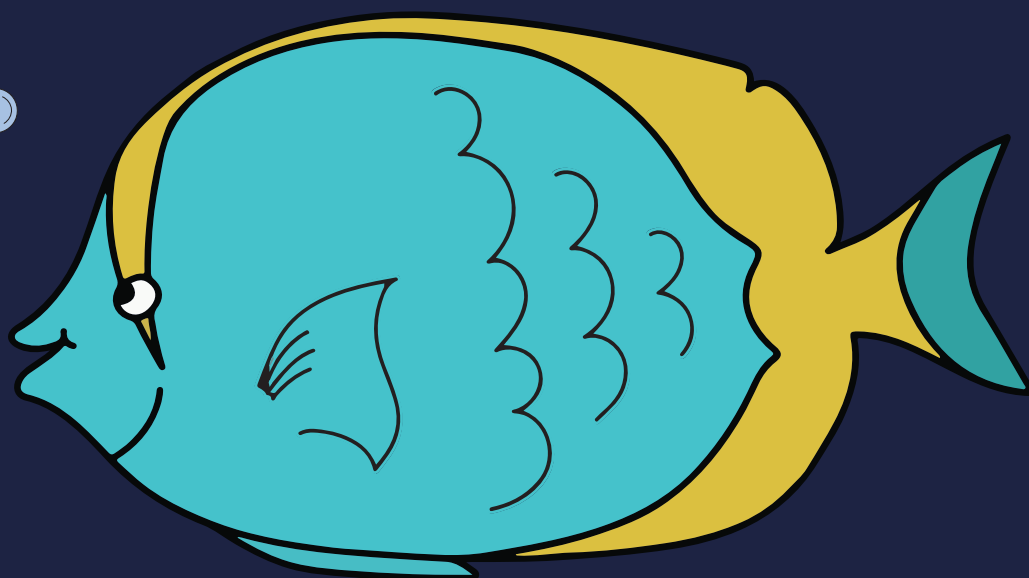




Created by the Blue Belt Programme

Blue Belt Activity Pack

St Helena



Marine
Management
Organisation



Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science



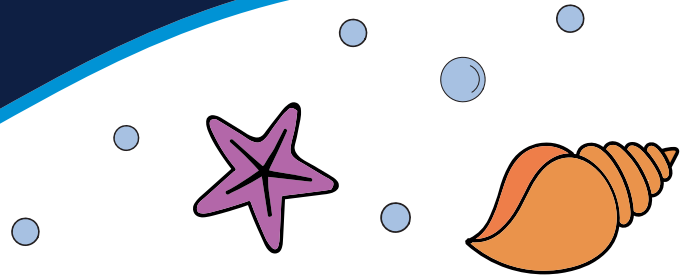
UK Government



St Helena
Government

Introduction

to the Blue Belt Programme



The UK Government is helping the UK Overseas Territories, including St Helena, look after their amazing marine environments. They are doing this through something called the Blue Belt Programme.

To do this, the Blue Belt Programme is helping St Helena to:



Understand their marine life and ocean environment



Collect information on the way to fish so we don't harm our oceans



Understand how human activities impact the ocean



Set rules to protect marine life



Watch the marine environment to check people follow the rules

Scientists and marine staff from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the UK are helping St Helena do this.

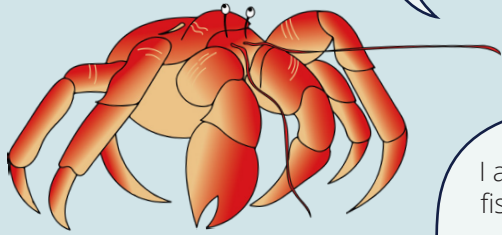
The Blue Belt Programme is working with St Helena and other UK Overseas Territories around the world to help them understand and protect their oceans. From tropical marine environments in the Indian Ocean to freezing cold marine environments in Antarctica covered in ice.



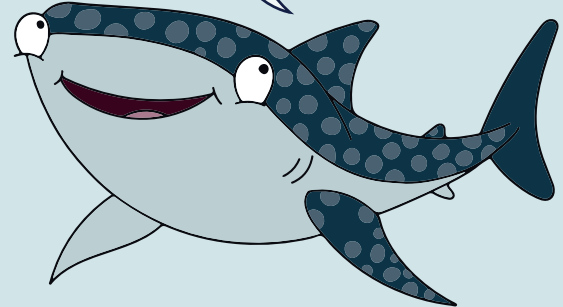
Introduction

Meet the animals

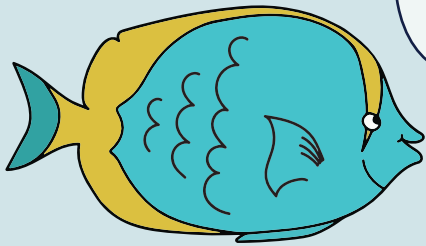
Learn about some of the marine animals found in the other UK Overseas Territories in the Blue Belt Programme:



I am a coconut crab I can grow up to 1 metre in size in the British Indian Ocean Territory!

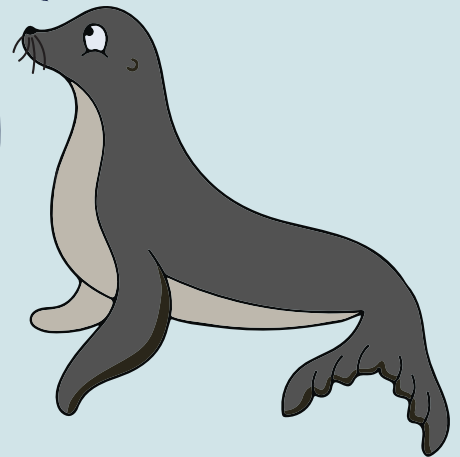


You'll probably have heard of me, I'm a whale shark but you might know me as a bone shark. I visit St Helena's waters and am the largest fish the world.

