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1.2 Introduction

Fish are aquatic vertebrates, rather than invertebrates, with gills and fins. They are poikilothermic and others have been known to hibernate. They preceded the other vertebrates on Earth, but were not the first.

Although a few fish spend most of their lives in the head of a river, most spend most of their lives in the open sea. They are adapted to that particular environment. They have a low density, low viscosity and high buoyancy. They have a high rate of metabolism, which is maintained by a high rate of oxygen uptake. They are also high on the trophic level, and are thus a major part of the marine food web. They are also a major part of the marine food web. They are also a major part of the marine food web.

Among the huge array of fish species, some are classified as such in the marine environment.