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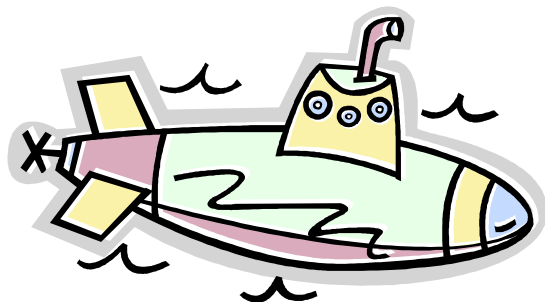
**Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Discovery Hall Programs**

www.disl.org

2005 ASTA Conference

Amazing Ocean Facts

1. Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench is deepest point on earth at 36,200 ft. deep.
2. Mauna Kea of Hawaii is the tallest mountain on earth at 33,476 tall from the bottom of the ocean to its peak above sea level. It is 3,000 feet taller than Mount Everest.
3. The average depth of the ocean is 2 miles that's over 10,000 ft deep!
4. The average salinity (salt content) in the ocean is about 35 parts per thousand.
5. The Dead Sea, really a lake, lies 1,340 ft. *below* sea level, and it has a salinity of 300-400 ppt. or about 28% salt making it the saltiest body of water in the world.
6. The Bay of Fundy in Canada has a tidal change of over 50 ft. Today's tidal change on the Alabama coast is only 1.4 ft. at high tide and 0.8 ft. at low tide.
7. The deepest human scuba dive is 1,027 ft. The deepest skin dive is 571 ft. The deepest manned dive was in the *Trieste*, a bathysphere, to the bottom of the Challenger Deep.



Amazing Marine Biology Facts

1. The largest predatory fish in the world is the Great White Shark at more than 20 ft.
2. The largest fish in the world is the plankton feeding Whale Shark. It grows 45-60ft. long and weights nearly about 12 tons. It also possess the thickest skin of any animal at 4 in. thick.
3. The largest animal to ever live is the plankton feeding Blue Whale the females grow 110 ft. long and weigh nearly 200 tons. It also happens to be the fast marine mammal.
4. The world's smallest and lightest fish is known as the Stout Infantfish. It is so small Australian scientists believe it would take 1,000,000 of them to equal 1 kilogram.
5. The fastest fish is the sailfish reaching speeds of up to 68 mph.
6. The largest bony fish is the Ocean Sunfish weighing 4 tons, and being 20 ft. tall, and 10 ft. wide. The longest bony fish the sea serpent like oarfish at well over 20ft. in length.
7. Horseshoe crabs have blue blood and a quart of it is worth \$15,000 for its research potential. The blood tests for gram negative bacteria which some can cause severe human infection.
8. The giant squid is the largest invertebrate in the world, possibly growing up to 60 ft. However up until September 28, 2005, it had never been seen alive.
9. The Wandering Albatross has the widest wing span of any bird at 11 ft. 11 in. wide.
10. The most powerful poison in the ocean known as tetrodotoxin belongs to a variety of fish but is well known in fugu puffer fish and the blue ringed octopus. In Japan from 1974 to 1983, 179 people died from eating fugu. It is 10 to 100 times as lethal as black widow spider venom (depending upon the species) when administered to mice, and more than 10,000 times deadlier than cyanide.
11. The fastest single muscle movement belongs to the mantis shrimp. When catching prey, it snaps t the speed of a .22 caliber bullet, moving from stationary to kill in 4 milliseconds.
12. Flying fish can "fly" (actually glide) 1,400 feet.
13. There are no marine insects. However there is an insect known as a water strider that lives on the oceans surface but never dives.
14. There are also no marine amphibians due to their lack of osmotic ability.
15. "Crocodile tears" come from salt excreting glands in the eyes of Saltwater Crocs

