

Protecting the blue planet

Giant Ocean Tank Census

Every year, the aquarists do a census of the entire Aquarium—counting every single living thing in the building. Take a try at some of the techniques used to take a census of the Giant Ocean Tank.

You will need:

- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Giant Ocean Tank Fishes Guide
- Timer or watch
- Camera, phone, tablet, or other device with a camera and a screen (optional)

Snapshot

Take a picture of a group of fish, using a device that allows you to see the picture right away. Use this snapshot to count the number of fish of each species you can see in the image. Repeat two or three times for the same area. Write down your estimate below.

Timed Observation

Stand at one window. Choose one species that swims by the window to count. Time 1 minute. Count the number of members of that species you see in 1 minute. Repeat two or three times for the same window and the same species. Write down your estimate below.

Simple Count

For certain large animals, such as tarpon, barracuda, or turtles, we have very few individuals. Watch to see if you can tell these individuals apart, and count them this way.

SPECIES	NUMBER (ESTIMATE)	TECHNIQUE USED