



It's about marine safety
and conservation

Creatures of the Deep



Bob Winters

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ISBN 978-1-86283-213-8 (EPub)
January 2025

National Library of Australia HARD COPY Cataloguing-in-Publication data

Winters, Bob
Creatures of the Deep
ISBN 1 86283 060 6 (bk. 10).

1. Readers (Primary) - Marine animals. 2. Marine animals - Juvenile literature.
I Title. (Series: Kids and Water; bk. 10).

428.6

Marine reader series creators: Bob Moffatt and Jim Grant.

Printing: Heaneys Performers in Print, Gold Coast, Australia.

Editing: Rosemary Lancaster, Paula Moffatt and Barbara McKenzie.

Cover: Trent Moffatt Designs.

Illustrations: Trish Hart.

Reviewers: Graham Anderton, Annaliese Caston, Christine Cougan, Jeremy Currie, Taffy Evans, Ralph James, Barbara Jensen, Jim Kneale, Steve Langlands, Kym McKauge, Steve Parsons, Anna Redlich, Nigel Ridgway and Stephanie Smith.

Acknowledgements:

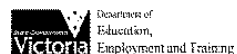
The Gould League is grateful to Sue Ruth for allowing original artwork by Trevor Ruth to be modified by Trish Hart Designs.

This publication was supported by grants from Queensland Transport, NSW WaterWays, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Marine Board Victoria, South Australia Transport, Western Australian Transport, Marine and Safety Tasmania, Northern Territory Transport and Queensland Government State Development.

The Gould League is supported by staff and other resources supplied by Department of Education, Employment and Training, State Government, Victoria.

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The Kids and Water Project was printed and published in Australia.



Creatures of the deep

The bottom of the ocean is dark and very, very cold. The pressure of the water is greater than having a bus on top of you. Animals that live deep in the ocean must find their food in total darkness.





Goblin shark

This shark has a strange peak growing out from its forehead. Its teeth are set at an angle and are shaped for catching fish. The goblin shark moves slowly through the water. It grows to four metres long. Because this shark has never been seen alive, we know little about the way it lives.

Cookie-cutter shark

This small shark sinks its teeth into larger sea creatures and hangs on. Then it spins its body and its sharp teeth cut out a circle of flesh. When the wound heals, the victim has a cookie-shaped scar where the shark bit it.





Hatchet fish

These little fish live in faint light deep in the ocean. This is called the twilight zone.

Hatchet fish like to attack animals living in the ocean above them. They use their large eyes to look for their food.



Lantern fish

Many deep-sea fish have parts of their bodies that light up. The light is made by special cells in the body that glow with a green light. Lantern fish, which live in the twilight zone, have these cells.

Hatchet fish find it hard to see the glowing bodies of the lantern fish against the sunlight from above. This protects the lantern fish from being eaten by the hatchet fish.

