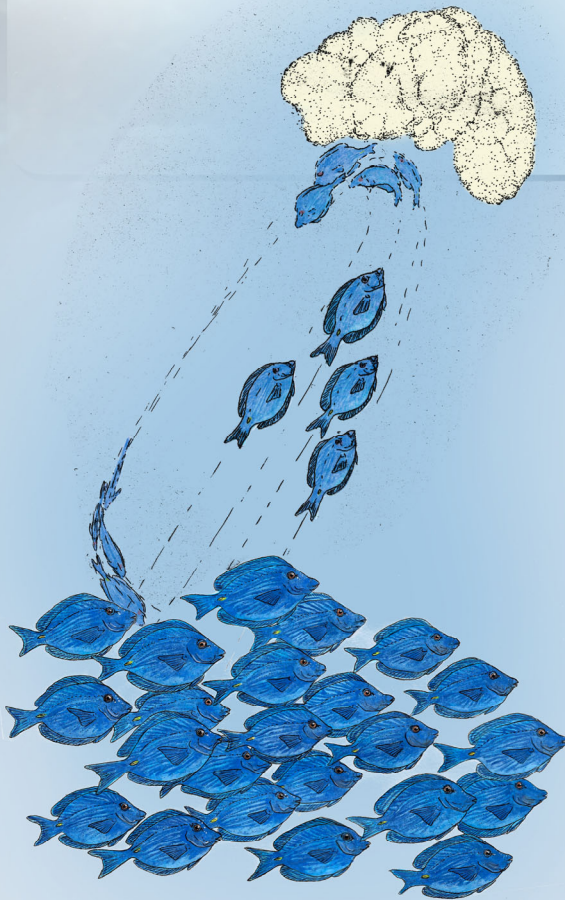
WHY SO MANY EGGS?

More eggs means more chance of **fertilization** and thus survival of the species. The eggs released by pelagic spawning have high fertility rates to compensate for the loss of eggs in the water column.

WHOSE EGG IS THAT?

These eggs are super tiny, most of them around half a millimetre which makes them **hard to spot**. And for many species we don't even know what their eggs look like!

That is why you are invited on an **eggspedition** for these pelagic eggs to see which egg belongs to which fish. With your help, we can create a worldwide database!

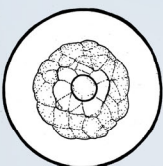


Want to know more about our eggspedition?
Scan the QR code.

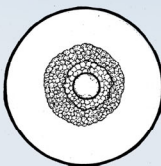


EGG DEVELOPMENT

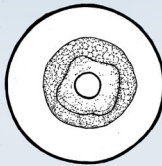
early cleavage stage



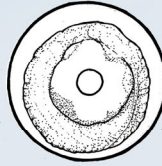
morula stage



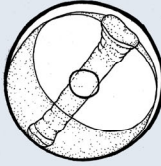
blastula stage



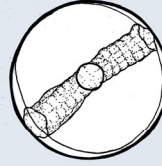
gastrula stage



early embryo stage



tailbud stage



tailfree stage



late embryo stage



DID YOU KNOW?

Only recently in 2023, the birth of a sperm whale was recorded for the first time. The largest fish in our oceans, the whale shark, has never been seen giving birth!

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