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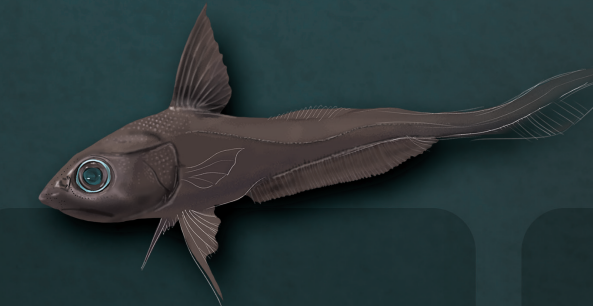
CREATURES OF A WHALE FALL



Grooved Tanner Crab
Scientific Name: *Chionoecetes tanneri*
Average Size:0.08-6.3 inches
Depth Range:174-8,378 feet

One of three species sold as snow crab for consumption, grooved Tanner crabs have a deep groove running down the center of their shells. These crabs have four pairs of long thin legs and one pair of shorter legs equipped with pincers.

FUN FACT: *Chionoecetes* means snow (chio) inhabitant (loketes), which is why they are also referred to as snow crabs.



Rattail Fish
Scientific Name: *Coryphaenoides acrolepis*
Size:1-3 feet
Depth Range: 650 ft - 2.5 miles
Life span: up to 70 years

Rattail fish, or grenadiers, are curious fish that have adapted to thrive in the dark ocean. They have large eyes that can detect bioluminescent organisms, and sensory structures on their heads to help sense food sources.

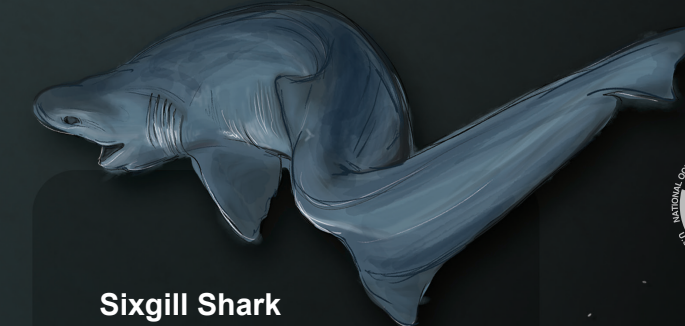
FUN FACT: Some rattails use their swim bladders to produce a drumming sound for communication.



Squat Lobster
Scientific Name: *Munidopsis* spp.

Squat lobsters have short, flattened bodies and long antennae that are used to locate objects and maintain distance from other lobsters. They typically eat small worms or crustaceans or scavenge on dead organisms. Squat lobsters have long claws that can be up to twice as long as their bodies.

FUN FACT: Squat lobsters look like lobsters, but they are actually more closely related to hermit crabs.



Sixgill Shark
Scientific Name: ...*Hexanchus griseus*
Size: Up to 16 feet in length
Depth Range: 656-3,280 feet

Sixgill sharks can be found around the world. These reclusive creatures are usually found in very deep water, making them hard to study. These sharks feed or scavenge on fish, crustaceans, rays, and sometimes seals and other sharks.

FUN FACT: As their name suggests, these sharks have six pairs of gills, whereas most sharks have only five pairs!



Osedax worm
Scientific Name: *Osedax* spp.
Range: Worldwide

Bone-eating *Osedax* worms are a translucent pink or white. The female worms secrete an acid that dissolves the bones and metabolize the lipids of the whale. Male *Osedax* worms are much smaller — up to 600 male worms can live within the gelatinous tubes surrounding a female's trunk.

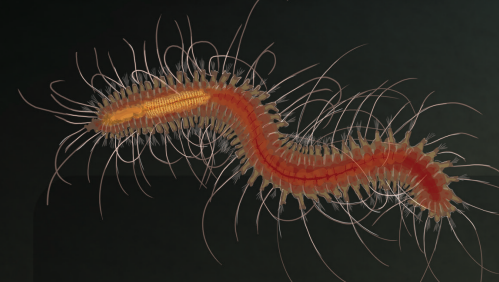
FUN FACT: *Osedax* worms do not have a digestive system, and instead use symbiotic bacteria to aid in digesting the whale bones.



Sea Pig
Scientific Name: *Scotoplanes globosa*
Size:3-8 inches
Depth Range: 3,300–19,500 feet

Sea pigs, also known as sea cucumbers, are common offshore in Monterey Bay. These animals crawl slowly along the seafloor on stilt-like tube feet and use tentacles around their mouths to dig for pieces of food.

FUN FACT: Sea pigs have long whip-like sensory structures that help them find food in the deep sea.



Hesionid Worms
Family: Hesionidae
Depth Range: up to 2,132 feet

Hesionid worms are a type of segmented polychaete worm. Each body segment is equipped with a pair of leg-like extensions with spiny bristles. They will frequently form commensal relationships with sea stars, crabs, and other organisms, hiding on or within them.

FUN FACT: Some species of hesionids are known as "iceworms" due to their affinity for living near deep-sea cold seeps and frozen methane hydrates.



Giant Isopod
Scientific Name: *Bathynomus giganteus*
Size: 7.5-14.2 inches
Depth Range: 550-7,020 feet

Giant isopods are relatives of crabs and lobsters. They have two sets of antennae, one for chemical sensing (food) and one for tactile sensing. They have a slow metabolism and don't move much unless they detect a meal or predator nearby.

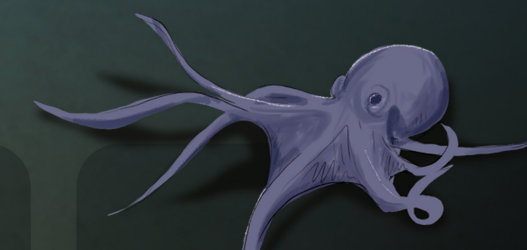
FUN FACT: Their large size, called gigantism, may be an adaptation to extreme pressure in the deep ocean.



Hagfish
Scientific Name: *Eptatretus* spp. & *Myxini* spp.
Depth Range: 52–3,937 feet

Hagfish are jawless, but have two rows of pointed teeth that are used to bore a tunnel through flesh, allowing them to consume their meal from the inside out. Hagfish also have an excellent sense of smell and touch via whiskers, or barbels, around their mouth.

FUN FACT: Hagfish have slime glands on the sides of their bodies, which secrete a mucous used to deter predators.



Octopus
Scientific Name: *Muusoctopus* spp.

Muusoctopus are a genus of deep-sea octopuses. *Muusoctopus* octopuses typically lack an ink sac. This genus is cosmopolitan, which means that these species inhabit every ocean in the world. They can survive in a variety of extreme deep-sea habitats, from hydrothermal vents to cold seeps.

FUN FACT: In 2018, scientists on the *EN Nautilus* observed over a thousand *Muusoctopus* octopuses, the largest grouping of these octopuses ever recorded.



Ampharetid Worms
Family: Ampharetidae
Distribution: Worldwide

Ampharetid worms are a type of polychaete worm, a segmented worm with spines, or bristles, along their sides. These segmented worms live in a tube-like structure and can be found widespread in the sediments surrounding a whale fall.

FUN FACT: The tubes the worms live in are commonly made of sand grains and are open on both ends.