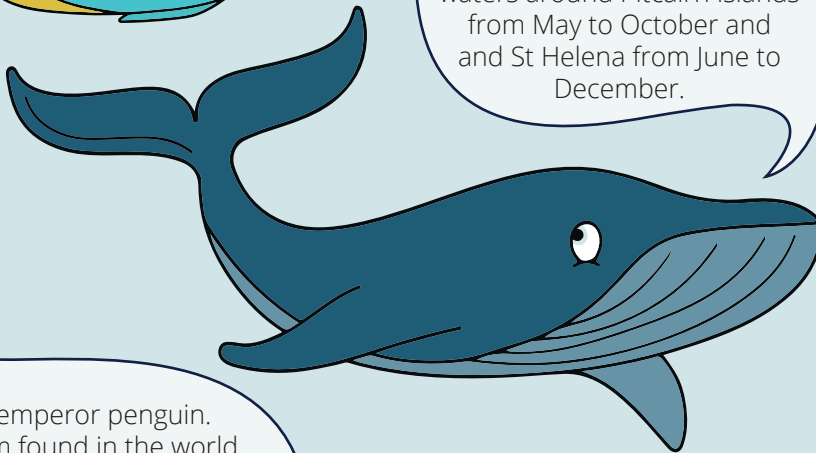


I am a St Helena butterfly fish and I visit St Helena's shallow waters.

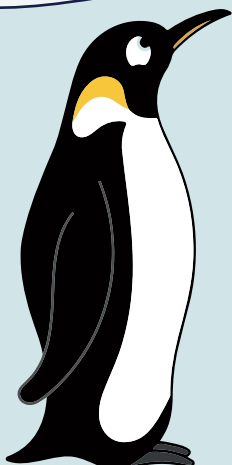
I am an Antarctic Fur Seal one of the species of seals that live in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Did you know the Territory is home to about five million seals?



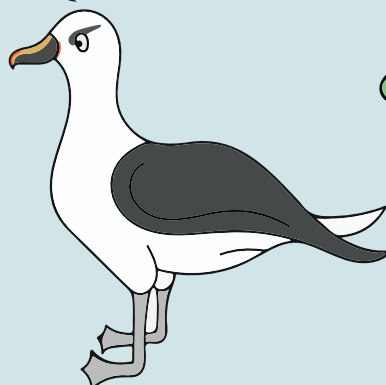
I am a humpback whale – I can usually be found in the waters around Pitcairn Islands from May to October and and St Helena from June to December.



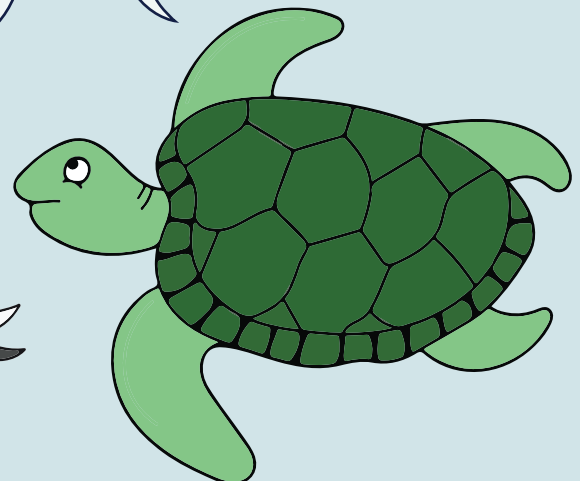
I am an emperor penguin. Where I am found in the world is the British Antarctic Territory. It's so cold here over 90% of the Territory is covered by a permanent ice sheet.



I am an Atlantic Yellow nosed Albatross, I only breed in the Tristan da Cunha Islands.



I am a green turtle and I nest on Ascension Island's sandy beaches.



What are Marine Protected Areas?

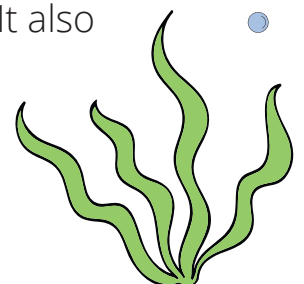
A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a marine area that provides protection for all or part of the natural resources it contains. Some activities are limited or banned in it to help protect the area.

There are all kinds of Marine Protected Areas, or Marine Protection Zones, across the UK Overseas Territories in the Blue Belt Programme. Each of the Territories has chosen their type of Marine Protected Area to suit their needs.

St Helena's Marine Protected Area (MPA) covers over 440,000 square kilometres. Together the UK Overseas Territories in the Blue Belt Programme have protected about 1 percent of all the world's ocean!



St Helena's Marine Protected Area aims to conserve their marine life, together with culture and traditions, so it can be enjoyed by future generations. It also means that all marine activities, like fishing and tourism, must be carefully managed to ensure minimal impact on the marine environment.

