**THE SECRETS OF THE ANGLER FISH**

The anglerfish are bizarre marine creatures. These bony typed fish are one of the 210 species of

the order Lophiiformes. The angler fish live up to 200 - 600 fathoms, very close to the sea floor. Sometimes it swims to the darkest place and then waits for its prey. They are divided into four groups: [batfish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/batfish), [goosefish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/goosefish), [frogfish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/frogfish), and [deep-sea angler](https://www.britannica.com/animal/deep-sea-angler).

It is said that these fish are not extinct, endangered, or threatened, although they can become extinct if we aren't careful with our waste. The following are the secrets of angler fish each one should know:

1. **Anatomy**

Anglerfish can measure from 20cm to 1 m in length. They are dark grey or dark brown in color, with soft skin that is adapted to reflect blue light, making it difficult to see. It has two small eyes on either side of the head, but they are rarely used as there is little to no light at the depths they live at.

The male Angler Fish has the largest proportional nostrils of any creature on earth, which it uses to search for a pheromone emitted by females. They do not have ears, as it has no use for them.

The female Angler Fish have a lure's light source that comes from bacteria called bioluminescence. This organ, called the Esca is used by the Angler Fish for light. They need that light when they live in depths of up to 2,300 to 3,300 feet.

1. **Habitat**

They are opportunistic so they will live where they can find safe habitat and where they can find enough food. They live in the deep cold waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans where there is almost no sunshine and the water are approximately 2 degrees Celsius.

1. **Behavior**

Angler fish live by themselves, far away from each other. They are also slow swimmers. But they can make their skin absorb the same light that they are making, so it makes them look almost invisible to their prey.

They have been observed living in complete darkness in the depths of the water as well as close to the shore where there is plenty of light. They can be found living in large populations or alone.

Such behaviors indicate that the habitat for the Anglerfish plays a vital role in how they behave. They have amazing instincts that allow them to adapt well to their surroundings in order to thrive.

Male angler fish need to attach themselves to female angler fish so that they can suck the females’ blood and survive.

1. **Food**

Being carnivorous, these vicious-looking fish are not picky eaters. From crustaceans to eels to large fish, the species consume almost any creature they can lure with the fleshy, ball-like organ that dangles near their mouths, called photophores.

The diet of the male anglerfish is basically whatever the female catches with her lure, because these species have a unique trait that makes the males parasitic. When the male anglerfish reaches adulthood, his digestive system no longer functions. When this happens, each male anglerfish finds a female to attach to by biting into her flesh and fusing to her body. From this point on, the male and female angler fish share the same bloodstream, and the male gets nourishment from her diet through the shared bloodstream.

1. **Reproduction**

The mating ritual of the anglerfish is very complex as bizarre as its startling looks. This deep-sea fish engages in parasitic mating. The male attaches to the female by biting her and digesting his own face, effectively fusing himself onto the flesh of the much larger female anglerfish. The male then atrophies, losing its eyes, fins, and some internal organs until all that is left if its gonads. The gonads leftover will then release sperm to the female when it is needed. For deep-sea critters that may not see much of each other, this fusion style of mating is a necessary adaptation to make sure mates stay close enough at hand to spawn.

The females will deposit very large amounts of eggs. They will be at the bottom of the water and they quickly attach to larvae. Over half of them will be consumed by predators in the water. Only a fraction of those that do survive will reach the age of maturity due to other predators in the water.

1. **Natural Threats**

Angler fish are known to occasionally rise to the surface during El Niño leaving large groups of dead anglerfish floating on surface.

**Conclusion**

It isn’t really known how many Anglerfish are out there at this point in time. However, because of their late maturity is a greater risk of them being caught before reaching the sexual maturity.