

# Week 1 - Introduction

- Fishes are aquatic organisms, respire with gills and move with the help of fins.
- Fishes are cold blooded animals. The body is covered with scales.
- Fishes consist of paired pectoral and pelvic fins) and unpaired (dorsal, anal and caudal fins) fin; the tail is useful for changing directions, gaseous exchange takes place in gill lamella and accessory respiratory organs are found in few fishes.
- Two chambered venous heart is found in fishes.
- Mesonephric kidney is responsible for excreting ammonia.
- Sexes are separate and direct development.
- Fishes are classified into elasmobranches and osteichthys mainly based on nature of endoskeleton.
- Ecology is a branch of science, which deals with the study of organisms and their environment.
- The simplest definition of ecology is “The study structure and function of nature”.