

SCUBA News

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Welcome to SCUBA News. Thanks for subscribing. Our "creature" of the month today was prompted by a chance find on a beach and subsequent investigation. Any sea creature questions - email news@scubatravel.co.uk.

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What's New at SCUBA Travel?



9 Best Dives in the Med

Wrecks, walls, caves and canyons - but which are the best sites?

[SEE AND VOTE...](#)



Perfect Palau

World-class diving with sea walls, sheer drop-offs, caves and an exuberance of marine life as her entire waters are a marine reserve. And sharks. Lots of them.

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Exploring the Underwater Treasures of Greece

With 40 diving islands plus the mainland coast, there is plenty to choose from in Greece



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I Dive Cyprus

Award winning dive center and the world-famous Zenobia.

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10 Last Minute & Early-Bird Liveboard Deals - Save up to \$1688 US

From the amazing full-moon snapper spawning in Palau to massive reductions in the Maldives.

1. [Ocean Hunter III, Palau, The Best of Palau & Best of Palau & Full Moon Spawning](#), Thousands of twin spot snappers mass at just a few sites to spawn and reproduce. **SAVE 25%** on selected trips throughout 2023 (7 nights), Price from USD 2,900 per trip per person



2. Galapagos Aggressor III, Ecuador (Galapagos Islands), Galapagos Islands with Wolf & Darwin, SAVE 30% for selected trips in 2023 from May to August (7 nights), Price from USD 4,897 per trip per person
3. Red Sea Blue Force 2, Egypt, Extended North Route & The North Route, Save 10% on selected trips in April and May 2023 (9 nights), Price from USD 3,150 per trip per person
4. Belize Aggressor III, Belize, Lighthouse Reef, Half Moon Cay, and Turneffe Reef, SAVE USD 700 for selected trips in 2023 (7 nights),*Special is not retroactive.**Applies to individual reservations, Price from USD 2,695 per trip per person
5. Mariana, Maldives, Best of Maldives, 14 - 21 May & 21 - 28 May 2023 (7 nights), SAVE 25%, Price from EUR 1,340 per trip per person
6. Raja Ampat Aggressor, Indonesia, Raja Ampat, Derawan Islands, SAVE USD 800 for selected trips in 2023 (7 nights), Price from USD 2,573 per trip per person
7. Solmar V, Mexico, Socorro Islands, 27 April - 05 May 2023 (8 nights), SAVE 25%, Price from USD 3,149 per trip per person
8. Black Pearl, Palau, Palau Snapper Spawning Special - Full Moon, SAVE USD 300 for selected trips in 2023 (7 nights), Price from USD 3,165 per trip per person
9. Sea Serpent Contessa, Egypt, Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone & North - Brothers, 29 Apr - 06 May & 03 - 10 June 2023 (7 nights), SPECIAL PRICE from 1,299 EUR per/person
10. Jaya, Indonesia, Raja Ampat (Best of Dampier), SAVE 10% on May 2023 trips (6 & 9 nights), Price from USD 1,764 per trip per person



Common Squid and their egg "mop heads"

"What is this" I was asked last week, found on a Belgium beach this jellyish mop-head was the size of a dinner plate. The answer is a mass of squid eggs.





Mass of squid egg capsules, taken by Lee Glasby. The white "dots" are the eggs, surrounded by a yellow jelly-like covering.

Eggs from several mothers...

Further investigation revealed fascinating facts. This bundle of eggs was not laid by one mother but by several. What happens is that the squid gather together at their mating spot. Males perform various displays to attract potential females, internally fertilizing them when accepted. The females then descend to the bottom and use their arms to deposit their egg capsules onto the communal egg mass. This egg mass is attached to a rock or other hard substrate on the sea floor.

