

SUPER SWIMMERS

SAVE YOUR BREATH

Some animals that live in the water don't have gills, so they have to hold their breath as they swim. But who can last the longest underwater?

* This is the longest time ever recorded for a human being. The average time a human can hold their breath is only around 1 minute.

Harbour seal
5 minutes



Dolphin
8 minutes



Walrus
10 minutes



Human
22 minutes*



Northern elephant seal
30 minutes



Alligator
2 hours



PACKED LIKE SARDINES

The sardine run is one of the biggest coordinated shoaling movements of fish. They spawn near the African coast. The shoals can be up to 4.5 miles/7 kilometres long, 1 mile/1.6 kilometres wide and are visible from space.

The shoaling fish respond to the position of their neighbours, trying not to get too close to some and keeping far enough away from others.

At 12.5 metres/41 feet, the whale shark is the longest fish in the world.

When threatened, sardines (and other foraging fish) group together to create huge bait balls of up to 20 metres/65.6 feet in diameter to confuse the predators.

Thousands of dolphins feed on the sardines by herding groups of the fish together like sheepdogs.

THE SQUID AND THE WHALE SHARK

A giant squid reaches up to 18 metres/59 feet long.

