



The World Around Us

AN OLD TIMER

Fishermen made a surprising discovery recently when they hauled up their nets off the coast of Alaska. A fish, measuring over one metre in length was pulled out of the nets. But this was no ordinary fish, this shortraker rockfish, was somewhere between 90 and 115 years old. Scientists were able to get a rough age of the fish using the bones in the ears of the fish. Believe it or not though, the oldest shortraker ever caught was 157 years old!



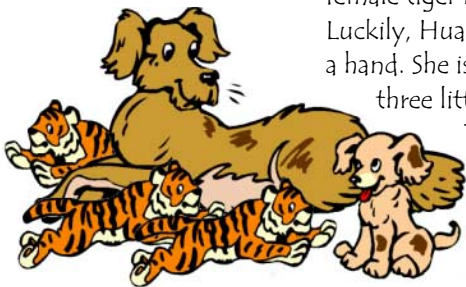
Photo courtesy of www.noaa.gov



"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports on some strange goings on in the natural world.

ONE, TWO AND THREE!

Huani, a dog in a Chinese zoo has become the proud mother of four little babies, but only one of these is a puppy! The other three are tiger cubs that were born recently in the zoo. Unfortunately the female tiger rejected the little cubs. Luckily, Huani was willing to lend a hand. She is looking after the three little cubs, named One, Two and Three! Word has it the new "family" are getting along well!



DOLPHINS WITH IRISH ACCENTS?



A scientist working with the Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife Foundation in Co. Clare has discovered that dolphins living in the River Shannon may have a dialect all of their own. Ronan Hickey compared recordings of sounds from dolphins in the River Shannon with those from Caridgan Bay in Wales. He found that the dolphins produced six main whistle types, with 32 different categories. All the dolphins used most of the whistle sounds, but there were eight that were only produced by the Irish dolphins.

SLEEPING LOBSTER

A fossil of a lobster found in 1995 in Mexico, has been aged after considerable research. It is thought to be 110 million years old! The best part is that it is a relative of a lobster that lives in Africa today. Back then the continents were very close so it is no surprise now that the lobster was found in both places!



BOUNCING BABY...ELEPHANT!

Dublin zoo is proud to announce the arrival of a bouncing baby girl. The little elephant, was born in the early hours of the morning and took her first steps only 8 minutes later. She weighed in at 80kg...which is the weight of an adult human!



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A CAVE THAT SUPERMAN COULD CALL HOME!

Superman would feel right at home in Mexico's Cueva de los Cristales (Cave of Crystals). Miners have discovered crystals as long as 36 feet (11 metres)! The cave is a dangerous steam bath but these warm and moist conditions appear to have contributed to the growth of these longest crystals ever found!

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