



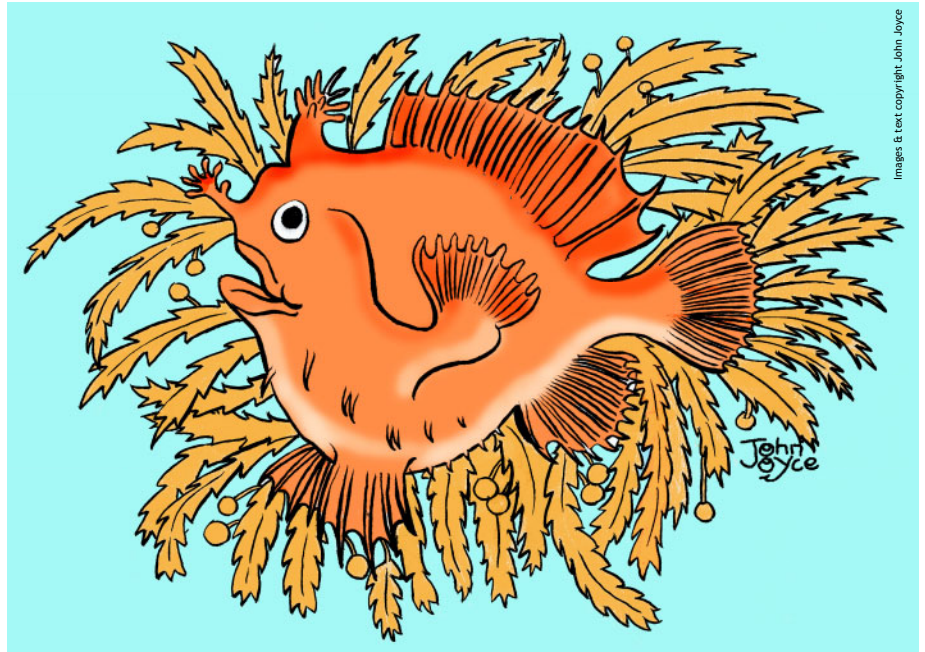
# Black John - the Bogus Pirate



## A Whole Sea of Seaweed

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys!  
The seas around the world are fascinating places. Listen while I tell you about the Sargasso Sea!



Images & text copyright John Joyce

A species of 'frogfish' that blends in with seaweed found in the Sargasso Sea.

In the Western Atlantic, off the coast of America, four ocean currents flow in a circular clockwise motion, creating the North Atlantic Gyre. This vast body of water is over a thousand kilometres from North to South and 3,200 kilometres from West to East.

Contained within this body of water is the 'Sargasso Sea', named after the floating Sargassum seaweed that grows there. This floating seaweed, buoyed up by gas-filled nodules on its fronds, is a vast floating nursery for three species of eel – the European, American and American Conger eels, as well as a peculiar species of 'frogfish' that is uniquely adapted to blend in perfectly with the seaweed where it hides (see illustration). The

seaweed also provides a floating habitat for shrimp, crab and fish, as well as a spawning site for eels, white marlin and porbeagle shark. Many commercially caught fish such as tuna, migrate through the Sargasso Sea and many seabirds depend on it as a source of food.

As well as seaweed however, the gyre that creates the Sargasso Sea also concentrates floating manmade objects such as plastic debris – forming what has become known as the 'North Atlantic Garbage Patch'. This has led to the creation of the 'Sargasso Sea

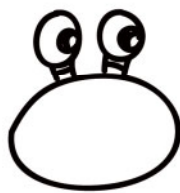
Commission' which was established in 2014 by the governments of the Azores, Bermuda, Monaco, the UK and the United States of America to protect this unique habitat.

The Sargasso Sea has also been the subject of many books and films including Jules Verne's classic book *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, and the 1968 Hammer Horror 'B movie' classic *The Lost Continent* in which voyagers battle giant crabs, carnivorous seaweeds and descendants of Spanish pirates who were trapped there centuries before.

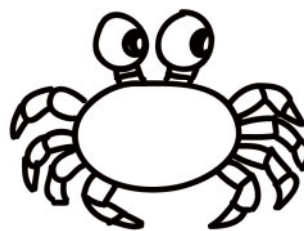
## HOW TO DRAW A CRAB



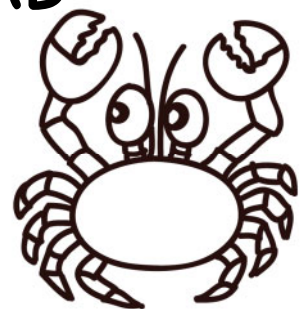
Draw the Body



Put on the Eyes



Draw the Legs



Put on Nice Big Claws!

Follow Black John the Bogus Pirate and his crew on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

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