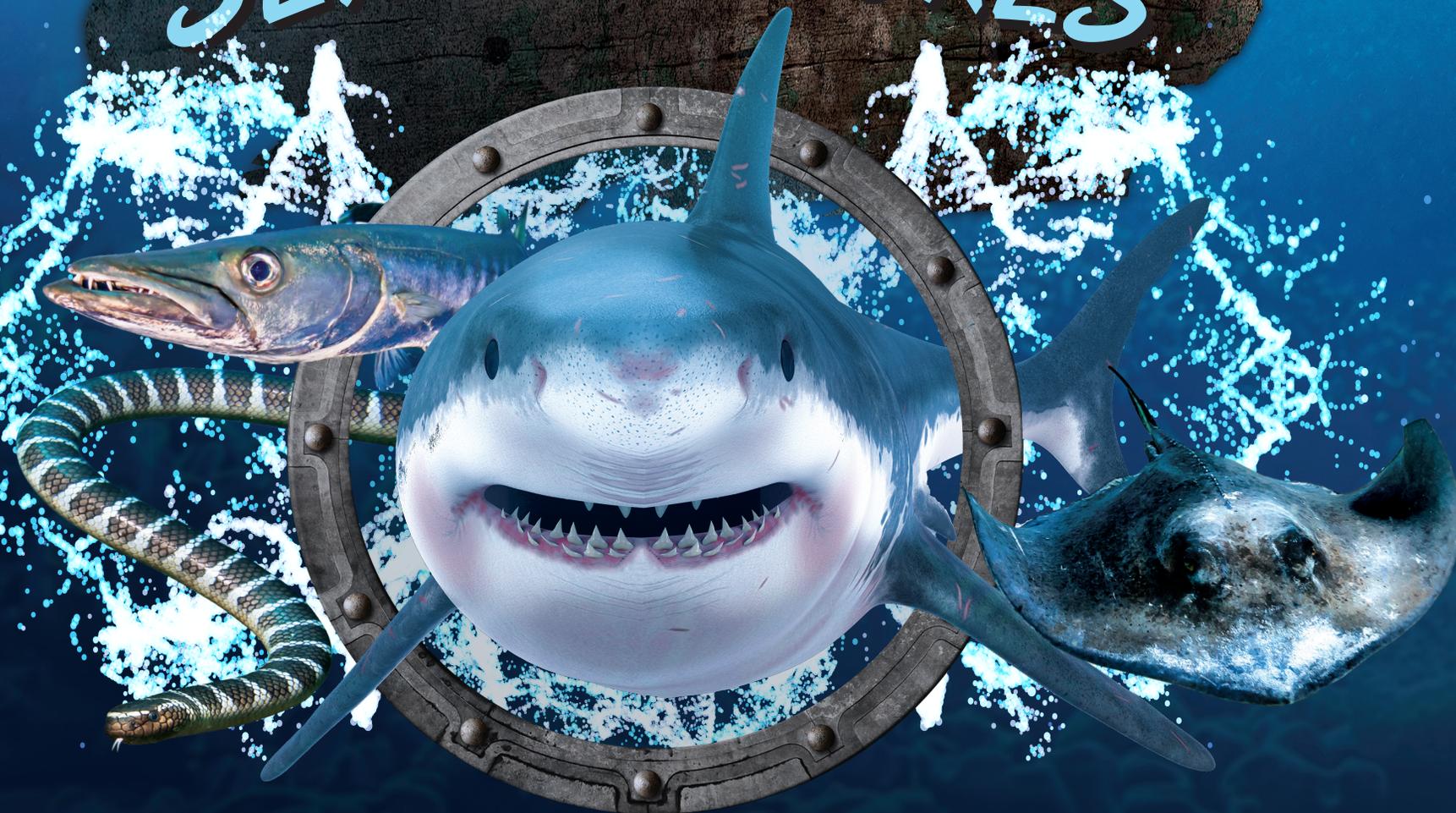


DANGEROUS
SEA CREATURES



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BOX JELLYFISH



*ABLE TO MOVE ON ITS OWN
INSTEAD OF DRIFTING*



WHEN YOU THINK OF THE MOST VENOMOUS CREATURES IN THE WORLD, you may imagine a rattlesnake or a spider, but few snakes and spiders are as deadly as the box jellyfish. It uses its highly toxic venom to paralyze or kill fish and shrimp for its dinner. The box jellyfish is much more advanced than most jellyfish; God gave it the ability to move on its own rather than just drifting, and unlike other jellyfish, it has eyes!



Living for up to a year, box jellyfish can grow up to 3 m (10 ft) long.



