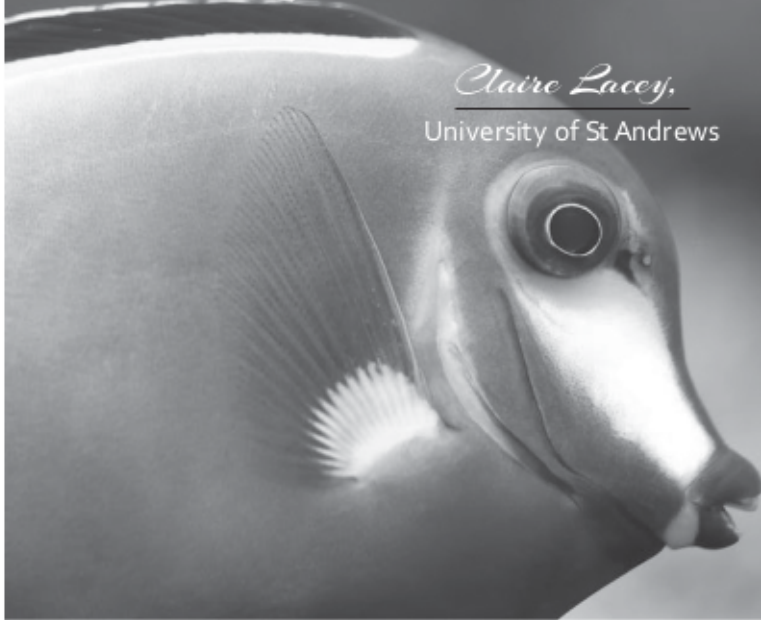


When fish get thirsty do they drink sea water?

Claire Lacey,
University of St Andrews



When fish get thirsty do they drink sea water? – Torben, aged nine, Sussex, UK.

This is a great question, Torben, thanks very much for sending it in.

The short answer is yes, some fish do drink seawater – but not all of them. Fish are amazing animals, and have some very cool solutions to living in water. Naturally, different types of fish have evolved different solutions.

The bony kinds of fish that live in the sea – such as cod, herring, tuna and so on – have a few ways of getting water in and out of the body. As well as swallowing and peeing, like humans do, these fish can pass it through their skin and gills