



WHY DO THE OCEANS MATTER?



Over **700 million people** depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

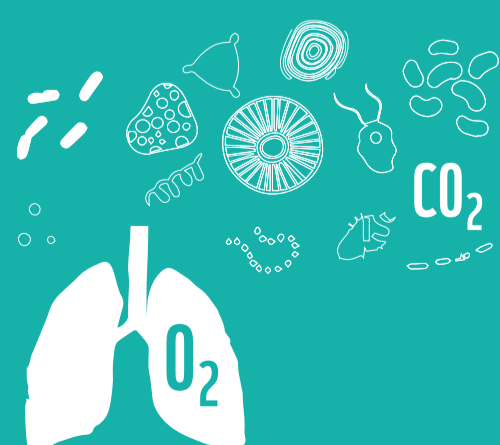
Around **70 per cent of the world's people** live within 60 kms of the sea. And around **80 per cent of all tourism** takes place in coastal areas.



Around the world, approximately **one billion people** rely on fish and seafood for their main source of protein.



Many **medical treatments** have been developed from resources that are found in the sea. These have been used to treat asthma, arthritis and several types of cancer.

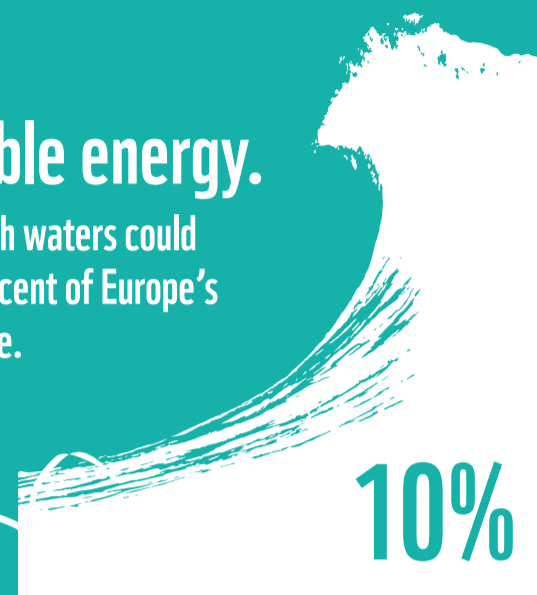
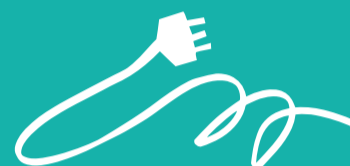


The sea is full of **tiny microscopic organisms called phytoplankton.**

They absorb carbon dioxide and help to give out around 1/2 of the oxygen that we need to breathe.

Wave power is creating **more renewable energy.**

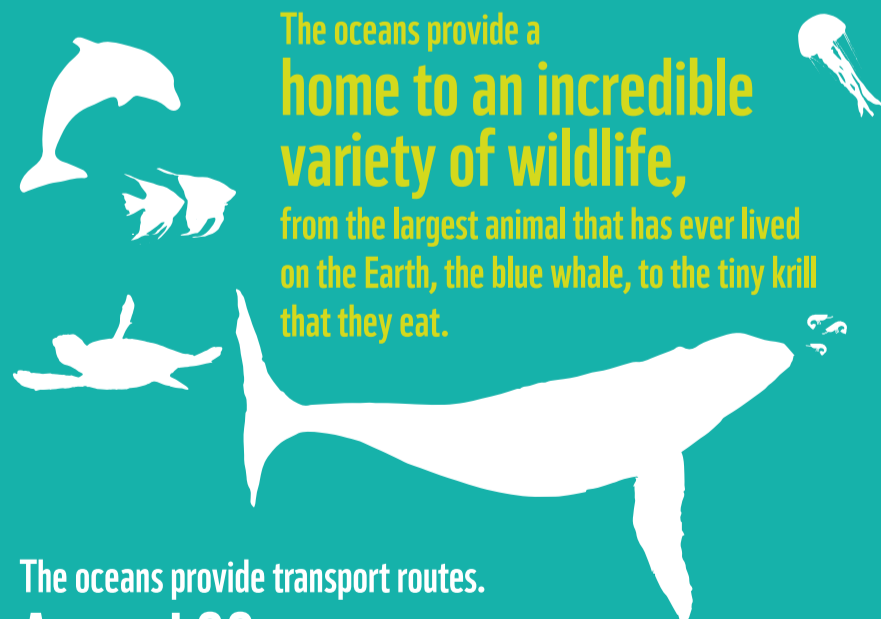
It is thought that Scottish waters could generate around 10 per cent of Europe's wave power in the future.



The oceans are **part of the water cycle.**

Water evaporates from the ocean surface and rises as water vapour. When this meets colder air, it condenses to form clouds and rain.

The ocean absorbs some of **the sun's heat** and carries it around the globe in ocean currents. This helps to regulate the climate of our planet.



The oceans provide a **home to an incredible variety of wildlife,**

from the largest animal that has ever lived on the Earth, the blue whale, to the tiny krill that they eat.

The oceans provide transport routes. **Around 90 per cent of all trade between countries** is carried by ships.

