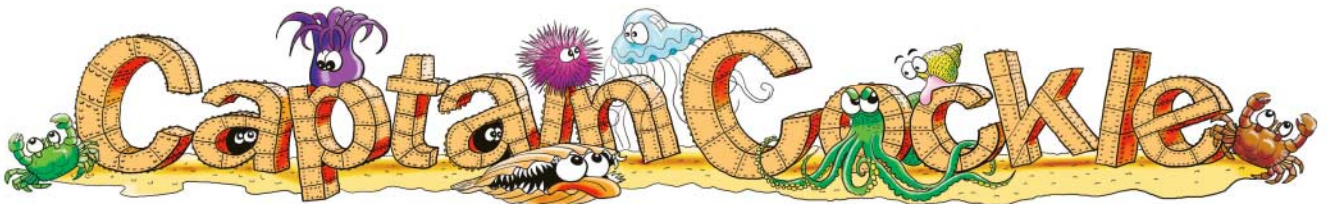


Aquatic Life



Fish that fish for fish...



Masters of Disguise...

Unlike many other predatory fish, Angler Fish wait for their food to come to them rather than actively hunting. In shallow waters, Angler Fish are masters of disguise, blending in perfectly with the bottom and luring smaller fish to their jaws with a specially adapted dorsal fin that acts like a fisherman's rod - mimicking a tasty morsel of food.

While shallow water species of Angler Fish are flattened from top to bottom to blend in with the seabed, deep water species of Angler Fish are flattened from side to side so that they can't be seen easily from the top, the bottom or from dead ahead. Most deepwater species have a luminous lure powered by phosphorescent bacteria to catch unwary prey.



In deep sea angler fish, the problem of finding a mate in the vast darkness of the ocean has been overcome. The female Angler Fish emits a powerful chemical which attracts tiny male Angler Fish (which are forty times smaller than she is) to her. Each male then attaches himself to her skin with his teeth and hangs on. Over a period of time, the mouth of the male fuses with the body of the female. His own blood system connects with hers to the point where he is no longer a separate animal, and he becomes a 'lump' on the female's body, capable of fertilising her eggs for the rest of her life.

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