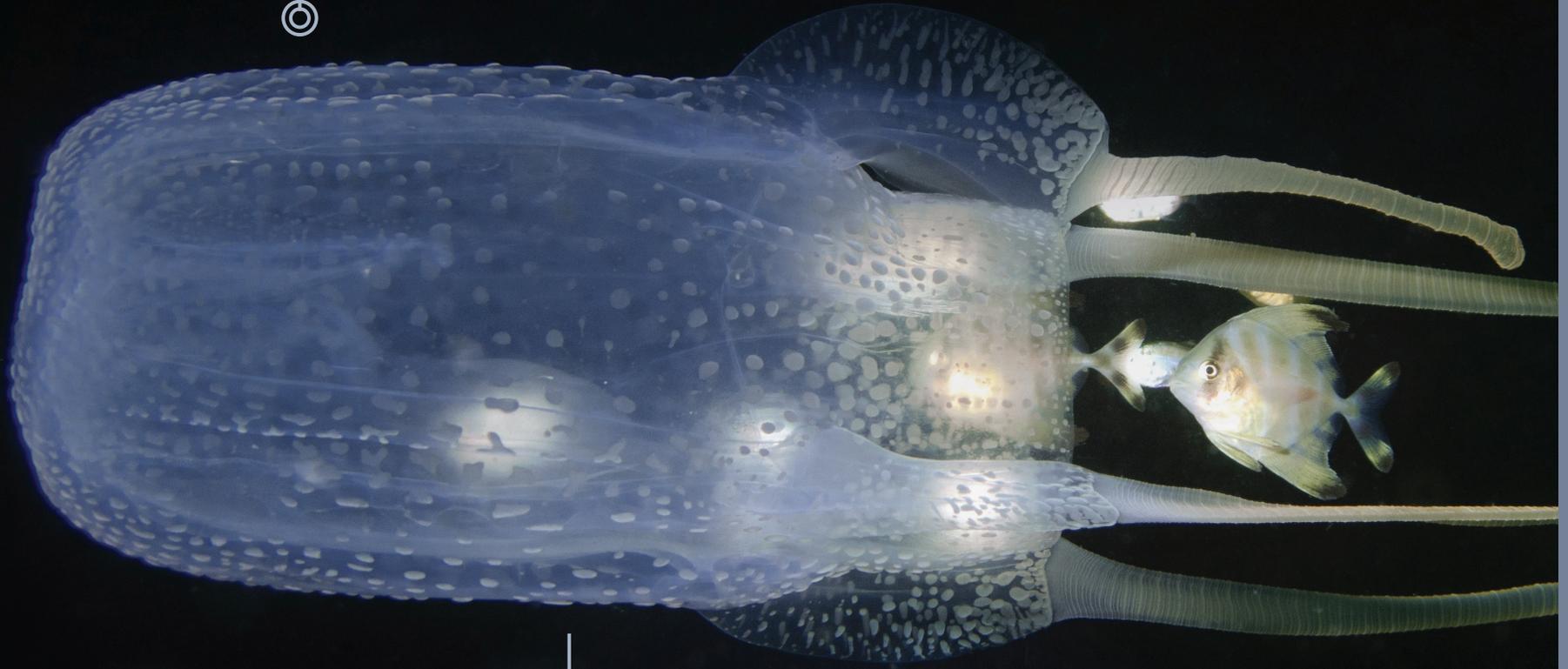
On average 100 human deaths per year are caused by the box jellyfish.



The box jellyfish does have a predator—the sea turtle, which is not hurt by its venom.



Called the "bell," the box jellyfish's head has four groups of six eyes. That's a total of 24 eyes!



SEA SNAKE



CUTTING ITS PADDLE-LIKE TAIL BACK AND FORTH

to move swiftly through the warm coastal waters of the Indian or Pacific oceans, the sea snake, or coral reef snake, may have the most potent venom of all snakes found in or out of the water. Growing to around 1–1.5 m (3–5 ft) long, the sea snake is usually found in shallow waters, such as those of coral reefs, and is entirely aquatic. It does not have gills, however, and must come to the surface to breathe.



The body of the sea snake is “flattened” and smooth in appearance, as its ventral scales are smaller which makes it challenging to move outside of the water.



The only genus that has kept the larger ventral scales is the sea krait (genus: *Laticauda*), allowing it to spend much of its life cycle on land, including laying its eggs there.



Most sea snakes can breathe through the top of their skin. The black and yellow sea snake can obtain roughly 25% of its oxygen this way, allowing this snake to swim in deeper water and for longer lengths of time without surfacing for air.



