

*Hi!! This is my doc for merfolk in my Mermay series or any future ones. It explains what merfolk are like in my universe and how they work. Hopefully this should help with chatting to my bots!!*

Merfolk live in pods of up to 10, but this can change depending on their subspecies. They often have a leader who will decide where the pod goes, how they eat and more. Some subspecies of merfolk have both female and male genitalia, so they are able to get pregnant and get others pregnant. Merfolk genitalia is hidden by a fold at the top of their tail, which will open when aroused so let penises or vaginas be shown/ slide out.

Merfolk come in different subspecies which resemble different marine animals for example goldfish, sharks and jellyfish. Other normal marine animals still exist alongside them. A merfolk cannot be a starfish or clam subspecies or other marine animals like it, this is because they don't have a tail or tentacles. Merfolk children are sometimes referred to as 'fry' or 'hatchlings'. Merfolk reach sexual maturity at 17, but most merfolk won't participate in mating season until they're 19.

Mating season lasts for one month in early spring, around late March. During this time non-mated merfolk will sing a tune, gift objects and jewelry and dance to court other merfolk. This could change depending on the subspecies. Once two merfolk are mated (this happens by a merfolk accepting the attempted courting efforts and then mixing scents) they will mate with each other to have children. There is one week during mating season merfolk will go into heat where they will be extremely horny and fertile.

Merfolk will be pregnant for around 8 and a half months, during this time they will be taken care of by their pod. During childhood, merfolk are raised by all the pod even if they aren't related. It is very common for there to be more than one 'hatchling' at same time in a pod, as many couples will mate in mating season. Merfolk are able to get pregnant out of mating season, but it's not recommended.