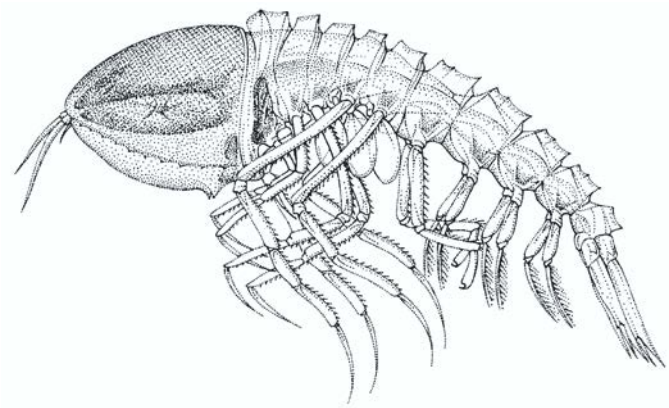
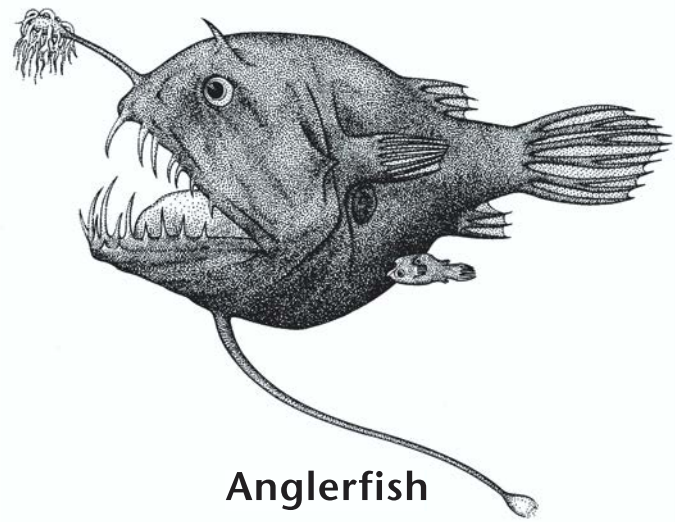


Amphipod

Amphipod
Cystisoma fabricii [Size: to 6 in. (15 cm)]

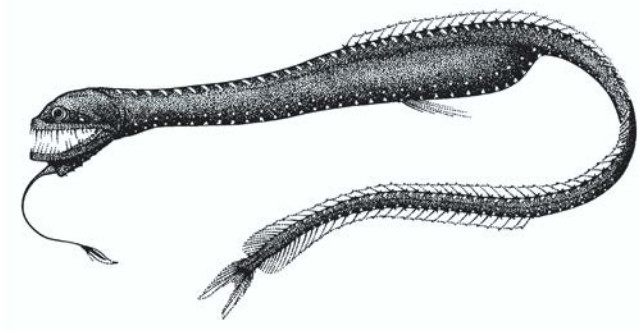
This amphipod swims slowly through the water, paddling its three pairs of swimming legs located near the rear of its body. Swimming slowly may be fine; its crystal-clear body probably makes it hard for predators to see in the dim light. This crustacean's two huge compound eyes may help it to scan the dimly lit water in search of prey, though scientists don't know yet what it eats.



Anglerfish

Anglerfish
Linophryne coronata [Size: to 4 in. (10 cm)]

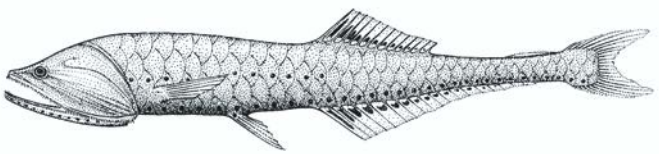
A female anglerfish may attract prey with lights: part of her top fin looks like a fishing pole with bait that lights up. The glowing bait may lure fishes to her huge mouth. A male, barely half the female's size, depends on a female for food. Once mature, he may use his keen sense of smell to find a mate. Then he bites her and hangs on. His body fuses to hers and they become mates for life.



