

What are the problems that need to be solved for life in the ocean?

or

What is different about these animals and plants?

SALT

TEMPERATURE

LIGHT-COLOR

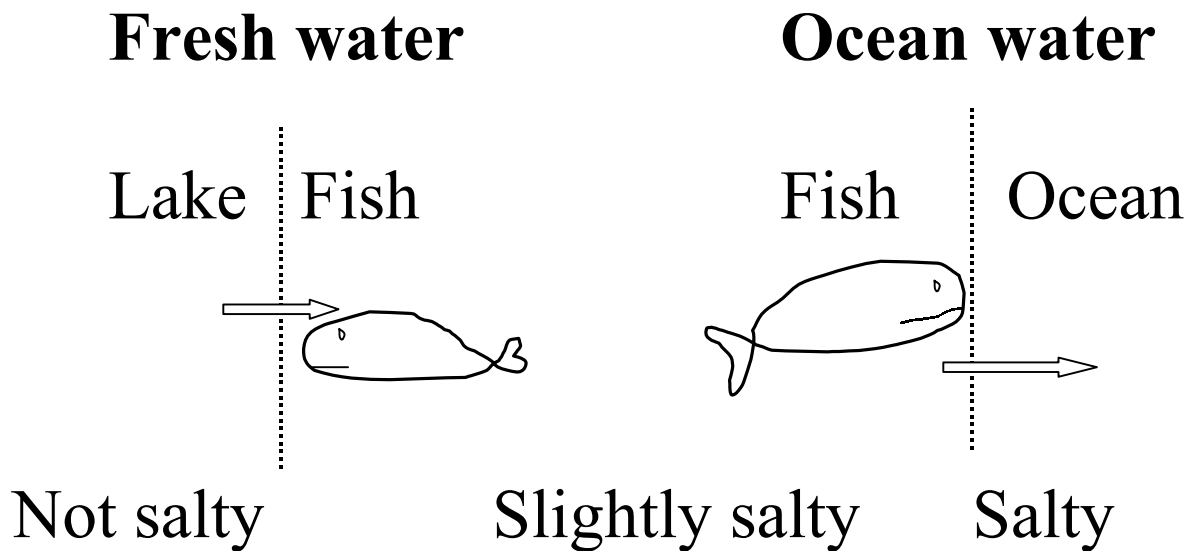
BUOYANCY

PRESSURE

CIRCULATION

Can we drink salty water?

## OSMOSIS



Osmosis driving force is to dilute.

It occurs through a semipermeable membrane

### **Animals in the fresh water**

- saltier inside than the lake
- receive water through their skin

## **Animals in the ocean**

1. *Salinity of their body = ocean salinity*  
(very small organisms with large surface to volume ratio; sharks, rays, sea cucumbers and sponges)

2. *Salinity of body  $\leq$  ocean salinity*

**A.** to compensate for the lost water they drink constantly and chemically separate water and salt (good kidneys)

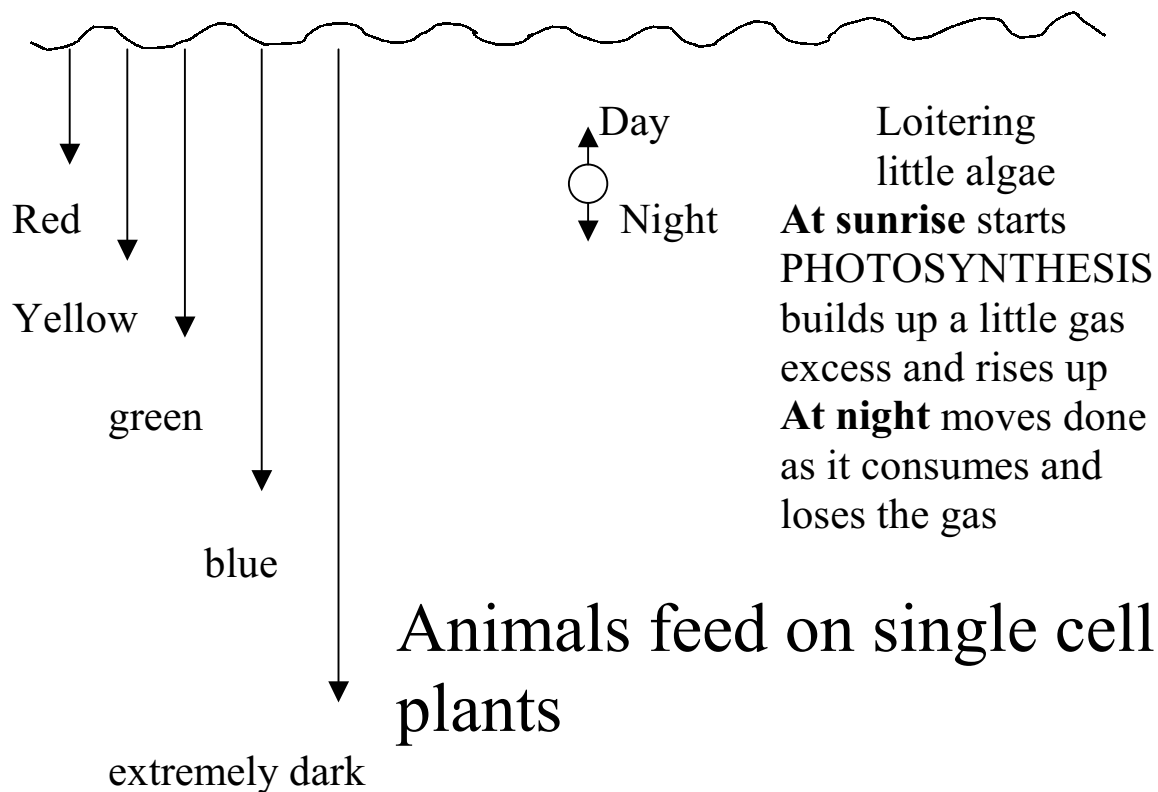
**B.** Water proof skin (impermeable)  
e.g. whales  
eat salty organisms from the first group (plankton)

