

Explore the Marine Discovery Centre to find the answers to these questions

1. How long does it take for a plastic bottle to break down? How can we prevent this from entering our marine environment?

450 Years! We can reduce our use of plastic bottles, recycle plastic bottles and make sure they are not littered

2. What is the most commonly found marine debris item on Henley Beach? Why do you think this is?

Glass pieces. This could be because glass takes a long time to break down, or because people are leaving glass bottles on the beach or throwing them from the jetty.

3. What do the fishes in the marine tanks have in common? Name some similar features.
All of our fishes have gills, fins, eyes, tails, mouths. Most of them have scales.

4. List 3 responsible fishing practices. Why do you think there are certain rules about the size and number of fish that you catch?

Take only what you need, measure your fish and throw the little ones back, take all of your litter and fishing line with you when you leave, handle fish with gloves, use the correct baits. There are rules for size and number of fish so that we are only catching adult fish and we aren't taking too many from the population. It is important that fish can reach maturity so they can have their own babies to replenish the population. This varies for different species because some fish will have babies more frequently than others, at certain times of the year, or more babies at one time.

5. What is the function of a seahorse's tail? Why might this be important?

A seahorse's tail allows it to hold on to seaweed, seagrass or sponges. This is important because a seahorse could be easily swept away with strong currents. It is not a strong swimmer, so its tail allows it to remain in safety. It also allows it to camouflage amongst the plants.

6. List an example of a marine food chain with four links.

Always starts with sun, then plant, then animals.

e.g. sun → phytoplankton → sea jelly → sea turtle

sun → seaweed → blue swimmer crab → stingray

7. How long does a Port Jackson Shark live? How long does a seahorse live?

Port Jackson Shark = 15 – 25 years

Seahorse = 6 – 8 years