CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Deep-sea Anglerfish Larva

Melanocetus johnsonii

The deep-sea anglerfish is famous for the glowing lure suspended above its jaws, and the light is not its own. The bulb at the tip of that modified fin spine houses a colony of bioluminescent bacteri…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Melanocetidae
Habitat: Open ocean (pelagic zone, upper layers)
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-3 years (larval stage: several weeks to months)
Weight: Less than 1 gram (larval stage)
Scientific name: Melanocetus johnsonii

Did you know?

- Male anglerfish larvae never develop the bioluminescent lure and, as adults, become tiny parasites permanently attached to females.
- The glowing lure is not the fish's own light — it farms bioluminescent bacteria inside the bulb and feeds them. Its stomach can stretch around prey l…

What I learned

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