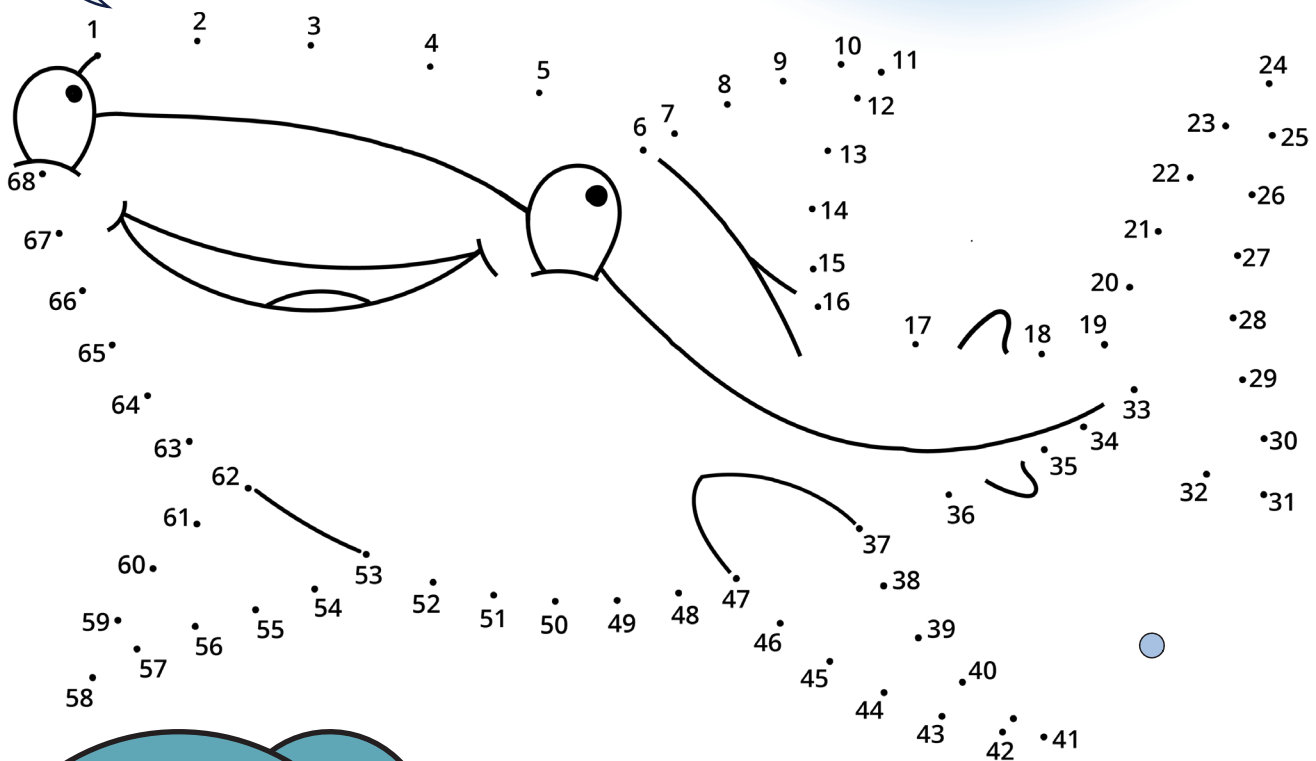


Activity

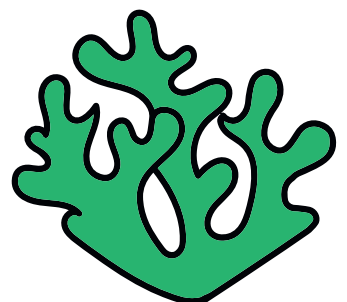
Dot to dot

The whale shark or bone shark is just one of the many species that need St Helena's marine environment for protection. Practise your counting and drawing skills with these dot to dot activities.

Remember I'm just one of many plants and animals that are so important for St Helena's marine environment!

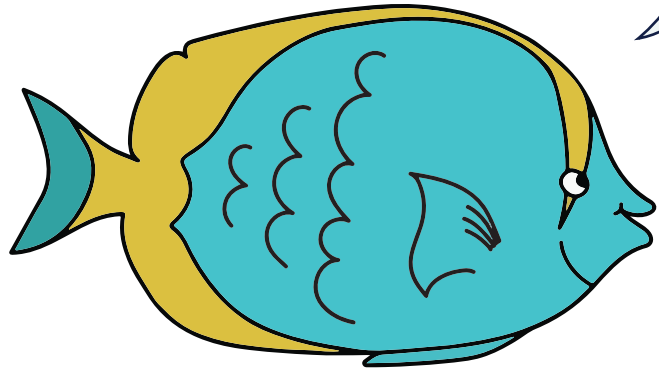
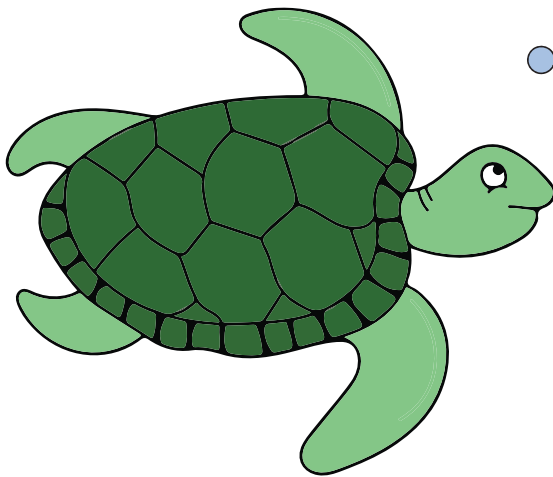


St Helena's Marine Protected Area is helping protect plants and animals that live in St Helena's marine environment for generations to come.



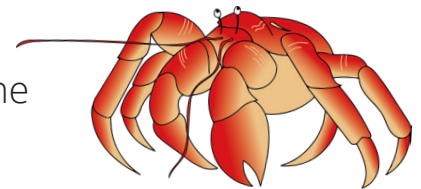
Understanding the ocean environment

The Blue Belt Programme is helping St Helena better understand their marine life and ocean environment.

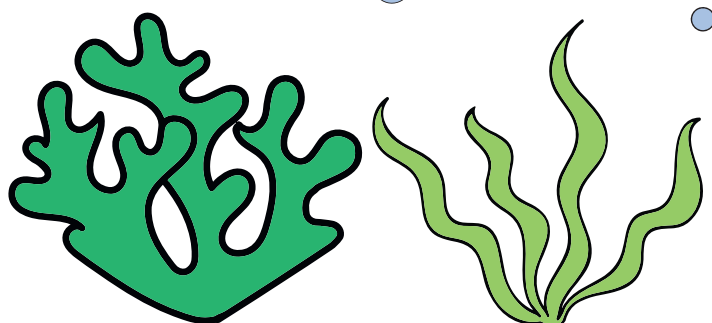


One of the things the Blue Belt Programme has done is send special ships to St Helena waters. These ships have equipment to study the ocean and scientists from the UK who work with St Helena to understand their marine environment.

During these trips, known as marine surveys, scientists took photos of the deep ocean, collected samples from the sea and studied the seafloor.



During one marine survey, the ship studied a seamount, a large underwater mountain, to build a picture of its shape and size. A competition was run on St Helena to name the seamount and the "Charlie Boar" seamount was officially added to a global map of the seafloor in 2019, named after the local St Helena seafarer.

