

Why do fish leap out of the water?

Many species of fish are known to jump out of the water. Some do this to temporarily escape from predators. Some do it while they are hunting.

Some river dwelling fish have been known to jump out of the water to get to insects settled in overhanging branches above the water.

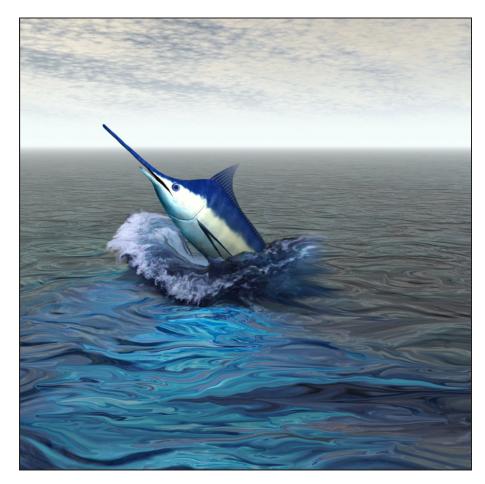
Salmon jump over obstacles such as waterfalls in order to swim upstream to their spawning grounds.

Scientists have suggested that some fish may jump out of the water to gulp air when they are swimming in water with low levels of oxygen.



Salmon spend most of their adult life in the ocean but return to fresh water streams where they were born to spawn. This may involve great leaps to overcome hurdles such as waterfalls.





Is it a bird or a plane? No... its a ... flying fish!

Many fish can launch themselves out of the water but these fish have developed fins that act like wings, enabling them to soar above the sea for much greater distances between leaps. A flying fish can stay in the air for up to approximately 40 seconds, travelling a distance of about 400 metres.

