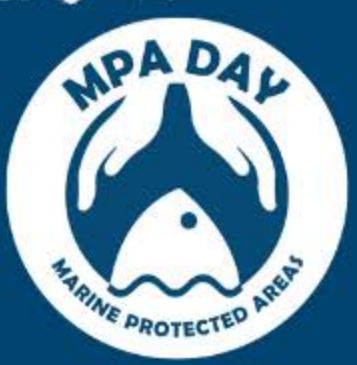




GET TO KNOW:

EUROPEAN SPECIES



WAKE UP CALL!

Rising sea temperatures have caused a direct population decline of this species.



POLAR BEAR

(Ursus maritimus)

IUCN Red list: Vulnerable



Arctic Sea

FUN FACT

Polar bears have black skin underneath their fur. But they appear white because their hairs are translucent and hollow, and reflect visible light.



The polar bear is the largest land carnivore and marine mammal uniquely adapted to the Arctic environment. It can swim over 100 kilometres without rest, using its powerful front paws like paddles. One of its favourite activities? Hunting seals, which it patiently stalks on sea ice, making it a true master of both land and sea!



ENDEMIC!



Posidonia can only
be found in the
Mediterranean Sea!

POSIDONIA

(Posidonia oceanica)

IUCN Red list: Least Concern



Mediterranean Sea

**FUN
FACT**

This species gets its name from the Greek sea god
Poseidon.

Also known as “Neptune Grass”, this species can form underwater meadows, creating essential living habitats and feeding grounds for thousands of marine species. They are responsible for many ecosystem services, such as water quality maintenance, stabilizing the seabed, reducing coastal erosion and protecting shorelines.



DID YOU KNOW

THAT... ?

This is the only fish species known to have evolved in the Baltic Sea!

BALTIC FLOUNDER

(Platichthys solemdalii)

IUCN Red list: Least Concern



Baltic Sea

FUN FACT

Although physically identical, Baltic and European flounders do not interbreed!

The Baltic flounder is a striking example of rapid speciation, having diverged from the European flounder, following reproductive isolation after the last Ice Age. Endemic to the Baltic Sea, it has adapted to the region's brackish, low-salinity waters, favouring shallow coastal zones for spawning.



**RAPID
DECLINE**



Data shows a possible collapse of oyster reefs in Europe due to overfishing.

EUROPEAN FLAT OYSTER

(Ostrea edulis)

IUCN Red list: Critically endangered ⚠️

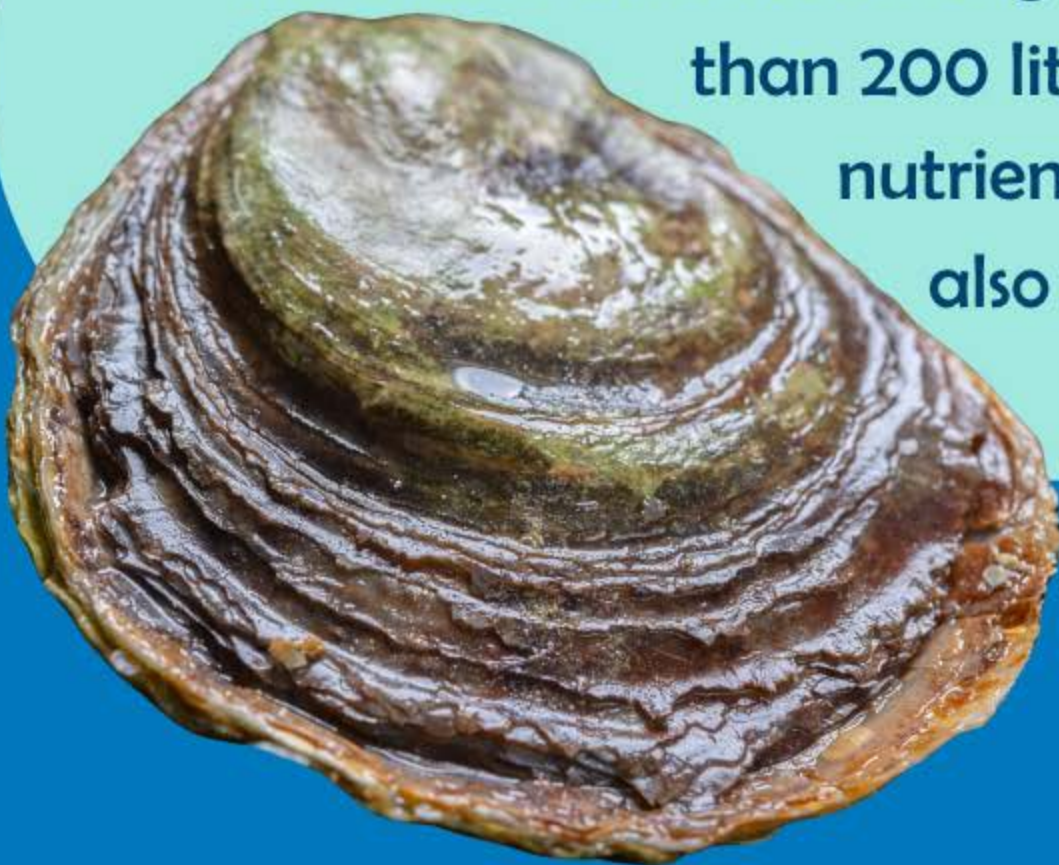


North Sea

**FUN
FACT**

This species can change sex multiple times throughout its life, to increase successful reproduction!

Also known as the European native oyster, this species is commonly found on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland. A true ocean engineer, one oyster can filter more than 200 litres water a day, removing toxic nutrients from the sea. while also They also form complex habitats for fish and other invertebrates.





INDICATOR SPECIES!

The water snail indicates healthy, oxygen-rich waters!

WATER SNAIL (FRESHWATER AND BRACKISH)

(Theodoxus fluviatilis)

IUCN Red list: Least Concern



Black Sea

FUN FACT

Unlike other snails, this species doesn't lay its eggs in water — instead, it attaches tiny, hard-shelled egg capsules to rocks, shells, or submerged surfaces!



Originating from the Black Sea, this species was initially described as a saltwater organism; however, nowadays, it is most commonly found in freshwater environments. It's able to graze on algae and biofilm, helping to keep surfaces clean and water quality balanced.

