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UnderWaterWorld 2017

Front page: Common lionfish – *Pterois miles* – Red Sea, Zerib Soraya, Egypt

The Common lionfish is native to the Red Sea and the western Indo-Pacific region. It can be found in depth up to 50 meters. The common lionfish is mainly nocturnal and may hide in crevices during the daytime. It feeds on fish and small crustaceans.

January: Bigeyes – Priacanthidae – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Priacanthidae are typically coloured bright red and have very rough, spined scales. The common name of "bigeye" refers to the member species' unusually large eyes, suited to their carnivorous and nocturnal lifestyles. They tend to live near rock outcroppings or reefs.

February: Finger sponge – Menjangan Island, Bali Sea, Indonesia

Finger sponges can be found in lagoons and on reef slopes with little current in depths up to 25 meters. Sponges do not have nervous, digestive or circulatory systems. Instead, most rely on maintaining a constant water flow through their bodies to obtain food and oxygen and to remove wastes.

March: Green sea turtle – *Chelonia mydas* – Red Sea, Sheikh Malik, Egypt

The green sea turtle, here with remoras, may reach 40 to 50 years of age. The young eat fish eggs, molluscs, jellyfish, small invertebrates, worms, sponges, algae, and crustaceans. Most adult sea turtles are strictly herbivorous.

April: Feather duster worm – *Sabellastarte* sp. – Tulamben Drop-Off, Bali

It lives in a tough, leathery tube covered with fine mud. Projecting from this is a branchial crown of branched tentacles, the radioles, which form a plume. The duster worm is a filter feeder. Fine hairs on the tentacles catch organic particles as they float past.

May: Pigmy sweepers – *Parapriacanthus ransonneti* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The sweepers have a translucent body and are found in large groups under coral overhangs and in caves. They are foraging outside during night and feeds on zooplankton.

June: Black-sided hawkfish – *Paracirrhites forsteri* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The black-sided hawkfish is native to the tropical and sub-tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean. It is an ambush predator and usually lies in wait on a head of coral, propped up by its stiff pectoral fins, ready to dart out at passing crustaceans or small fish.

July: Common bottlenose dolphin – *Tursiops truncatus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The common bottlenose dolphin inhabits temperate and tropical oceans throughout the world. The common bottlenose dolphin is grey in colour and may be between 1,9 and 4 meters long, and weighs between 150 and 650 kg. They often visit the El Quadim Bay.



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August: Sea squirts – Ascidiacea – Menjangan Island, Bali Sea, Indonesia

Sea squirts are found all over the world, usually in shallow water and are sessile animals: they remain firmly attached to substratum, such as rocks and shells. Sea squirts feed by taking in water through the oral siphon and filtering out the plankton from the water.

September: Australian sea lion – Neophoca cinerea – Indian Ocean, Western Australia

They live in small colonies along the coasts of Western and South Australia. They are usually found on small uninhabited islands along the coast. The bulls are up to 2,5 meters long and weight 300 kg. Cows are with 1,8 m and 100 kg much smaller.

October: Schultz's pipefish – Corythoichthys schultzi – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Schultz's pipefish can usually be found in lagoon and seaward reefs at depths of between 2 and 30 meters. They feed on small crustaceans, larva of other animals and very small fishes.

November: Oxeye scad – Selar boops – Tulamben Drop-Off, Bali

Oxeye scads are found in the Indo-Pacific, live at depths between 35 to 500 metres and can reach a size of 25 cm. During daytime they group in large schools of fish. They are night active and feed on invertebrates such as crustaceans.

December: Starfish – Anthenea australiae – Indischer Ozean, Wester Australia

Starfish are marine invertebrates. They typically have a central disc and five arms, though some species have a larger number of arms. The aboral or upper surface may be smooth, granular or spiny, and is covered with overlapping plates. Starfish have tube feet operated by a hydraulic system and a mouth at the centre of the oral or lower surface.

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