Angler Fish – How They Adapt to Changing Environments

Angler fish adaptations are known to be one of the most amazing evolutionary processes of living things. It shows that life can adapt to any changing environment, whether hospitable or not. In fact, these creatures can be seen over a mile deep in the ocean floor where life may seem impossible. Angler fish got their name due to their strategy for hunting food. They lure in their prey with the use of a spine attached on the dorsal fin which is tipped with luminous fleshy “bait” that attracts unwary prey. The light that is created by the spine’s tip is made up of thousands of bacteria that live in the appendage dangling in front of the angler fish’s mouth. Now that we’ve briefly defined the creature, let’s look at angler fish adaptations which enable it to live under the harsh conditions of the deep sea environment. One of the most important angler fish adaptations is their bioluminescent lure or the spine’s tip without which the angler fish cannot lure in prey. Another one is the angler fish’s color which is an inky black or grey which make the predator literally invisible in the deep sea bottom wherein the environment is very dark. And even though some types of deep sea fish produce bluish light, it is still unable to detect the angler fish. Another great adaptation of angler fish is its teeth which are positioned in a backward pointed way in order to get a tight grip for that small prey that angler fish usually hunt. Another odd adaptation of angler fish is their sexual dimorphism. The male angler fish locates the female with the use of a chemical produced by females to attract the male. The male bites into the body of the female and the teeth bind to the skin for life. The non-significant organs such as the eyes deteriorate and the male is only tasked in producing sperm while relying on the female to nourish him. If a male angler fish refuses to bind with a female, he will slowly disintegrate and die. Aside from these weapons that angler fish have to survive, they are also known to be agile in striking their prey which is very important especially in their habitat wherein there is scarcity of prey and food. Angler fish are truly a remarkable specimen who serves as a proof that life can adapt to even the harshest environments.

Angler Fish Facts: Some Fun Stuff to Know About the Deep Sea Monsters

Otherwise known as deep sea monsters because of the way they look and what part of the sea or the ocean it is they deem their habitat, the angler fish is quite an interesting species of fish. More so because of the way they look, the way their skeletons function and do things for them, and especially with the way they mate. Thus, presented here are some angler fish facts that you should know about this particular monster-like fish. These are fun *deep sea* **angler fish facts** so you should enjoy knowing these things about these scary deep sea creatures.

* These sea creatures, however scary they may look, are quite small. You wouldn’t have thought that such monsters of not more than 5 inches, roughly 12 centimeters, are deemed deep sea monsters. The males of the species are even smaller than those of the females.
* This fish is unable to swim fast because of the wide body that it sports. Instead of zooming around the deep part of seas and oceans, one of many *angler fish facts* you should know is that they actually seem like they wobble in their natural habitat.
* You would distinguish an angler fish from other fishes because it has some substance that can make them glow underwater. This is something that not a lot of fishe and other such sea creatures have. One of many angler fish facts you ought to know is that this actually is used by them to lure prey to them. The next time you are diving, then, and you are in the deeper part of the sea on doing so, swim away when you see an angler fish around lest you want to touch a part of them that can be just as potent a killer to other fishes aside from those of their kind.
* The angler fish’s spine or its skeletal system is so fine that because of this, it is also deemed a flexible kind of skeletal system. Their flexibility of the bones of their skeletal system actually allows them to eat prey that is two or more times their size. Astonishing to know, isn’t it?
* The [angler fish mating](http://www.angler-fish.com/angler-fish-mating/) process is also quite different from those of other fishes. The males of this kind of fish actually have their digestive systems degenerate when they mature. Thus, they need the females of their kind to survive. In order to feed, the males latch themselves onto a female and then use their joined blood vessels to feed and eventually, to procreate. This is a feat unseen in a lot of fish species considering most of them are asexual.

Now, there are more **angler fish facts** you should know but these are some of the more popular ones that are, at the moment, still being studied by scientists or marine biologists and the likes who are actually interested in the way the angler fish survives in the deeper parts of the sea and the ocean. Those parts are cold and desolate that no one else but this fish and perhaps some other unknown sea creatures can survive in.

