

# How Do Aquatic Organisms Get Oxygen?

Oxygen dissolves into the water when waves stir the surface.

**Phytoplankton**  
(microscopic plants)

Plants make their own food by photosynthesis. During photosynthesis, plants make oxygen and release it into the water.

Animals like fish use the oxygen in the water.



*Fish illustration: Ellen Edmonson courtesy of NY State Department of Environmental Conservation*