Blackdragon

Blackdragon
Idiacanthus antrostomus [Size: to 15 in. (38 cm)]

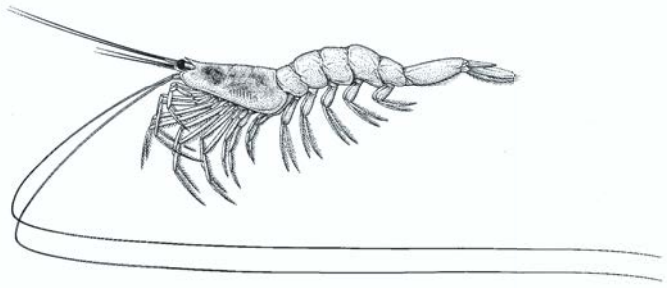
How can you tell a female blackdragon from a male? A female is darker and larger, and a long whiskerlike barbel dangles from her chin. At night, she swims hundreds of feet up to the sea's surface to feed. At dawn, she makes her way back down to the deep sea. Without a working stomach, a male doesn't migrate for food. Unable to eat, he may only live for a year, just long enough to mate.



Bristlemouth

Bristlemouth
Cyclothone sp. [Size: to 3 in. (8 cm)]

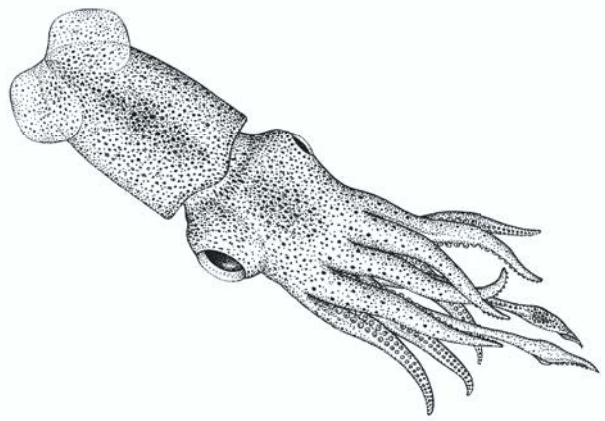
Many species of bristlemouths live below 1,000 feet (300 meters) where there's little light. Like many deep sea fishes, some of these bristlemouth species have poorly developed eyes and must rely on other senses to make their way in the darkness.



Deep sea shrimp

Deep sea shrimp
Sergestes similis [Size: to 1.5 in. (4 cm)]

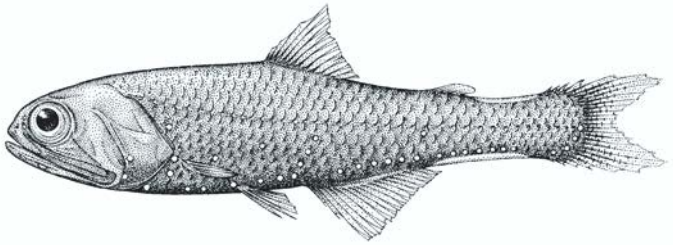
This shrimp's long antennae–nearly four times the length of its body–may help this animal find food or mates by sensing chemicals produced by other animals. This shrimp also uses bioluminescence to help it survive. Light-producing organs dot the underside of its red-and-white splotched body. The lights may attract mates, or they may help the shrimp hide from hungry predators.



Deep sea squid

Deep sea squid
Histioteuthis meleagroteuthis
[Size: to 12 in. (30 cm)]

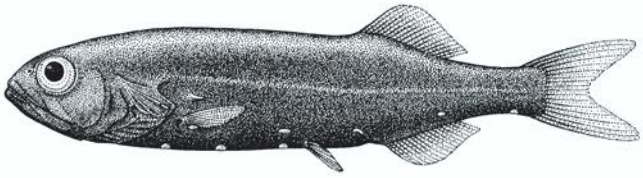
All squids, from this foot-long deep sea species to its 50-foot-long relative, grab prey with their two longest tentacles. And all squids use their eight arms to carry prey to their mouths. But unlike other squids, the deep sea squid's left eye is much larger than its right one. Each eye works differently, but no one's sure why. How do you think the different-sized eyes might help this animal survive?



Lanternfish

Lanternfish
Stenobrachius leucopsarus [Size: to 5 in. (13 cm)]

Each species of lanternfish has its own pattern of light-producing photophores. Lanternfishes may use these patterns to find mates of their own species. Some males may attract mates by flashing a large photophore near their tails. Or maybe this light confuses predators, causing them to attack the male's bright tail instead of his darker head. What do you think the lanternfish uses its taillights for?



