



BALTIC FISH 5

BALTIC HERRING

(*Clupea harengus membras*)

The Baltic herring is a sub-species of the Atlantic herring and is widely distributed throughout the Baltic Sea!

These small, silvery fish play a vital role in the marine ecosystem, serving as a key food source for many larger predators like cod, seals, and seabirds.

Despite their importance, Baltic herring stocks have crashed, primarily due to overfishing. Their conservation is vital, given their role as a key species and significance in fisheries.

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EUROPEAN EEL

(*Anguilla anguilla*)

The European eel is a fascinating and mysterious resident of the Baltic Sea!

They have a unique life cycle, migrating from the Sargasso Sea to Europe as larvae and returning to the Sargasso Sea as adults to spawn.

But these creatures are critically endangered with overfishing, habitat loss, pollution, and barriers like dams severely impacting their population.



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SEA LAMPREY

(*Petromyzon marinus*)

Often known as the "vampire" fish, the sea lamprey is widely distributed but rare in the Baltic.

This unique parasitic fish attaches to fish and feeds on their blood.

They migrate to freshwater habitats for spawning in late winter to early spring, but their numbers are affected by dams and weir structures blocking spawning sites.

Their numbers are also impacted by eutrophication, and fisheries targeting them and their prey. It's illegal to catch sea lamprey in several Baltic Sea countries to help protect this fascinating species.

3





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COD

(*Gadus morhua*)

Cod is a vital demersal species found throughout the Baltic Sea!

They prefer more saline parts for reproduction, but their population varies across the sea.

Unfortunately, overfishing and eutrophication have caused a crash in their numbers. In response, Sweden has implemented measures to help recover the Kattegat cod population.



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BROADNOSED PIPEFISH

(Syngnathus typhle)



The broadnosed pipefish is a fascinating marine creature closely related to seahorses.

Unlike most fish, the male broadnosed pipefish carries the eggs in a special pouch and gives birth to live young.

They can be found throughout the Baltic Sea, except in its northernmost regions, and often live in eelgrass beds.

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The loss of eelgrass beds in the Baltic has affected their distribution, as these habitats are crucial for their survival.