

What is the Yellow-bellied Sea Snake?

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About Yellow-bellied Sea Snake:

- The Yellow-bellied Sea Snake is a **highly venomous** species of snake that **belongs to the subfamily Hydrophiinae (the sea snakes)**.
- **Scientific Name:** *Pelamis platurus*
- **Distribution:**
 - This snake is considered the **most widely-distributed** snake in the world.
 - It is found in **tropical and subtropical waters** around the world.
 - It is found in tropical ocean waters in the **Indian and Pacific Oceans**, including the coasts of **Africa, Asia, Australia, Mexico**, including Baja California, and **Central America**.
- **Features:**
 - Adult length **averages 3 feet (0.9 meter)**. The snake has **smooth scales** and a **sleekly shaped body**.
 - It has a **distinctive bicolor pattern** with a **yellow underbelly** and **brown back with a flattened yellow tail** with **large black spots**.

- It is a **diurnal sea** snake and **primarily aquatic**, living its **entire life cycle at sea**.
 - This snake **can spend up to 3 hours underwater** without surfacing.
 - Adaptations to aquatic life include the **reduced ventral scale size, laterally compressed body and paddle-tail for swimming, valved nostrils and palatine seal for excluding seawater**, and cutaneous gas exchange for prolonging dive times.
 - This species can **uptake up to 33% of its oxygen requirements through the skin while diving and swimming** at the surface of the water.
 - They are **carnivores (piscivores) and eat only fish**.
 - **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Least Concern**
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Q1) What are Piscivores animals?

Piscivores are a group of animals that primarily feed on fish as their primary food source. They are specialized predators with adaptations that allow them to catch and consume fish efficiently. Piscivory is a common feeding strategy observed in various animal species across different habitats, including aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Source: ['Most poisonous' yellow-bellied snake found in Bay of Bengal; experts say snake bite can paralyse humans](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-the-yellow-bellied-sea-snake/>

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