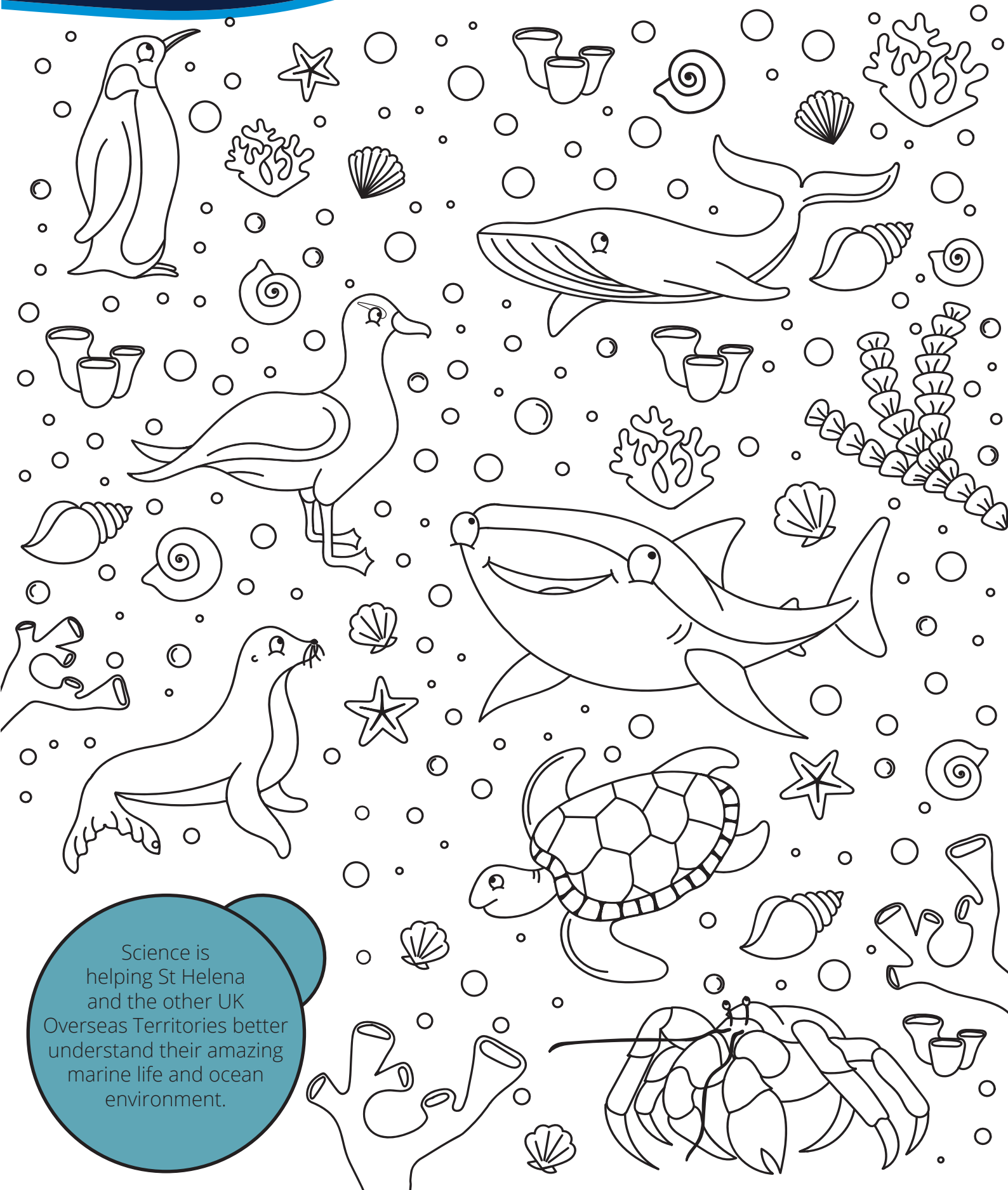


The Charlie Boar Seamount is over 3 times as tall as the highest point in St Helena (Diana's Peak).

Activity

Colouring page

Colour in this page carefully - you might like to try and match the colours and markings to the animals we met on page 2.



Science is helping St Helena and the other UK Overseas Territories better understand their amazing marine life and ocean environment.

Fishing in St Helena

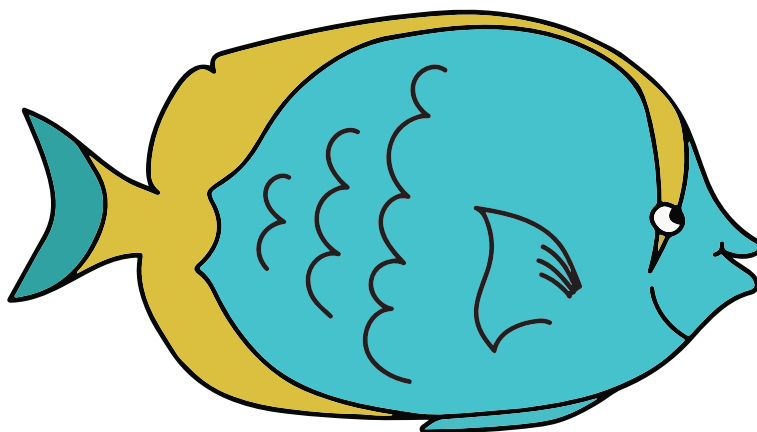
The Blue Belt programme is helping St Helena collect information on how to fish, so that we don't harm the oceans.

There are lots of different types of fish in St Helena fisheries such as tuna, grouper, bait and groundfish.

Work is going on to understand how many fish we can take out the ocean so we have enough food to eat, but don't harm the marine environment. If we catch too many fish there will not be enough fish left to lay eggs to grow into young fish.

St Helena fishers have released over 6,000 tagged tuna back to the ocean!

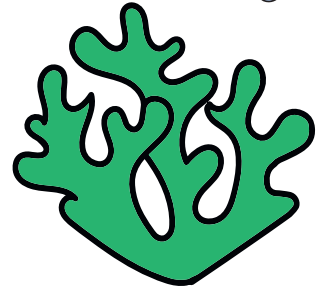
The Blue Belt Programme and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are helping fishermen check how many fish there are in St Helena.






To do this fishermen bring the tuna on to their vessels and carefully attach a scientific device called a tag. They then put the fish back into the ocean and the tags provide information to help us check up on the population.

