

Spotted Ratfish, *Hydrolagus coliei* ^[1]

Submitted by Rory Lattimer Mon, 2010-08-23 00:00



[2]

This image was captured from the Strait of Georgia ^[3] Webcam video feed at 300 m depth. The spotted ratfish, *Hydrolagus coliei*, is a cartilaginous fish related to sharks and rays, and is the only species in its subclass found off British Columbia. They're found throughout the Northeast Pacific down to 913 m depth, and feed primarily on small invertebrates including molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and worms. The individual in this image is a male sporting a frontal tentaculum or cephalic clasper (seen here as a large white spot on the forehead), a club-shaped organ with calcified hooks used for grasping females during mating. They may be attracted to light, as they sometimes appear alone or in pairs to circle the

webcam when the lights are on.

Reference: Barnett, L.A.K, R.L. Earley, D.A. Ebert and G.M. Cailliet. 2009. Maturity, fecundity, and reproductive cycle of the spotted ratfish, *Hydrolagus coliei*. *Mar Biol* 156:301-316.
doi:10.1007/s00227-008-1084-y

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ONC_breadcrumb.innerHTML; ONC_innerHTML = ONC_innerHTML.replace("&", "&");  
ONC_breadcrumb.innerHTML = ONC_innerHTML; }
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Source URL: <http://www.oceannetworks.ca/spotted-ratfish-hydrolagus-colliei>

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