CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Atlantic Tarpon

Megalops atlanticus

The tarpon is a large silver fish that breathes air. Its swim bladder connects to the oesophagus and is lined with spongy, alveolar-like tissue, so the fish gulps at the surface — anglers call it "ro…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Megalopidae
Habitat: Coastal waters, estuaries, lagoons, and occasionally freshwater rivers
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 30–50 years
Weight: 27–161 kg (60–355 lbs)
Scientific name: Megalops atlanticus

Did you know?

- Some Atlantic Tarpon have been recorded living for over 50 years in the wild, making them one of the longest-lived fish species.
- A tarpon named Scarface lived at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium for 63 years. Tarpon flesh is bony and poor eating, so the fishery around them is almost en…

What I learned

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