

Explore Your Shore

Grattan Beach, Salthill
June, 2025



About Galway Atlantaquaria

Discover Galway Atlantaquaria, Ireland's largest native species aquarium and a favorite family-friendly attraction, perfectly located on the Salthill Promenade with stunning views over Galway Bay.

Spread across two floors, the aquarium is home to over 100 species. From native sharks, rays, and conger eels to colorful wrasse and tropical favorites like clownfish and piranhas, it offers a vibrant snapshot of aquatic life beneath the waves.

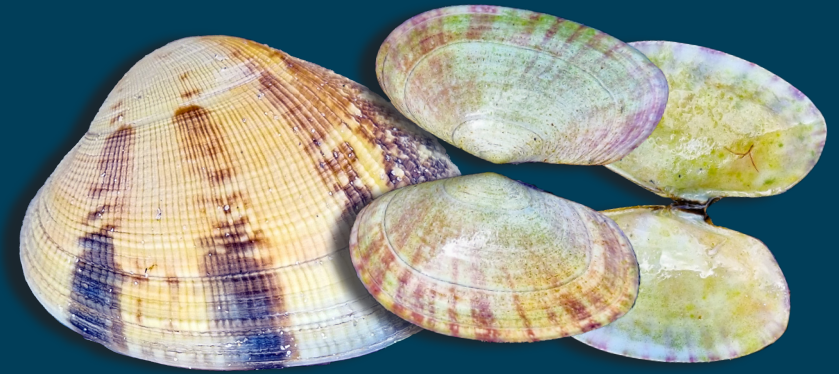
Among its features are a 60-foot fin whale skeleton and the ancient Bearna log boat, over 5,000 years old—captivating blends of marine life and cultural history.

Interactive exhibits include the Splash Tank, native marine zones, and freshwater habitats. With daily feeding sessions and educational talks, every visit offers something new to discover.

Galway Atlantaquaria is proudly accredited by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), & British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) underlining our commitment to animal welfare, conservation, and public education.

Whether you're exploring marine ecosystems, watching a feeding demonstration, Galway Atlantaquaria delivers an engaging and unforgettable journey into Ireland's aquatic world.

Dedicated to "Explore Your Shore" initiatives, the aquarium also encourages visitors to become Citizen Scientists and take an active role in protecting our marine environment.



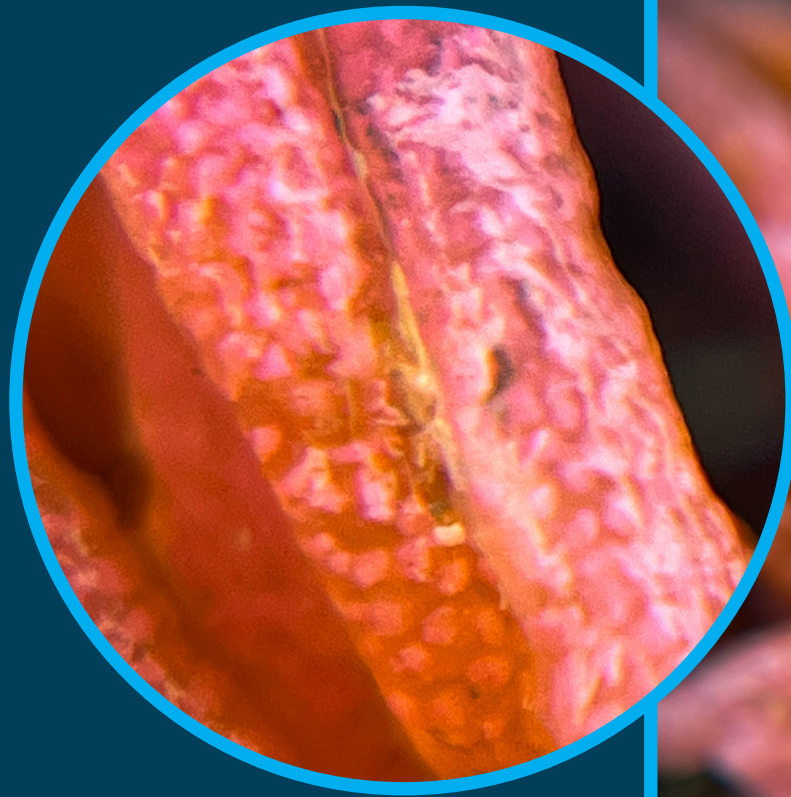
GRATTAN BIVALVES

Our Bivalve 'BIG SEASHELL' Survey is almost complete. We just have to validate some of the records.





Lanice conchilega, commonly known as the sand mason worm, is a species of burrowing marine polychaete worm. It builds a characteristic tube which projects from the seabed, consisting of cemented sand grains and shell fragments with a fringe at the top.



Sea hare eggs are typically laid in long, gelatinous strands or strings that resemble pink or yellow spaghetti. These egg masses are often found attached to seaweed or other surfaces in shallow marine environments. Sea hares, which are marine snails, lay these masses of eggs after mating, and the eggs hatch into larvae that develop into juvenile sea hares.





The velvet crab, also known as the velvet swimming crab or devil crab, is a medium-sized crab found on our coasts. It gets its name from the short hairs that cover its body, giving it a velvety texture. These crabs are known for their bright red eyes and feisty nature.

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 Galway  [®] 
Atlantaquaria

Common shore crab
(*Carcinus maenas*)



Cancer pagurus, commonly known as the edible crab or brown crab, is a species of crab found in the North Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, and perhaps the Mediterranean Sea. It is a robust crab of a reddish-brown colour, having an oval carapace with a characteristic “pie crust” edge and black tips to the claws.





Cuttlebones are the internal shells of cuttlefish, which are cephalopods.

Composition: They are mainly composed of calcium carbonate, with some organic material.

Function: The cuttlebone provides buoyancy for the cuttlefish by allowing it to adjust the amount of air or water it contains.

Cuttlebones are a popular source of calcium for caged birds like budgerigars and other pets.

They have been used historically for polishing and as an ingredient in toothpaste.

Cuttlebones are also used as molds for casting small metal objects, especially by jewelers.





Common eelgrass
Zostera marina





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The European eel
(*Anguilla anguilla*)

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