

In Fiordland there is a fish called *Fiordichthys slartibartfasti*, named after a character in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy". In this book Slartibartfast was a man who designed fjords.

Gurnards have little legs (actually modified fin rays) with which they walk across the sea floor.

All wrasses start out life as females and become male when they reach a certain size. They can breed during both stages of their life.

Some types of flounder lie on their left side with their eyes on the right side of the head, and others lie on their right side with the eyes on the left.—but ALL of them look like any other fish as newly hatched fry.

Stargazers get their name from the way their eyes are pointing straight upwards.

Hagfish produce so much slime that they can fill a bucket in a few seconds.

New Zealand has no native catfish—but there are dogfish, pigfish and goatfish.

An ichthyologist studies fish.

Did
you
know?
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Bony Fish

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Flying fish actually glide on the surface of the water, in order to flee from the predators. They can stay airborne for up to 20 seconds, travelling at speeds of about 46kph.

Grouper is the largest reef fish in Australian waters. With a length of over 3 meters and weighing over 300kgs, a grouper can swallow a fish weighing up to 50 kilograms.

The fastest fish ever recorded was a sailfish. It was travelling over 70 kilometres per hour.

Fish boosts brain power: pregnant women can help their children develop better memory and learning abilities by eating fish.

More than 90 percent of known fish and other marine creatures that live 100 to 1,000 metres deep can glow in the dark.

Antarctic icefish have a natural anti-freeze in their blood.

At one time hagfish skin was used to make leather.

Butterfish have green bones.

A parrotfish makes its own sleeping bag to sleep in. It uses mucous to make a see-through bag all around its body to protect it from attack by other creatures in the ocean.

The world's deepest fish (*Abyssobrotula galathea*) was found in the Puerto Rican Trench at a depth of 8,372 meters (that's over five miles down!).

The oldest fish in captivity was a female European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) named Putte. She was reported to be 88 years old when she died at Hålsingborg Museum, Sweden, in 1948.

There are seven species of salmon and trout in New Zealand waters, all of which are introduced.

The world's first public aquarium opened at London Zoo in 1853.

The olive rockfish (which can be found in the rocky shore display) was originally discovered in the Bay of Islands in 1853 by Charles Darwin.

Seahorses can have up to 750 babies—and it is the male that gives birth to them!

The heaviest bony fish ever caught was the Ocean Sunfish. It weighed 2,240 kg.

A third of the world's triplefin (three-fin blennies) are found in New Zealand.

In Australia the red moki is called the banded morwong.

The ocean sunfish can produce up to 300 million eggs.

Flounder can change their colour and pattern to match the background.

Every year, 50 million seahorses are captured worldwide for the Chinese 'medicine' trade.

Only one species of New Zealand fish, the grayling, has become extinct since human colonisation.

New Zealand has three species of freshwater eels: the longfin eel, shortfin eel and spotted eel. The spotted eel only arrived from Australia in the past couple of decades.

Orange Roughy can live to at least 150 years old!