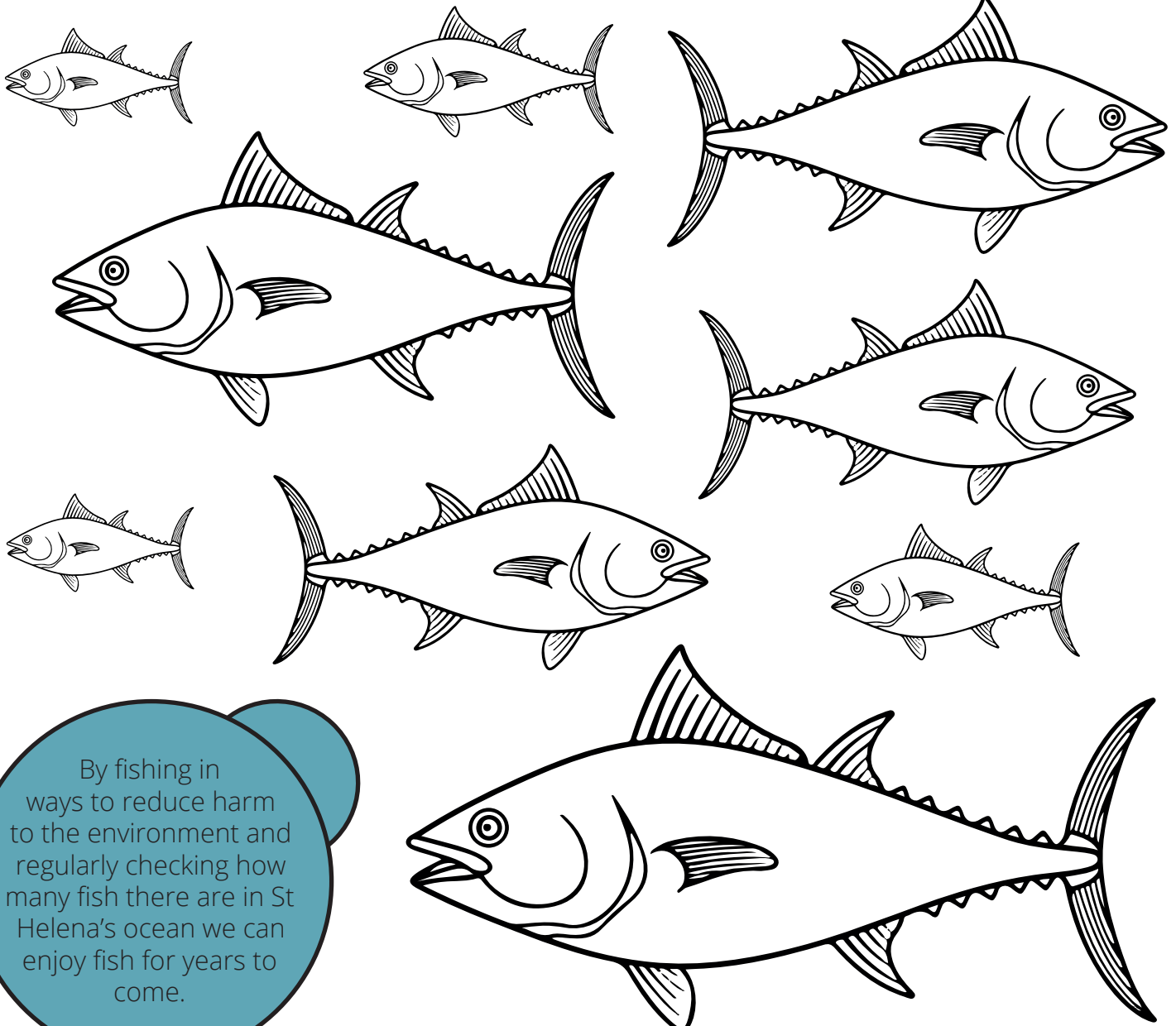
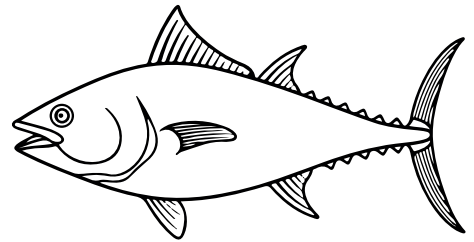
Activity

Measure and colour



Fishermen fish in ways to reduce harm to the oceans and only catch the amount, size and type of fish they want. Choose 3 different colours and colour fish of different sizes different colours. Use a ruler to find the different sizes which are:

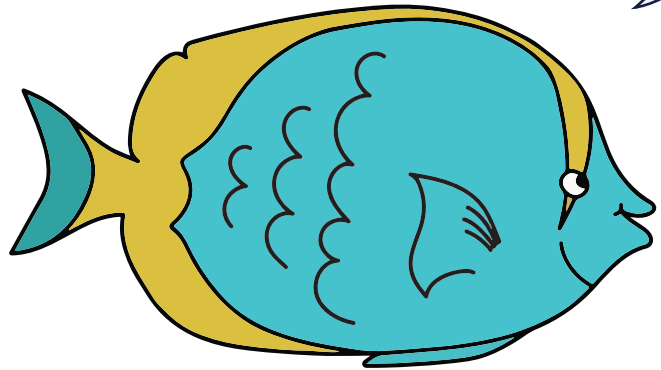
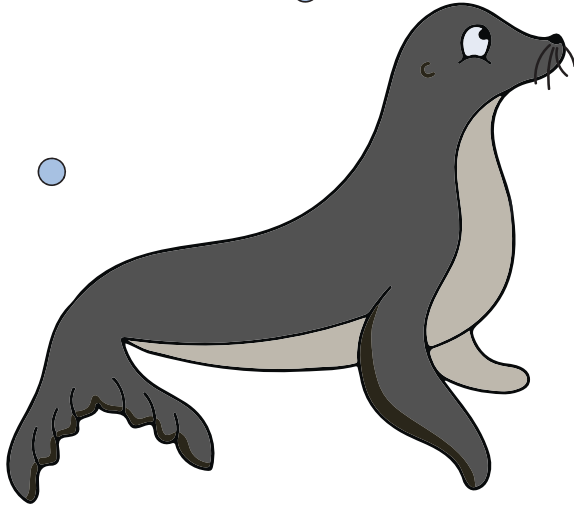
-  Tuna that are under 5cm long
-  Tuna that are between 5cm - 10cm long
-  Tuna that are over 10 cm long



By fishing in ways to reduce harm to the environment and regularly checking how many fish there are in St Helena's ocean we can enjoy fish for years to come.

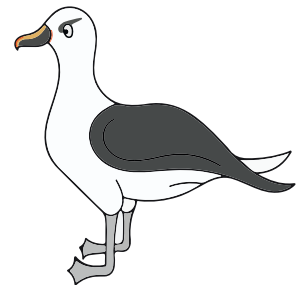
How do our actions impact the ocean?

The Blue Belt Programme is helping St Helena understand how human activities can make good or bad changes to the ocean.



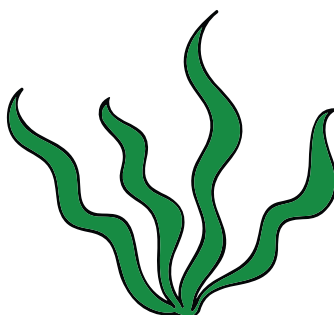
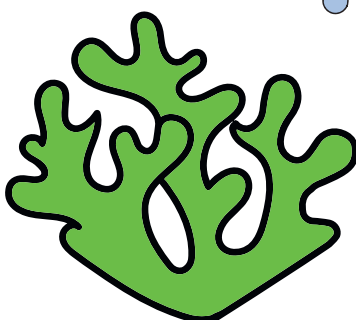
The marine environment is very important to some businesses in St Helena, such as marine tourism.

But an increase in boats could cause damage to marine habitats and disturb the very animals people have come to see. The St Helena Government is keen to make sure that the growth of marine tourism does not harm our marine wildlife.



