

Φώκια /fokia / Seal

What does it look like?

The Mediterranean seal *Monachus Monachus* is a sea mammal and one of the largest seal species in the world. Its length reaches 2-3 meters while its average weight is 250 kilos. Its body is covered in short, shiny hair. Its colour varies from light grey and beige in females to dark brown and black in males. Male seals have a white spot on their belly.

Where does it live?

It lives in the Mediterranean Sea. Scientists claim that Greece is home to 2/3 of the total Mediterranean seal population.

What does it eat?

It eats fish and octopuses.



Other Facts:

1. The Mediterranean seal *Monachus monachus* got its name because of the shape of the top of its head that looks like it is wearing a Roman Catholic monk's cap.
2. She is represented on ancient Greek coins and mentioned in passages of the ancient poet Homer that describe seals sunbathing on sandy shores.
3. Today, there are fewer than 600 animals and *Monachus Monachus* is among the rarest and most endangered species on the planet. About half of the population, around 250-300 seals, live in Greece. Watch the following video and find out more!