Shining tubeshoulder

Shining tubeshoulder
Sagamichthys abei [Size: to 13 in. (33 cm)]

Tiny tubelike projections above each pectoral fin set this fish apart from others. Tubeshoulders can squirt a bioluminescent cloud from their tubes, perhaps dazzling predators with a flash of light as they slip away into the darkness. Tubeshoulders, born with gray-blue bodies and white tails, become shiny black as adults. As they grow, photophores develop along their undersides and on their heads.

Siphonophore

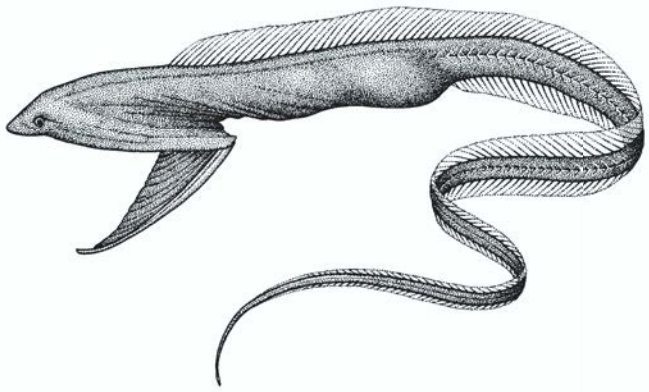
Siphonophore
Apolemia sp. [Size: to 98 ft. (30 m)]

A siphonophore is a chain of specialized parts; each one plays a role in the life of this animal. A floating buoy leads, followed by a cluster of round swimming bells that pulse to propel the chain (which can stretch nearly half the length of a football field). To eat, a siphonophore dangles a curtain of stinging tentacles that stun shrimp, ellies and other prey. The tentacles carry the prey to one of the mouth parts.

Filetail catshark

Filetail catshark
Parmaturus xaniurus [Size: to 22 in. (56 cm)]

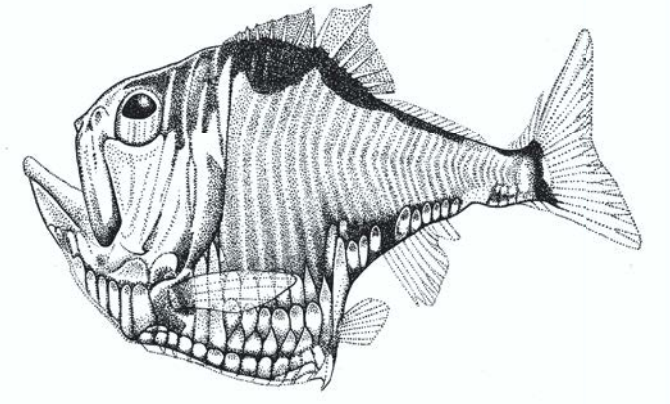
A filetail catshark swims gracefully along the muddy seafloor. Gray-brown above and pale below, this fish blends in with its benthic habitat. Its large green eyes look upward, unlike those of shallow-water sharks. Catsharks lay eggs with curly corners. The curls catch on edges of rocks and sponges to anchor the egg case near the deep seafloor. Here it'll stay for two years while a tiny catshark grows inside.



Gulper eel

Gulper eel
Eurypharynx pelecanoides [Size: to 16 in. (40 cm)]

The gulper eel's species name, *pelecanoides*, comes from its pouchlike mouth that looks like a pelican's bill. This fish usually eats prawns and small fishes, but with its huge mouth, it may swallow even larger prey. When hungry, this flexible fish may wriggle its tail in front of its mouth. The tail's tip glows in the dark and may lure prey close.



Hatchetfish

Hatchetfish
Argyropelecus sp. [Size: to 4 in. (10 cm)]

Shaped like the head of a tiny hatchet, this fish is countershaded to hide it from predators. Its back is dark; its belly is shiny silver with two rows of glowing photophores. A hatchetfish scans the water above for prey with tubular eyes. Its eyes can focus near or far, but only upward. Its large mouth points upward, too, ready to snap up prey once it's been seen.