**Male Angler Fish: Small but Deadly**

The **male angler fish**dwells in the deepest parts of the seas and oceans and are widely known as sea monsters due to the way they look and especially the way they feed. Unlike other deep sea dwellers, this fish actually has no scales. They are, however, bony.

Aside from being bony, this fish is surprisingly small. In fact, the females and males can reach an average length of 25 inches. The male angler fish being much smaller size than that of the female at an average of only 2.5 inches in length when they are mature.



Despite the size of the *male angler fish,* this one is still one scary sea dweller. The bones or the angler in general are so flexible that they can swallow even some fish that are twice, three time or more of their size. Something that astounds the most brilliant marine biologists around the world. The **angler fish** has been of interest in the academic world recently because of the ability they have to live in the coldest and darkest parts of the seas and oceans.

The **male angler fish** has something at the tip of its head that glows. This is used to lure in some  unsuspecting prey. However, it is important for us to know that the *male angler fish* actually cannot feed so well when it has matured. Their digestive systems slowly degenerate as they grow more mature. Therefore, they’d need the females in order to continue to survive and procreate.

What is amazing about the **male angler fish** is that they have the ability to latch onto the females completely. Once they attach themselves with the [female angler fish](http://www.angler-fish.com/female-angler-fish), the female and *male angler fish* become mated for as long as they are alive. Not a lot of fish are like this in nature.

When the male angler fish attaches itself with its predestined female mate, it completely connects itself with the female by blood vessels. The male then becomes depended to the female with the food they eat and more. They also mate this way so they could produce more offspring of their kind. It is likely we’d think that the angler fish of both the female and male gender probably never run out of their kind because of their mating process. And perhaps, they really are abundant in the deepest depths of the oceans and seas.



Still, there is a lot not known about the **angler fish**. It is quite an enigma, an elusive fact, how the fish actually survives the harsh environment of the deep parts of the seas and oceans. The environment in their habitat is cold and dark but they manage to survive still.

It’s scary to think that such an animal no larger than the palm of the hand of humans can survive such harsh environments and actually be this scary to other sea dwellers. This fish is meant to be feared, either way. They are like the rulers of the deepest parts of the seas and oceans that other fishes should be wary of lest they want to be eaten. However, it is difficult for other fish to not approach the *male angler fish* considering the attractive luminous glow they produce on the protrusion on their heads. This glow is irresistible to other fish that they can’t help but be curious and approach that one with the glowing protrusion. It’d be too late for them to move away by then because the angler fish would be ready to open its mouth wide and swallow the enticed fish whole.

The **male angler fish** is truly an astonishing deep sea fish. It is deadly to other fish despite its size but not a lot of fish can resist going near it. This deep sea dweller is one of the rarest kinds of fish you can find around and the male species of it is currently disputed to be the smallest fish to be found around the world. The next time you see such fish, you should take care to observe them. You are likely to come across a variety of this fish that live in the warmer, open and shallower parts of the seas and oceans, but non as intriguing as the **male angler fish**.

