



Wolffish • Study Guide

They have big, sharp teeth, long eel-like bodies, and they look like they could bite your fingers right off—but divers can pet them. They're Wolffish, and Jonathan visits both Atlantic and Pacific species with a journey from Eastport, Maine to Port Hardy, British Columbia. You won't believe the amazing encounters he has with these docile but mean-looking fish.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to Atlantic and Pacific species of wolffish.
2. Highlights the cold water habitats for wolffish.
3. Illustrates nesting and how male wolffish guard their eggs.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is an eel? What is a fish? How do you tell them apart?
2. Do fish make nests? Why might a fish make a nest?
3. Are fish dangerous? Does a "Wolffish" sound like a dangerous animal?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Internet research: what is the difference between an eel and a true fish? How can you tell them apart?
2. The Pacific wolffish is often called a "wolf eel." Which is it, an eel or a fish? Why?
3. Adult and juvenile wolffish are different colors. What benefit might this have?
4. Wolffish seem docile to divers, but they have fearsome-looking teeth. What are the teeth for?
5. Wolffish don't look anything like wolves so why are they likely called wolffish?
6. Wolffish live in a den. Why might that be?
7. Wolffish are often considered dangerous to fishermen, but they are very docile to divers. Why the differing characterizations?