Blue Belt Programme is helping St Helena develop ways to manage human activities in their Marine Protected Area. These activities include:

- marine tourism
- water quality
- sand extraction

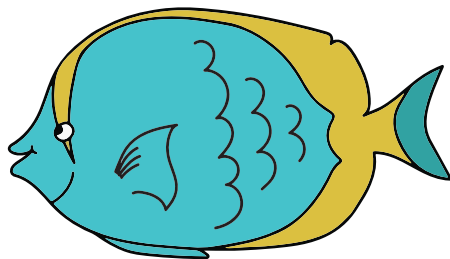


We ALL have a role to play in limiting our impact on the marine environment! Try the activity on the next page to see how you can help.

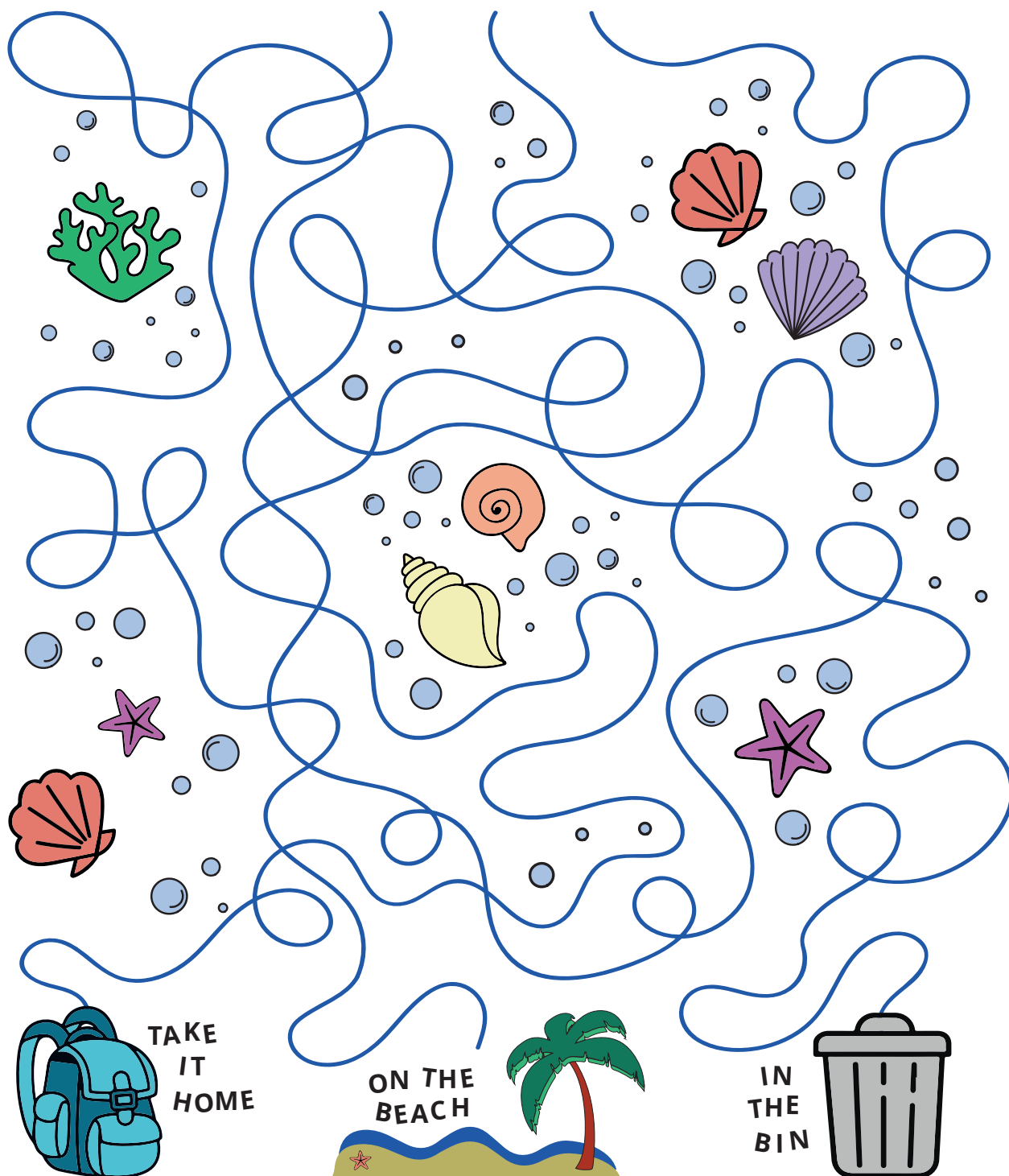
Activity

Tracing the route

After a day at the beach, you may have some rubbish. There is one route the butterfly fish should **NOT** take to dispose of their rubbish. Trace over the route they should take.



Always remember that if you can't find a bin you should take your rubbish home with you.



