



SCALEY MACKERAL - 'SARDINES'

SARDINELLA LEMURU

DID YOU KNOW?

An adult dusky shark was once found with 621 sardines in its stomach!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Be mesmerised by the shiny scales and synchronized swimming of our sardines in the Marina Bay exhibit area.

SIZE: <23CM

DIET: PLANKTON

**MAIN PREDATOR:
SHARKS, WHALES,
SEALS**

**HABITAT: COASTAL
PELAGIC**

**FOUND: EASTERN
INDIAN & WESTERN
PACIFIC OCEANS**

"WE ARE ONE, BUT WE ARE MANY"

The name sardine refers to over 20 different types of similar looking fish. Sardines are small, silvery fish with a single short dorsal fin, no lateral line, and no scales on their head. Their long tapered body shape is perfect for quick evasive swimming and pursuit of prey.

Sardines live in dense schools, migrating along the coast and feeding on plankton. By staying together, a school of sardines appears as one large object, if predators come close there is safety in numbers and when its time to mate - there are plenty close by.

ITS ALL IN MY HEAD

Most fish have a line along their body that detects movement and vibrations in the water, helping to navigate, follow the path of prey and keep their position in a school - but not sardines. Instead of a single line these fish have clusters of pressure sensing pores on their head. As sardines are experts at schooling this alternative design must give them a competitive edge.

CAUGHT YOU!

Pelagic fish don't have cracks or crevices to hide in, instead, they hide behind one another to form a 'bait ball'. This shape allows for maximum protection by exposing the least number of fish to danger. The way sardines tightly pack themselves together (and are tightly packed into cans) has created the saying "packed like sardines". This describes situations where people or objects are crowded closely together. Sardines is also the name of a children's game, where one person hides and each successive person who finds the hidden one packs into the same space until only one is left out.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Sardines are the basis for ocean food chains that support giants like whales, seals and sharks. They're packed full of essential nutrients and are one of the most important food fishes in the world providing a vital source of healthy, affordable protein for small communities as well as large commercial fisheries.