MOSTLY FOUND IN SHALLOW WATERS

MUST COME TO THE SURFACE TO BREATHE





PUFFER FISH

*INGESTS AIR OR WATER
TO INFLATE ITS STOMACH,
CHANGING ITS SHAPE
TO THAT OF A LARGE BALL*

RANGING IN SIZE FROM 2.5 CM (1 IN) TO OVER 60 CM (2 FT)

in length, this clumsy swimmer does not rely on speed to elude predators. Instead, the puffer fish ingests large amounts of water or air to inflate its stomach, transforming itself into an inedible ball several times its original size. Most predators unfortunate enough to succeed in eating a puffer fish will soon die as the puffer fish contains enough poisonous tetrodotoxin in its body to kill 30 adult men.



Although some puffer fish can live in fresh water or brackish water, most of the over 120 species of puffer fish live in tropical and temperate oceans.



Newly discovered, the white-spotted puffer fish creates fascinating circular designs on the seafloor.



The puffer fish survives on a diet of primarily invertebrates and algae, but it can break open and eat shellfish with its beak-like teeth.



TIGER SHARK



A tiger shark is so named because of the distinctive striped pattern found on juveniles of the species. However, the markings fade as the shark gets older.

WHAT OCEAN PREDATOR has been known to eat sea turtles, seals, ocean birds, dolphins, rays, sharks, and even garbage? The tiger shark! Because the tiger shark isn't very discerning in its diet and generally stays near coastal areas, it is considered the second most dangerous shark to humans. Only the great white shark has been guilty of attacking humans more often than the tiger shark. The tiger shark has sharp, jagged teeth, and its jaws are strong enough to crack a sea turtle's shell!



Some of the largest tiger sharks ever recorded were 5–8 m (16–26 ft) long and weighed around 907 kg (2,000 lbs).



In the wild this shark can live 15 years or more.



The tiger shark is a scavenger, and it has been found with old tires, burlap sacks, and even license plates in its stomach.

**EATS OTHER SEA ANIMALS,
BIRDS, AND EVEN GARBAGE**

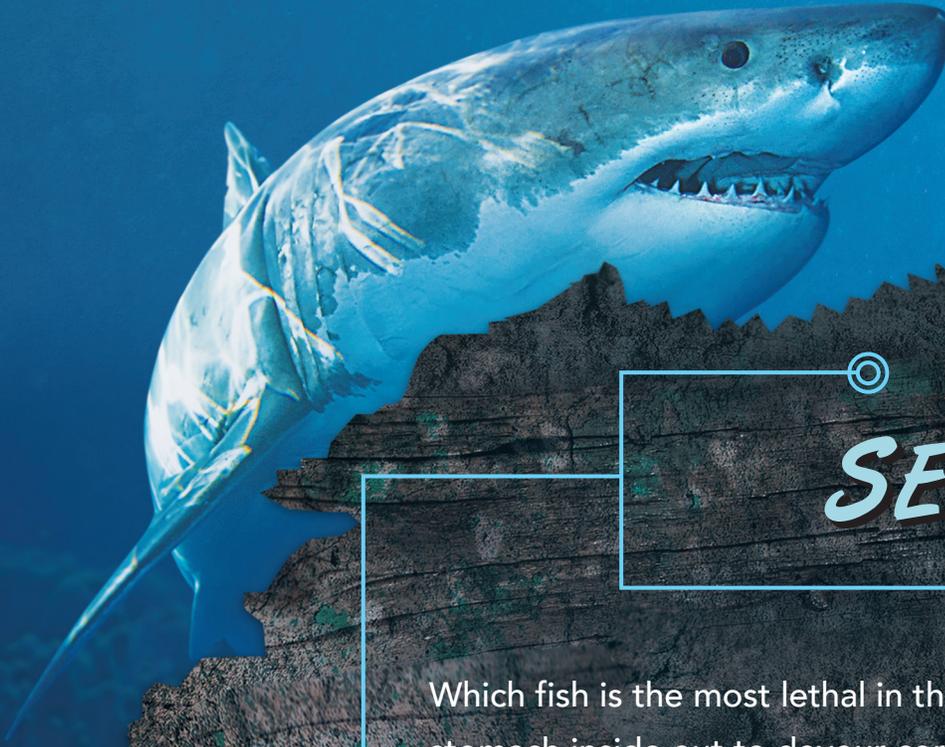


**SECOND-MOST DANGEROUS
SHARK TO HUMANS**



**JAWS ARE STRONG ENOUGH
TO CRACK A SEA TURTLE SHELL**





DANGEROUS SEA CREATURES

Which fish is the most lethal in the world? Which creature can turn its own stomach inside out to devour coral polyps? *Dangerous Sea Creatures* provides you with a window into the beauty of menacing sea dwellers as well as the tricks and defense mechanisms they use to protect themselves and catch their prey.

■ ORIGINAL PUBLICATION



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\$6.99
ISBN 978-1-952920-26-4
5 0 6 9 9 >

9 781952 920264
SKU 728