

TOP TEN WEIRDEST THINGS FISHED OUT OF THE SEA

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VIDEO	AUDIO
GENERIC IMAGES OF FISHERMEN CASTING LINES, SPORT BOATS, ETC. CLIPS: 2A-4C	Intro: Fishing is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. Most of the time, we get a fish. Or at least something close. But on rare occasion your <i>Catch of the Day</i> can end up giving you nightmares. In this spirit, Nature Obscura presents ten of the most bizarre things actually hauled up from the watery depths. And we promise, no fish stories.
CU ON FISHNET HAULING SOMETHING UP FROM DARK WATER, BUT WE CAN'T QUITE SEE IT... CLIP: 5B	Number One: If you cruise out in the morning to wet a line, you usually don't expect to snort one. But that was an option for two deep-sea fishermen off the coast of Charleston back in June 2019. While out fishing, they discovered a package wrapped in black plastic floating in the water. They reeled it in, then called the police when they realized it was nearly 50 kilos of cocaine with a street value of almost a million dollars.
WRITTEN FOR EXISTING FOOTAGE: HQ LIBRARY B-ROLL & NEWS STILLS. CLIP: 8C, 9C, 11B STILLS: #34, #37	The anxious anglers located the package when they noticed a school of mahi-mahi leaping wildly out of the water, sometimes into their boat, near a pile of debris. Strangely, the two fishermen were not fazed by their catch, commenting that this sort of thing usually happens farther south.
CLIP: 21A, 24A	Number Two: Apparently, all hands were NOT on deck at a popular fishing spot near the Siberian



town of Khabarovsk, because a bag holding 27 pairs of human hands were fished out of the water at Amur River Island in 2018.

They still don't know who did it, but they may get clues from a print discovered on one of the fingers. One theory says they might have been cut off as punishment. But local media reported that medical bandages and the like were found nearby. So, a medical institution might have severed the appendages, possibly from dead bodies.

It's still a mystery, but outside authorities have now rushed in to give the local investigators a helping... eh... assistance.



CLIP: 10B
STILLS: #6, #7

Number Three:

The folks at *Red Lobster* may have to rethink their business plan when they get a load of this two-tone Chimera Lobster, a freak of nature that's entirely natural. It was caught by Alan Robinson off Bar Harbor, Maine in 2006 and, while it looks half-cooked, it's actually alive and well.

A Chimera was a creature from Greek myth that was made of many different animal parts. In science, a chimera is an entity with cells from two different organisms living and growing together at the same rate.

Well, according to National Geographic, lobsters grow symmetrically—with each half of the body developing independently. By a 1-in-50 million chance, this one grew up in two different colors, split right down the middle. Today, it's living a happy garlic-and-butter-free life in Maine's Mountain Desert Oceanarium.

STILLS: #46, #75, #101, #105

Number Four:

Life's a beach, unless you're wandering your way down the Florida's sunny Atlantic



coast and happen to snag an eyeball the size of a grapefruit. In October of 2012, this eye-popping baby blue was found at Pompano Beach, just north of Ft. Lauderdale.

Rumors immediately spread about it coming from a giant squid. But experts from Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission claim it was cut from a half-ton swordfish that an angler caught, then tossed the eye back into the drink. The jury is still out on whether this was littering, or recycling.



CLIP: 119B, 124B
STILLS: #66, #71, #72

Number Five:

What can only be described as a Sea Dragon was caught by a Russian fisherman in the Norwegian Sea in March of 2022. Roman Fodortsov works on a commercial fishing trawler, diving as much as 3000 feet down for cod, mackerel and haddock. But occasionally he comes up with something that isn't on the menu.

This photo of the so-called "Ghost Shark" was an Instagram hit, with 23,000 likes for a picture of what looks like something from *Game of Thrones*. Actually, it's a chimaera fish—a cartilaginous fish, meaning no bones...just in case it wasn't already creepy enough.



STILLS: #134, #138
CLIP (SOT): 45A

Number Six:

Maybe Jonah confronted a fish from hell, but Ben Estes came across another one at Newport Beach, California in May 2021. The fish is charcoal black with a huge mouth, rows of evil-looking teeth, and its own built-in pole and lure. This is why they call these guys Anglerfish, and this particular variety is the Pacific Football fish. So, the 49ers might want to scope out this kid.

	<p>This fish is rare in these parts. Normally it lives more than 3000 feet down in total darkness. And its fishing lure, called an “illicium”, features a phosphorescent bulb that attracts prey. It’s like they always tell you: <i>Don’t go into the light!</i></p>
 <p>STILLS: #141, #155</p>	<p>Number Seven:</p> <p>Cat fish are a traditional favorite at a country barbecue, but that's provided the fish is not the color of a school bus or almost as big. Young Martin Glatz and his twin brother, both German fishermen, reeled this big banana into their small boat in the Netherlands last year. It's called a mandarin catfish, or leucitic wels catfish. And while it's big enough to scare away dogfish, it might fry up nice and go well with hushpuppies.</p>
 <p>STILLS: #162, #163, #174</p>	<p>Number Eight:</p> <p>In March of 2022, this horror film monster was discovered on the shores of Queensland, Australia. Like a hybrid creature out of cryptozoology, it seems to be half-mammal, half-reptile. It was found by Alex Tan at Moroochydore Beach, an hour north of Brisbane.</p> <p>But instead of reporting an alien, he posted the picture online to collect ideas of what it could be. Some suggested a baby kangaroo, or a wallaby that drowned in the recent ocean flooding that hit the coast. Alex is pretty sure it's a brushtail possum with only a skull for a head. Eww.</p>
<p>CLIP: 212A</p> <p>STILLS: #188, #190</p>	<p>Number Nine:</p> <p>Jeremy Wade, host of Animal Planet's <i>River Monsters</i>, has been an extreme angler for three decades. So naturally, he's going to make a list like this. But, wow, seriously??</p>



Jeremey weighs in with the big one that *didn't* get away. It's a giant piranha!

These behemoths are found in the central Congo River—where nobody goes, and for good reason. They can grow to the size of a football player. Their teeth are like dinner knives and its mouth is as deadly as that of a 1000-pound great white shark. We're gonna need a bigger host.



Number Ten:

You go out to catch a fresh fish and you end up with what appears to be a cheeseburger. Once again, Russian angler Roman Fedortsov, the Russian fisherman from Murmansk, makes our list with this unnamed mollusk type thingy that looks like it should come with fries.

Fedorstsov posts pictures of his strange hauls online to get help figuring out what it is he's caught. Despite their ghastly appearance, he claims to see beauty in all the creatures he finds. Maybe, but this is a face only a mother could love.

STILLS: #199, #201, #211

ANIMATION:
NATURE OBSCURA FRONT PAGE.

And that's *Nature Obscura*'s "Ten Weirdest Things Fished Out of the Sea." For more bizarre wildlife, cryptozoology, or unearthly nature, or to post your own videos of strange encounters in the wild, visit *Nature Obscura: The World You Thought You Knew*. And happy fishing!

END VIDEO