Open Sea

Your everyday consumer choices make a difference on the health of the ocean.

Find the animals pictured below in the Open Sea exhibit and note if you observe them swimming in a school. Use a Seafood Watch pocket guide to indicate if the animal is a best choice, a good alternative or one to avoid.

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<th>Schooling or non-schooling?</th>
<th>Seafood Watch Card Rating</th>
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Which of the fishes above is listed in all three categories (best choice, good alternative, avoid) on the Seafood Watch pocket guide?

Why? Feel free to ask a volunteer for help answering this question!
Ocean Travelers Plastics Gallery

Plastics are an important part of our lives. Lightweight, flexible, strong and waterproof—the very characteristics that make plastic so valuable to people also make it a major problem for the environment.

Plastic makes its way through our waterways and out into the ocean where it can affect countless organisms. As you explore this exhibit identify at least one way plastic trash impacts each of the following animals:

**LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLES:**

**LAYSAN ALBATROSS:**

**HUMPBACK WHALES:**

Approximately 8 million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. Describe one personal action you can take to keep plastics out of the ocean.

Tiny Drifters

The open sea is the world’s “plankton pasture,” home to the tiny drifting plants and animals that form a key link in the ocean’s food webs.

Visit the Tiny Drifters Gallery and observe the plankton displayed on the touch screen wall. Choose a plankton species and, in the space below, illustrate the organism you have chosen.

Jelly populations are exploding in huge numbers all over the ocean. These large swarms of jellies are appearing more frequently and in greater numbers. Name two causes for the increase in jelly numbers in the world’s oceans.

1. 

2. 

What human impacts are affecting the ocean’s natural balance?