

Seven Things You Need to Know About...the **giant** anglerfish

By Dave Harasti

⚙️ The giant anglerfish (*Antennarius commerson*) is one of the largest anglerfish species. A member of the family Antennariidae, this species is also **COMMONLY** referred to as the Commerson's anglerfish, or the "Big Anglerfish."

⚙️ Anglerfish are also referred to as frogfish, but the term anglerfish is more appropriate: The first dorsal **SPINE** is modified as a "fishing rod" to attract prey. The rod consists of the illicium (the spine) and the esca (the bait), and may resemble a worm, crustacean, or small fish.

⚙️ Anglerfish do not swim in a conventional "fish-like" way. Instead, they instead use their pectoral fins to **"WALK,"** or jet propulsion by forcefully expelling water from the small opening found behind and below the pectoral fins.

⚙️ The giant anglerfish is known to **OCCUR** in the warm tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific region and its distribution extends from the Red Sea and South Africa to Panama, north to southern Japan and the Hawaiian Islands, south to Lord Howe Island and the Society Islands.

⚙️ This species can be found in a variety of **COLOURS** including yellow, orange, red, green, brown, and black. However, it can often be found with a mixture of colours covering its body.

⚙️ The giant anglerfish can be **FOUND** living on coral reefs and in lagoons and often on artificial structures such as wrecks



and jetty pylons. It is known to prey on other fish species and uses its excellent camouflage to hide from potential prey.

⚙️ The giant anglerfish grows to a maximum **LENGTH** of 38 cm.

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