

The Giant Eyeball

(October 2012)

A massive blue eyeball came ashore in Pompano Beach, Florida. A man spotted the shiny eye as he walked along the sand. The man was in shock to see a big eye all by itself, but he was able to contact some fish experts. They came and put the eye on ice so it could undergo some tests. The public wanted to know what animal lost its eye. Most of them assumed it was from a big fish or squid. Others said it was likely from a whale or an undiscovered sea monster.

After the experts examined the eyeball, they began to think it came from a giant squid or swordfish. A giant squid's eye can be as big as a soccer ball. Their eyes often pop out, but they can grow back. In fact, lots of fish are able to grow back eyes, but sometimes the brand new eyes are not as strong as the old ones. But sometimes a bad one is better than no eye at all!

By mid-October, the experts changed their tune. They stated that the eyeball likely belonged to a swordfish, but they will have to make some more tests to be sure. One thing they

can tell is that the eye has cuts on it which means that a fisherman removed it and chucked it back in the Atlantic. That is when it made its lonely trip to the shore. Plus, swordfish are a popular fish this time of year. In Florida, people think fishing for swordfish is a fun sport.

Swordfish have a long, flat bill. By the time they become adults, they lose all their scales and teeth. They live in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and swim from the top of the waves to the deep. In the Atlantic, swordfish get big. Some get as big as 1, 000 pounds! All swordfish like to dine on different kinds of fish such as rockfish, herring, and lanternfish. They also like to munch on shellfish from time to time. When it is time to hunt for a snack, swordfish will stab at big fish with their bill and swallow small fish alive. They do not attack humans unless they are hurt. Sometimes, a hurt swordfish will stab at the bottom of boats.

Adult swordfish do not have a lot of enemies except humans who like to hunt them for sport. That is likely what happened to the swordfish that lost its eye.

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