Female Angler Fish: Big and Equally Scary as Its Male Counterpart

* The angler fish is not dubbed ‘deep sea monster’ for no reason, the female angler fish itself is big and scary to look at. With its teeth crooked yet long and extremely sharp and with a protruding flesh on its head that illuminate to lure in prey, it definitely is the epitome of a monster that resides in the deepest of seas and oceans.
* One thing that can distinguish the male angler fish from the female is that the latter can only be as small as 2.5 centimeters. It’s no larger than the palm of about any human. The female fish of the angler kind, on the other hand, can reach until 47 centimeters. Like the males, the female angler fish is globular in body shape and comes with a more elaborate means of luring in their prey. Another thing making them different and distinguishable from the males is that the females are able to eat more fish that come their way than the males because even as they mature, their digestive systems are still intact. The angler fish that is female, like the male, a fine bony structure.
* They don’t have scales like the other fish in the sea. They have bones, a finely sculpted skeletal system that is, at the same time, really flexible. The flexibility of these bones for the angler fish of both genders, male and female are actually used to swallow whole the prey they have lured by the illumination in the protrusion on their heads. The female angler fish can actually swallow whole any fish that’s even twice and more her size. Truly, this is one frightening fish to come across with when you’re a fish yourself, but you’re not.
* There’s no use running away from an angler fish, both male and female, that are looking for prey or food to eat. The other fish in the sea are easily curious about who bears the illumination only then to come face to face with the scariest creature in the sea, the angler fish.
* The angler fish of the female kind is depended upon by the male that attaches itself to her. This is because the males do not have any functional digestive system when they mature. The digestive systems of male angler fish normally degenerate when they reach maturity. The male angler fish would search or wait for a female angler fish to come and then they would latch themselves to the female and they would be considered mated for a lifetime. This is one astonishing fact to know because not a lot of animals behave this way. It’s what they, scientists that study the fish, often term the ‘sexual dimorphism’ of the angler fish. The males need females to survive thus it’s within their connected blood vessels that the female is able to give or feed the males food that females eat. This is also how the males end up fertilizing the egg of the females and fathering, of course, its children. The angler fish that is female would lay eggs on what seems to be a material made of some thin gelatinous surface that’s about 9 meters long or 30 ft. long and maybe 2 to 3 ft., around 1 meter in width.
* These eggs float around in the sea freely until they mature and eventually hatch into larvae too tiny for the human eyes to see. The small larvae, in turn, would often seek refuge on the surface so they could survive on plankton before they can mature and return back to the deepest parts of the sea even those of the ocean. They follow the same cycle then as what the males and females of this kind, the angler fish, of fish do their whole lives. The female angler fish is just about as fascinating a study as the male angler fish.
* Not much is known about this fish’s will to survive the harsh environment of the deepest parts of the sea but they really do survive those places. These are normally environment that no man and no other animals dwelling in the sea can survive in. Thus these things remain an enigma and as such, have earned the right to be called ‘deep sea monsters’. This is basing on their appearance and even their behavior, especially their predatory habits.

The Bizarre yet Astonishing Process of Angler Fish Mating

The angler fish mating is as bizarre as the way it, the angler fish looks. After all, the angler fish is a sea monster that can be found in the deeper part of the sea. From the way the angler fish looks, it’s definitely a sea monster. You can see it by the way the teeth and the mouth of the fish are arranged. Their teeth are sharp for such a small sea creature.

The angler fish, despite being dubbed a deep sea monster, is a small fish. The male of the species are actually smaller than that of the females. The females are often two to three times or so bigger than the males. And as mentioned earlier, the angler fish mating process is just as trivial as the way it looks and its weird size for both the males and the females.

As mentioned before, the male species of this fish is quite small. They have skeletons, no doubt. The thing with the skeletons is that they are fine, because of the size of both the males and the females, but they are flexible. Because of how flexible these bones or the skeleton of the angler fish is, they are able to swallow fish that are even once or twice their size.

The male species of the angler fish, when they mature, actually have their digestive systems degenerate. This is why the male has to attach themselves with the female angler fish just to feed. It is at this time that they also try to reproduce. Now, how exactly does this angler fish mating thing work?

First, the male tries to find females with their senses. There is a special part of the male that allows them to locate a female that’s nearby. Once they find the female, they then attach themselves to the female and eventually they both share the same blood vessels. It is through the shared blood vessels that the small male angler fish eats or feeds. If they are not able to attach themselves to the females, then they would die of hunger.

It is when they attach themselves with the females, too, that they begin to reproduce. This is quite a bizarre way of mating because not many fish do you find mate this way. Most of the fish that we know are predominantly asexual, thus they don’t need a male or a female to reproduce and at least add more population to their species. Truly, the way that angler fish mate is an astonishing yet somehow weird or bizarre for a process f doing so.

The angler fish mating process has been studied over the years by many scientists, marine biologists and the likes. But the angler fish’s practice of mating isn’t the only thing that puzzles most of these scholars. What makes this species of fish even more impressionable is that they are able to survive the coldness and the darkness of the deep parts of the sea. Not a lot of us, humans, and perhaps not a lot of the shallow part of the sea dwelling fish would be able to stand living in those parts.

<http://www.angler-fish.com/angler-fish-pictures/>