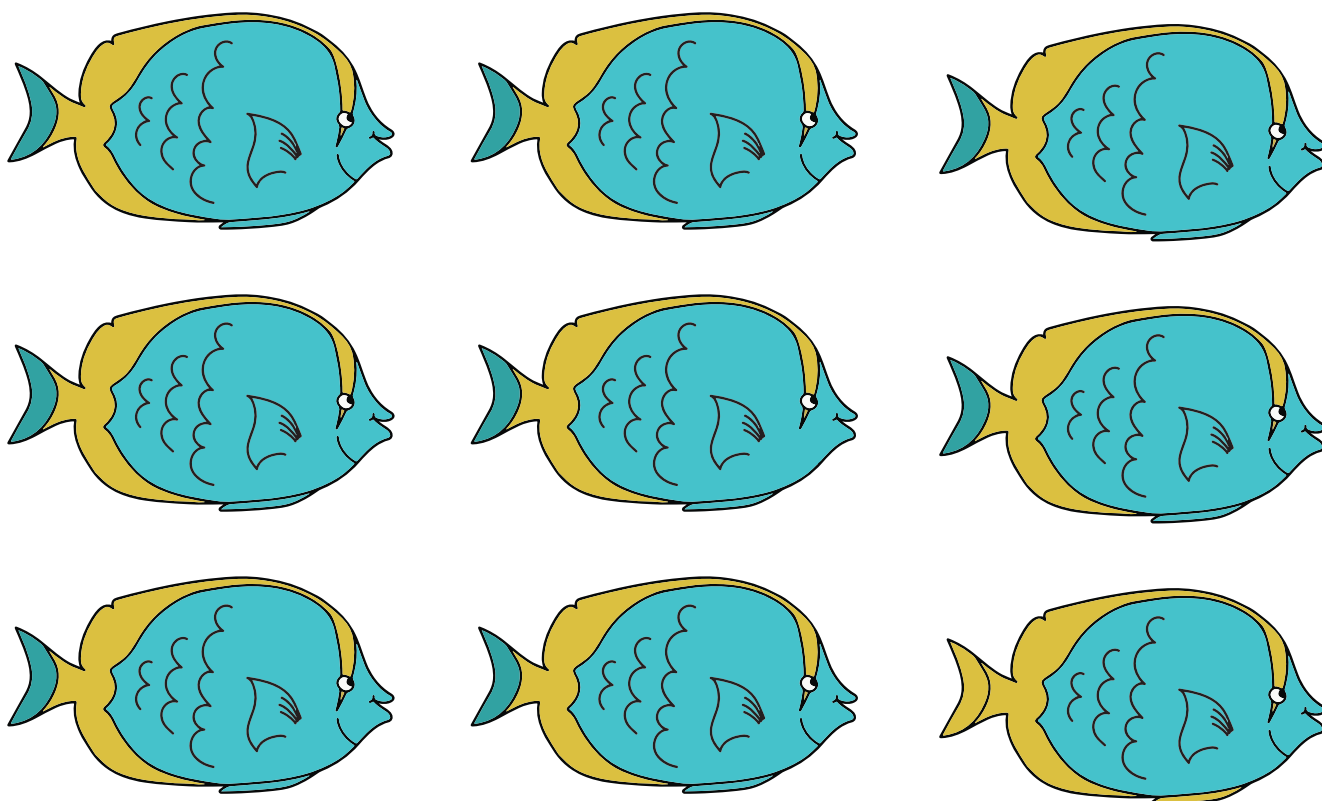
Rules to protect the ocean

It's really important to have rules to help protect the marine environment. The Blue Belt Programme is helping St Helena with these rules.

There are several rules in St Helena to help protect the marine environment, not just rules around fishing. There are also rules on tourism and human activities such as sand pumping and the water that drains into the ocean.

One of the rules around fishing is how many fish can be caught. If we catch too many fish before new fish are born we may run out of fish.

Two of these butterfly fishes have broken the rules. Look closely and circle the odd ones out!



Try the activity on the next page to help you understand why it would be bad to break these rules.





Activity

Food game






When you play this game imagine you are a fisherman, the plate is the ocean, and the small food items are fish in the sea.

Imagine that the small food items are the fish in the sea, you will hopefully understand why it's important to have rules around how many fish we can catch, so we don't run out.

You will need:

-  An adult to help you set up/play along with you
-  A plate
-  Many small food items such as small sweets or pasta pieces
-  Way of removing item from plate (a straw, spoon, chopsticks or something similar)

How to play

-  Place 20 food item pieces on to a plate.
-  Two people need to sit either side of the plate and must remove the food pieces with the tool provided to their side
-  Every thirty seconds you must both pause and double the amount of small food items on the plate
-  Play for a few minutes and see what happens
-  Try taking food items at different speeds and count how many food items you end up with at the end.

What do you find happens when you play the game?

Do you both take small amounts of food and never run out and end up with more?

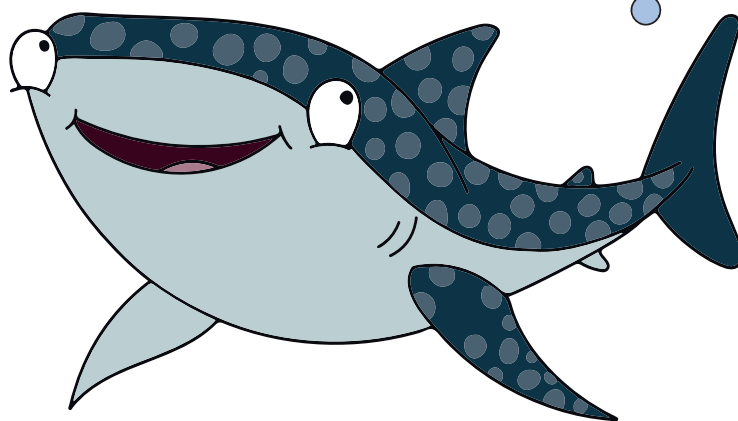
Or do you both rush and take lots and empty the plate before there is time to add more and end up with less?

If we catch too many fish before new fish are born we could run out. If we stick to the rules there will be more to go around - this shows why it is so important to follow the rules around how many fish can be caught.

Checking people follow the rules

The Blue Belt programme is helping St Helena monitor their marine environment to check people follow the rules of their Marine Protected Area.

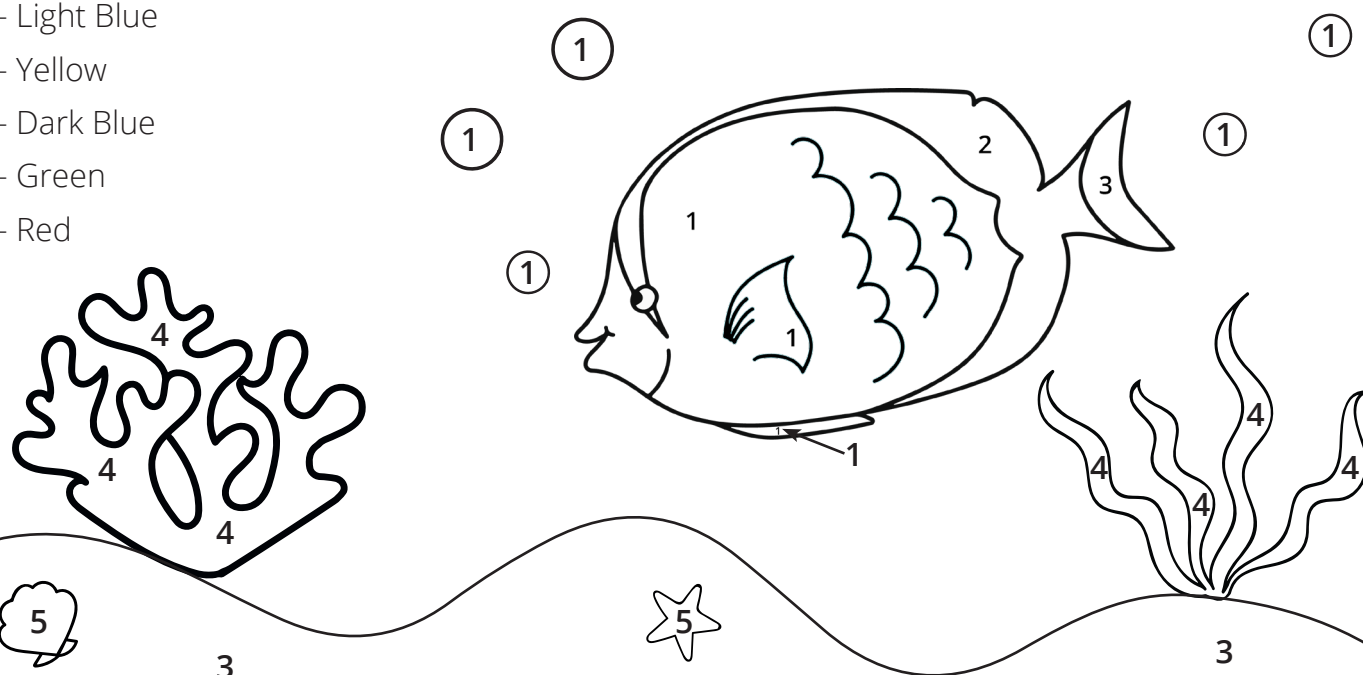
To protect St Helena's amazing marine environment it is important to enforce the rules around the marine environment.



