

Seals in Northern Ireland

A seal's fur is brownish-grey with small dark spots. The common seal has a body covered with a thick layer of fat called blubber. The blubber can be found under the skin and helps keep the animal warm. A seal uses flippers for swimming. On the land, seals often like to lie in a head up, tail up position.

Common seals eat a wide variety of fish. They may swim long distances to find food. Pups are born in June or July. They can swim and dive within a few hours of birth. The pup is fed on very rich milk and grows quickly.

Common seals can be seen all around the coast of Northern Ireland, but they are mostly found on the County Down coastline. The best time to see seals is in July and August.



Questions

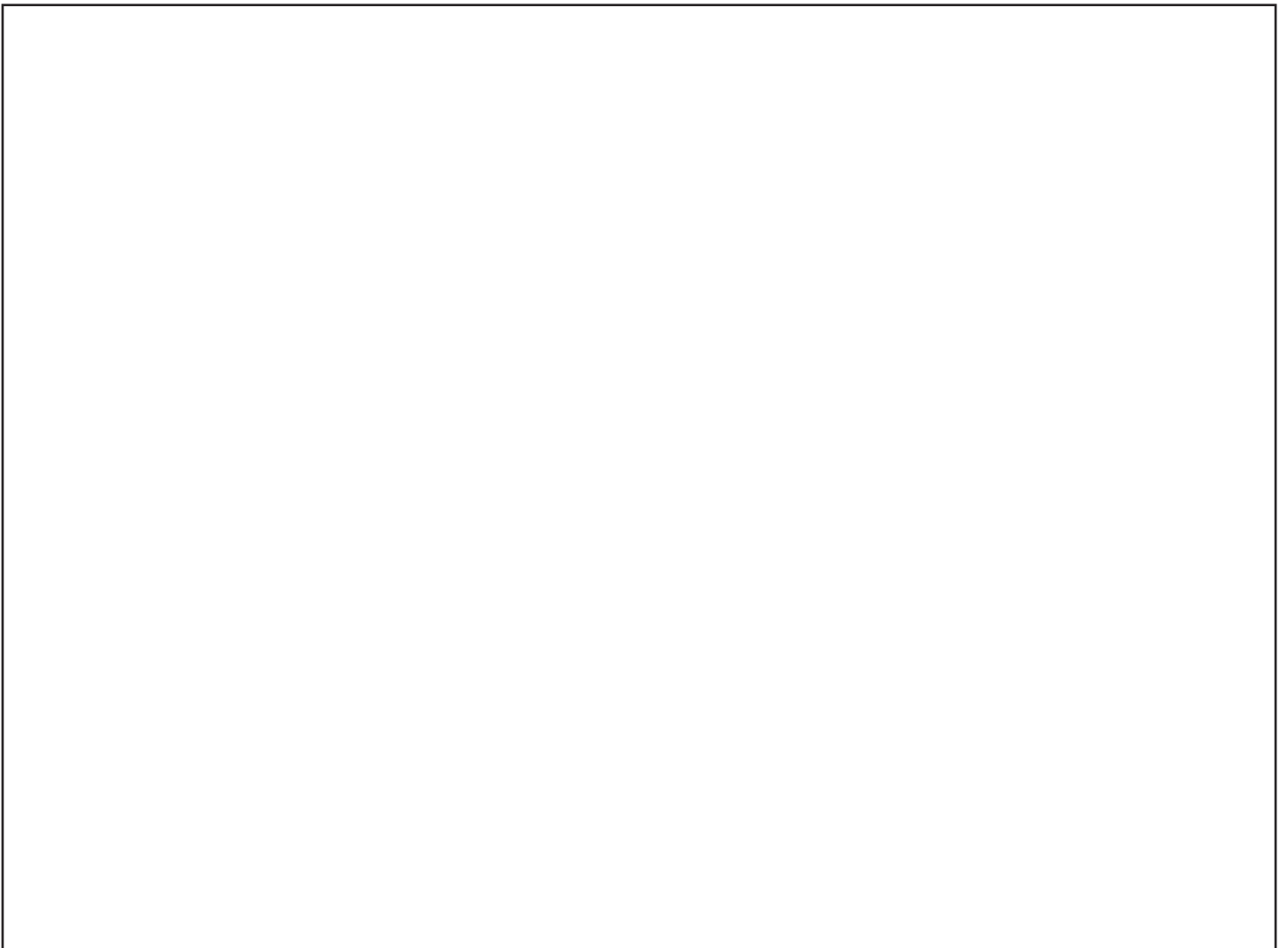
1. How do seals stay warm?