## TEMPERATURE

Other than tropical waters – extremely cold

1. Stay in water you like  
e.g. corals, tropical fish
2. Many animals don't care
  - e.g. sharks
  - 4°C is about minimum for many species
  - cod fisheries very sensitive to T-change (below 2°C they migrate to warmer water)
3. Warm blooded animals
  - must generate lots of heat to maintain the body T constant
    - a. Eat a lot (killer whales – prefer eating warm blooded animals)
    - b. Blubber (immense amount of insulating material)

## LIGHT AND COLOR



Close to the surface → big feeding point at night (animals from deeper water don't get hurt by sunlight)

Colorful animals in shallow water  
 Grayish below the light penetration depth  
 Bioluminescence – fluorescence

# BUOYANCY

If buoyant, they don't have to spend energy swimming

1. Body density = ocean water density  
(single cell organisms have spines, ruffles and other feathery appendages just to fight the currents)

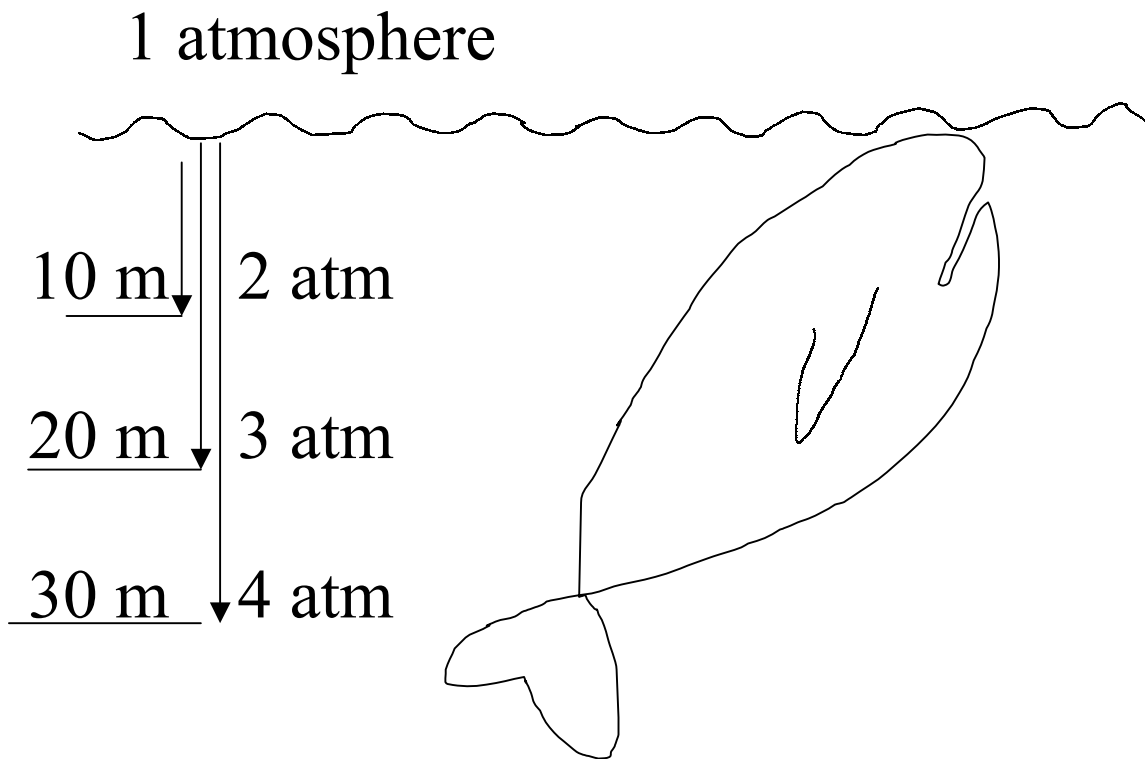
2. Adjustable density

→ buoyancy and flotation

- swim bladders, compartments in “the house” filled with gas (snails, nautilus)

3. Swimmers with streamlined body shape

# PRESSURE



How deep can we breath-hold-dive?

105m = 347 feet

penguins ~ 250 m

killer whale ~ 250 m

beluga whale ~ 650 m

some seals > 1500 m

sperm whale > 2000 m

total oxygen

capacity of

the body

(in blood and

muscles)