Blue Belt Programme has provided equipment, training and funding for a Marine Enforcement Officer to support compliance and enforcement in St Helena's waters. An enforcement officer is just like a policeman who works at sea.

Can you colour in this marine environment using the key below?

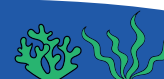
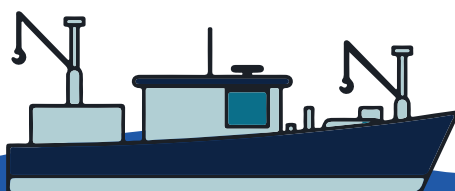
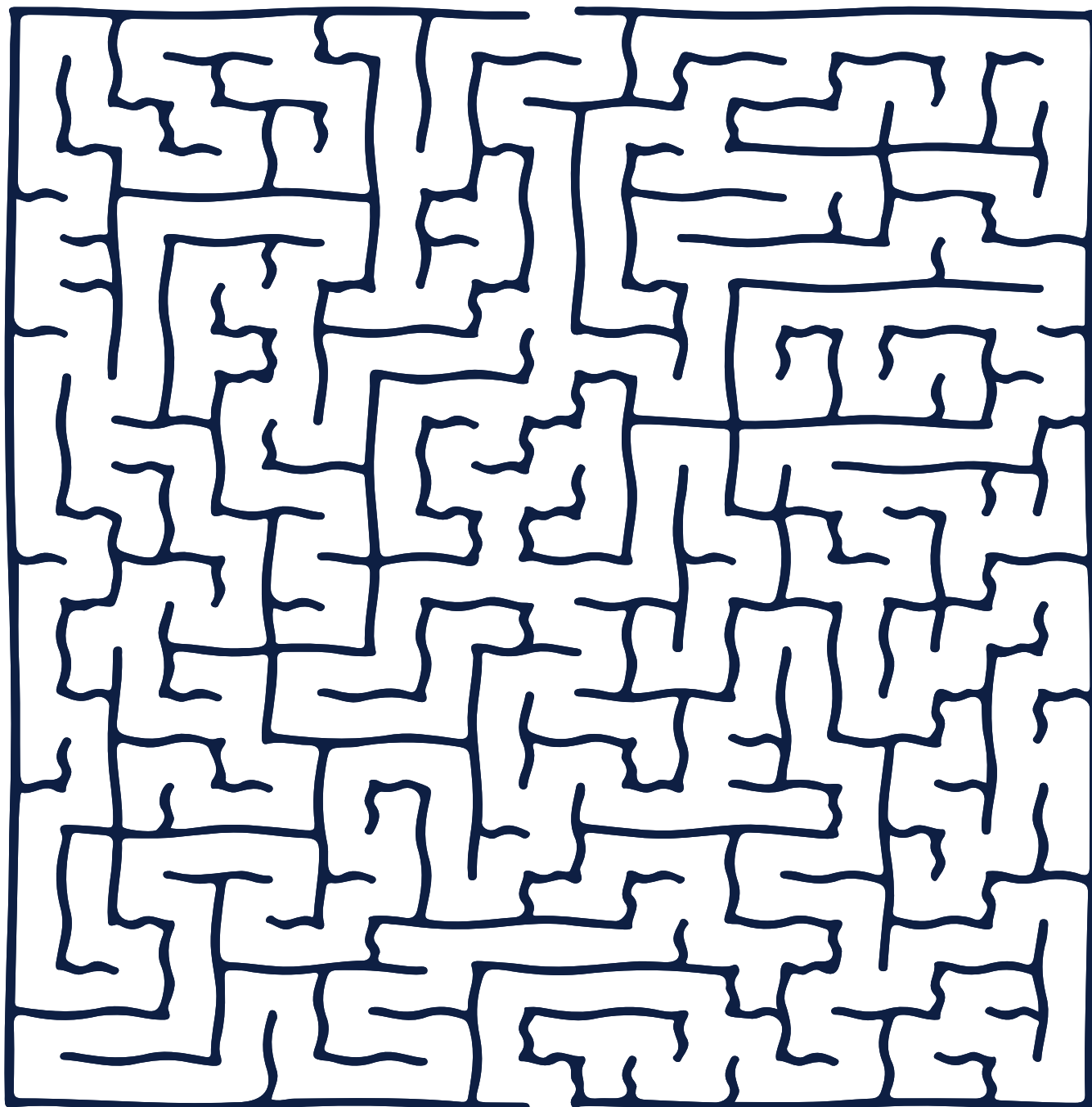
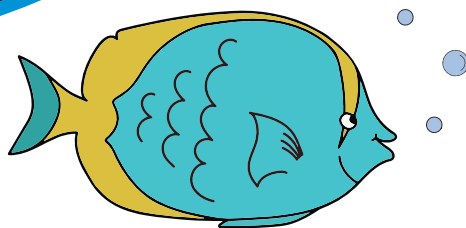
- 1 - Light Blue
- 2 - Yellow
- 3 - Dark Blue
- 4 - Green
- 5 - Red



Activity

*Maze to the rule breaking
boat*

Can you help the butterfly
fish find the boat fishing
breaking the rules in
St Helena?



A summary

Contact details

For more information about the Blue Belt Programme:

Web: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-belt-programme

Email: Bluebelt@cefas.co.uk

Twitter: @UKGovBlueBelt

Blog: marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/category/blue-belt

Research: gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-belt-programme

For more information about work taking place in

St Helena:

Web: www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GOASHT

Twitter: @GO_ASHT