...and many fathers

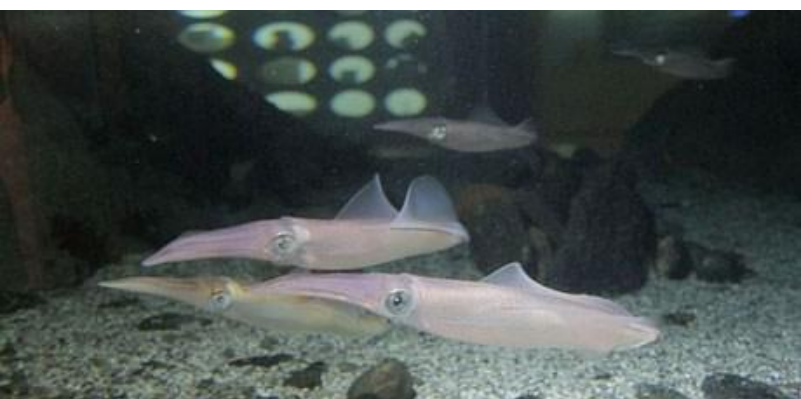
Some males spend considerable energy and time courting and defending individual females, and they have high mating success. Other smaller males behave more sneakily. A female's egg capsule can contain eggs fertilized by two, three or more males.

Each egg capsule has around 200 eggs in it. A female deposits 20 to 50 egg capsules at any one time. The egg capsules are drawn by the female into her arms before depositing them into the mass. They can lay eggs in bouts several days or weeks apart.

Why were they on the beach?

The egg capsule masses are negatively buoyant which helps prevent them washing up onto shore should they become detached. Some still do though. These were probably deposited not too far away.

Squid migrate to the coast to spawn. Spawning peaks in Spring, but depends on water temperature. The eggs need to be at between 12-24°C to develop. Hatching takes place after about a month.





European or Common Squid *Loligo vulgaris*. Aquarium Finisterrae de A Coruña CC BY-SA 2.0

Strong swimmers, squid use their fins to swim like fish and their siphon to propel themselves very quickly forwards or backwards.

You find the Common or European squid (*Loligo vulgaris*) from the North Sea down to the South African coast, including in the Mediterranean. It lives from 20 m down to around 500 m. The squid migrate from southern climbs in the winter up to Irish and North Seas in the summer.

Mollusca (Phylum) > Cephalopoda (Class) > Coleoidea (Subclass) > Decapodiformes (Superorder) > Myopsida (Order) > Loliginidae (Family) *Loligo* (Genus) > *Loligo vulgaris* (Species)

References

Hanlon, Roger. (1998). [Mating systems and sexual selection in the squid Loligo: How might commercial fishing on spawning squids affect them?](#). California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Reports. 39. 92-100.

Ali Srairi et al, [Reproduction of the squid *Loligo vulgaris* off the South Atlantic coast of Morocco](#)

Vladimir Laptikhovskiy et al, [Spatial and temporal variability of spawning and nursery grounds of *Loligo forbesii* and *Loligo vulgaris* squids in ecoregions of Celtic Seas and Greater North Sea](#), ICES Journal of Marine Science, Volume 79, Issue 6, August 2022, Pages 1918-1930

Diving news from around the World



Scientists identify 2022 sea urchin killer

The mass die-off of the long-spined sea urchin - a loss that threatens the health of coral reefs from the Caribbean to Florida's east coast - was caused by a one-celled organism called a ciliate.



Mackerel is no longer a sustainable fish. Should you stop eating it?

This seemingly abundant species was often touted as a responsible choice, but years of overfishing have led its sustainability rating to be downgraded

Mexico takes aim against marine animals' trafficking but criminal networks persist





Steps to protect the totoaba fish and vaquita porpoise come after the country was sanctioned, but they are being challenged by those intent on selling the fish.



1,000 pounds of illegally caught sharks seized in Texas

Roughly 1,000 pounds of illegally caught shark was seized by the U.S. Coast Guard this month.



Coral-eating fish poo may act as probiotics for reefs

Although coral-eating fish can cause damage to coral, their poo contains potentially beneficial bacteria



Holiday makers must be alert to potential legal action over dolphin disturbance

Changes to the UK regulations around jet ski use are a timely reminder to holiday makers and recreational water users to act responsibly around wildlife, or risk potential legal action.



Maps of sharks' journeys show marine protected areas alone won't save them

Scientists find that the sharks travel longer distances than previously known and spend long periods of time in unprotected areas that have a high degree of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.



Protecting wildlife helps mitigate climate change

Conserving wildlife across the world could significantly enhance natural carbon capture and storage, a new study has found.

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