2. What do seals eat?

3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?

4. When is the best time to see a seal in Northern Ireland?

5. Draw a seal based on the description above.



Answers

1. How do seals stay warm?
Seals have a thick layer of blubber that keeps them warm.
2. What do seals eat?
Seals eat a wide variety of fish.
3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?
Baby seals are called pups. Baby dogs are called puppies or pups.
4. When is the best time to see a seal in Northern Ireland?
The best time to see seals is in July and August.

Seals in Northern Ireland

A seal's fur is brownish-grey with small dark spots. The common seal has a body covered with a thick layer of fat called blubber. Blubber is stored under the skin and helps to keep the animal warm. A seal uses flippers for swimming. On the land, seals often like to lie in a head up, tail up position.

Common seals eat a wide variety of fish such as flounder, herring and mackerel. Grey seal are born with white fur in June or July. They can swim and dive within a few hours of birth. The pup is fed on very rich milk and grows quickly.

Seals can be seen all around the coast of Northern Ireland, but are mostly found on the County Down coastline. Strangford Lough holds the largest population in Ireland.

The number of seals in the natural environment is getting smaller every year. The main reasons for this are chemical and oil pollution in the sea.



Questions

1. How do seals stay warm?

2. What do seals eat?

3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?

4. Why is number of seals in the natural environment getting smaller?

5. Go to Exploris – the N. Ireland Aquarium website. Write how Exploris helps seals.

Answers

1. How do seals stay warm?
Seals have a thick layer of blubber that keeps them warm.
2. What do seals eat?
Seals eat a wide variety of fish.
3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?
Baby seals are called pups. Baby dogs are called puppies or pups.
4. Why is number of seals in the natural environment getting smaller?
The seal population is getting smaller because of chemical and oil pollution in the sea.
5. Go to Exploris – the N. Ireland Aquarium website. Write how Exploris helps seals.
Responses to this question may vary.

Seals in Northern Ireland

A seal's fur is brownish-grey with small dark spots. The common seal has a body covered with a thick layer of fat called blubber. Blubber is stored under the skin and helps to keep the animal warm. A seal uses flippers for swimming. On the land, seals often like to lie in a head up, tail up position.

Common seals eat a wide variety of fish such as flounder, herring and mackerel. They may swim long distances to find food. Seals can live for up to 30 years. Females usually live longer than males.

Pups are born in June or July. They can swim and dive within a few hours of birth. The pup is fed on very rich milk and grows quickly.

Common seals can be seen all around the coast of Northern Ireland, but are mostly found on the County Down coastline. The common seal is the smaller of the two species and has a more rounded head with a short muzzle. The nostrils of the common seal meet together and form a V shape while those of the grey seal are nearly parallel and do not meet. Grey seal pups are born with white fur. Strangford Lough holds the largest population in Ireland. The best time to see seals is in July and August.

The seal population is in decline. This means that the number of seals in the natural environment is getting smaller every year. The main reasons for this are chemical and oil pollution in the sea.



Questions

1. How do seals stay warm?

2. What do seals eat?

3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?

4. Where can you see a seal in Northern Ireland? Can you find this place on the map of Northern Ireland?

5. What is the difference between a grey and a common seal?

6. Why is the seal population in decline?

7. Go to Exploris – the N. Ireland Aquarium website. Write how Exploris helps seals.

Answers

1. How do seals stay warm?

Seals have a thick layer of blubber that keeps them warm.

2. What do seals eat?

Seals eat a wide variety of fish.

3. What do you call a baby seal? Is there another baby animal with the same name?

Baby seals are called pups. Baby dogs are called puppies or pups.

4. Where can you see a seal in Northern Ireland? Can you find this place on the map of Northern Ireland?

Seals are mostly found on the County Down coastline, but you can find them all around the coast of Northern Ireland.

See students' response on map.

5. What is the difference between a grey and a common seal?

A common seal is smaller and has a more rounded head with a short muzzle. The nostrils of the common seal meet together and form a V shape.

The nostrils of a grey seal are nearly parallel and do not meet. Their pups are born with white fur.

6. Why is the seal population in decline?

The seal population is in decline because of chemical and oil pollution in the sea.

7. Go to Exploris – the N. Ireland Aquarium website. Write how Exploris helps seals.

Responses to this question may vary.