

SCUBA News

SCUBA News (ISSN 1476-8011)

Issue 221 – November 2018

<https://www.scubatravel.co.uk>

Welcome to SCUBA News. Creature of the month is back in this issue, plus our diving news and offers.

You can download a pdf version of *SCUBA News* [here](#).

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What's New at SCUBA Travel?



Who to dive with in Hurghada?

Divers rate and review the dive operators in the Red Sea town of Hurghada.

[Read More...](#)



Impressive Diving in Brazil

Brazil's offshore diving has warm water, caves, spectacular rock formations and many, many reef and large pelagic creatures. A hot spot for sharks and manta rays.

[Read More...](#)



Reasons to Dive Malaysia

Malaysia has some world class diving, including the famous Sipadan which features in the top ten dives of the world. As well as sharks & turtles Malaysia is also famous for its macro-life.

[Read More...](#)

Featured Liveboard - Snorkel with Orcas and Humpback Whales

Snorkel with Orcas



Join Norway's Sula liveboard for a unique chance to snorkel with orcas & humpback whales, and see the Northern Lights.

[Learn More...](#)

When is a Sea Snake not a Sea Snake

When it's in the Red Sea. Our creature of the month is the Spotted Snake Eel, *Myrichthys maculosis*.

This eel occurs throughout the Indo-Pacific and it is often mistaken by divers for a sea snake. However, if you should be in the Red Sea and see what looks to be a sea snake you can know for sure that it is actually a snake eel. This is because there are none of those venomous reptiles in the Red Sea. Scientists think that this is because the Red Sea is too salty.





The snake eels are an interesting group, seen much less frequently than the morays.

The spotted snake eel can grow up to 1 m long, but is usually less than half that length. It generally lives at depths between 1 and 25 m. However, it has been found 262 m down. You see it most often on sandy areas by reefs.



Feeding on fishes and crustaceans, it hunts by sense of smell. Like a lot of snake eels, when not hunting it burrows into sand. The tip of its tail is hard allowing it to dig down backwards.

The eels live in the Indian and Pacific Oceans down to South East Australia and South Africa. They are also known as tiger snake eels or ocellate snake eels.

Class: Actinopterygii > Order: Anguilliformes > Suborder: Congroidei > Family: Ophichthidae

[Other creatures of the month...](#)

References

[Coral Reef Guide Red Sea](#), Lieske and Myers
Red Sea Reef Guide, Helmut Debelius

Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



[Palau bans sunscreens harmful to sealife](#)

Diving hotspot Palau is the world's first country to ban sunscreen lotion containing environmentally harmful ingredients.



Scuba Liveboard Sale

Up to 50% off on liveboards around the world.



Marine biologists explore delicate deep-sea life with soft robotics and 3D printing

As scientific expeditions to remote parts of the world are costly, on-the-fly printing of soft robot manipulators offers a real-time solution to better understand and interact with delicate deep-sea environments, soft-bodied, brittle and otherwise fragile organisms



Five everyday items that contain hidden plastic

Even drink cans contain a hidden plastic element



Zeagle Sport Buoyancy Control Devices (BCDs) recalled due to 'Drowning Hazard'

The buttons on the BCD inflators can break or leading to a rapid loss of air or auto inflation of the BCD and the possible drowning of the diver.



Is autonomous shipping the future for the maritime industry?

Due to the scale of the maritime industry, shipping is a major contributor of carbon emissions. An autonomous ship is the first zero-emissions vessel.



Sustainable fish fingers are surprisingly cheap

Saver brands of fish fingers are surprisingly sustainable. They contain just four different species - Atlantic cod, Pacific cod, Alaska pollock and haddock



New Liveboard offers exceptional marine life encounters in Socorro and Guadalupe

The new Socorro Aggressor liveboard launches in December and transports scuba divers to encounter great white sharks at Guadalupe or giant manta rays, humpback whales, dolphins and sharks at the Socorro Islands in Mexico.

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