Orange roughy

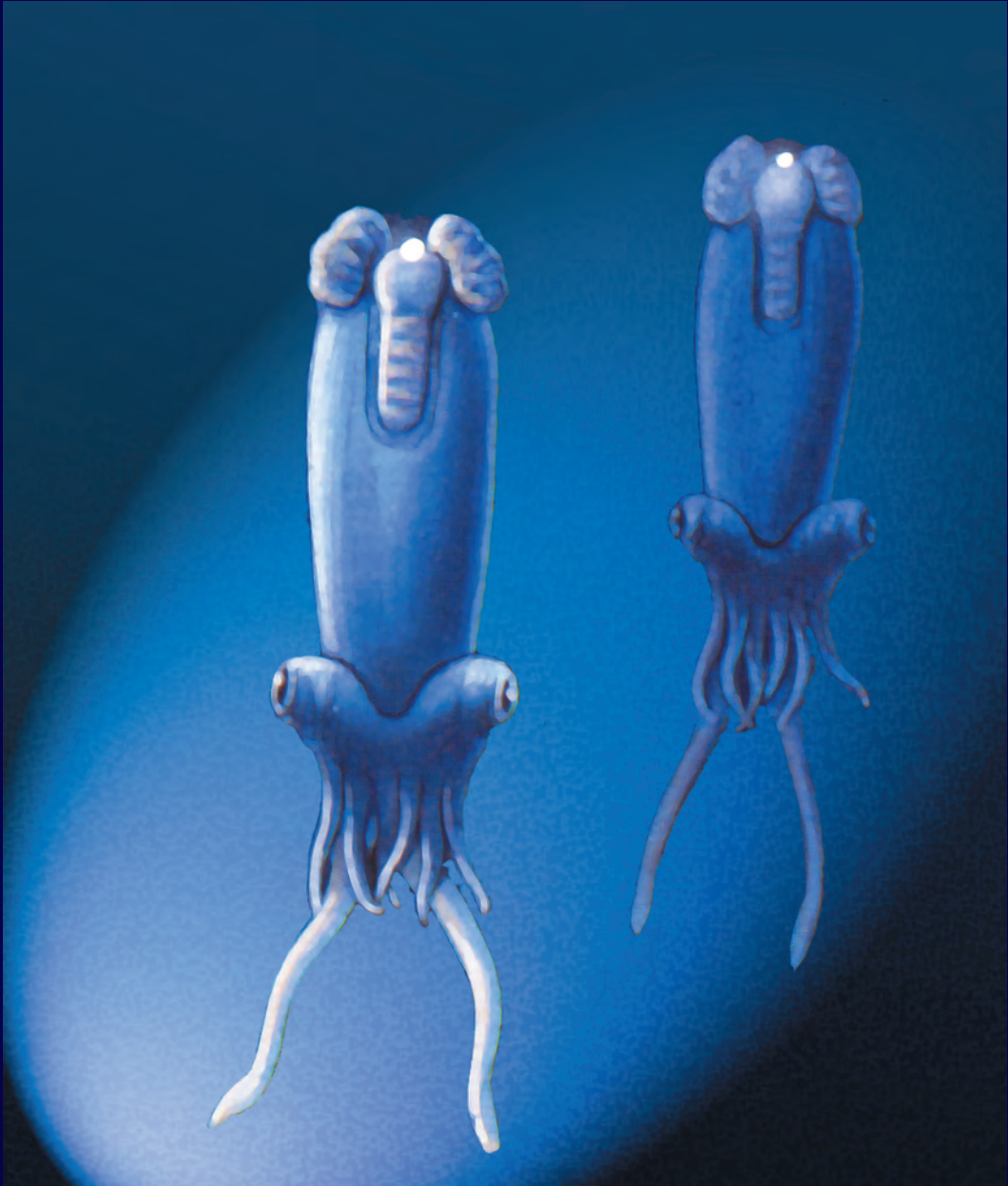
Orange roughy grow very slowly and can live to 150 years. They often live in very large groups called schools. Because humans like to eat orange roughy, fishing trawlers catch too many of them. This is called overfishing. Soon there will be very few orange roughy left.



Spirula squid

The spirula squid's body contains a spiral shell in its back. This shell helps the squid move through the water with its head pointing down.

The spirula squid is able to draw its head, arms and tentacles into its body. Sometimes you can find a spiral shell washed up on the beach.





Loosejaw

'Open wide, come inside.'

Its large mouth gives this fish the best chance of snatching and eating anything it might bump into. The lower jaw of its mouth has no flesh. This allows the fish to close its mouth very quickly.

Sperm whale

Sperm whales are mammals so they must come to the surface to breathe.

They use sonar to track their prey. They can dive to great depths hunting for large prey such as giant squid.

Sometimes sperm whales have large scars from their fights with giant squids.





Giant squid

We know very little about the lives of these giants. Their bodies can be six metres long and their tentacles can reach a further 10 metres. Their bodies are sometimes washed up onto beaches or caught in deep-sea trawling nets.

Prickly deep-sea angler fish

Nothing escapes the needle-sharp teeth of the angler fish. It even has teeth in its throat. The angler fish attracts other fish with a glowing lure dangling from its jaw. Once its prey is close, the angler fish's wide jaws can grab it.





Tripod fish

The tripod fish uses its long slender fins to feel for its prey. The fins work like the antennae on insects. The tripod fish faces into the current and waits for other fish to bump into its fins. Then 'snap', the meal is caught.



Deep-sea spider crab

This spider crab walks along the bottom of the deep oceans on long delicate legs. It searches for animals that don't move such as shellfish. The spider crab stabs its victim with its hollow tube-like mouth and sucks out the body contents.

Giant tubeworms

These tubeworms live near underwater volcanoes where the water is warm. The worm's soft plume gathers bacteria from the warm water near the volcano's vents.

Tubeworms can grow to a metre in length. Their bodies are protected in tubes glued to hot volcanic rock.



Glossary:

Antennae	feelers on the heads of insects and other animals
Current	movement of water in one direction
Light organ	cells in the skin of the body that glow
Lure	something that looks like food, used by anglers to attract fish
Ocean	large area of sea water between continents
Overfishing	when the fishing industry catches so many of one type of fish that the species is put at risk
Pressure	force made by air or water
Rare	very few exist
School	group of one fish species
Sonar	finding out where things are by listening to echoes in the water
Tentacles	long flexible arms
Twilight zone	part of the sea where the light is always dim
Volcano	opening in the earth where hot rock and gas from the earth leaks out



A National Marine Education Program



Level 1

- Book 1 : Everyone Likes the Sea
- Book 2 : Sea Creatures
- Book 3 : At the Beach

Level 2

- Book 4 : Fun by the Sea
- Book 5 : Working at Sea
- Book 6 : Be Safe at the Beach

Level 3

- Book 7 : Tourists and the Sea
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Level 4

- Book 13 : Let's Go Sailing
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