



## Synopsis

The astonishing diversity of ocean life will wow you in this riveting book, perfect for all ages, by marine scientist Nancy Knowlton. *Citizens of the Sea* reveals the most intriguing organisms in the ocean, captured in action by skilled underwater photographers from National Geographic and the Census of Marine Life. As you read lively vignettes about sea creatures' names, defenses, migration, mating habits, and more, you'll be amazed at wonders like . . .

- The almost inconceivable number of creatures in the marine world. From the bounty of microbes in one drop of seawater, we can calculate that there are more individuals in the oceans than stars in the universe.
- The sophisticated sensory abilities that help these animals survive. For many, the standard five senses are just not enough.
- The incredible distances that seabirds and other species cover. Some will feed in both Arctic and Antarctic waters within a single year.
- The odd relationships common in the marine world. From a dental hygienist for fish to a walrus's one-night stand, you'll find beauty, practicality, and plenty of eccentricity in sea-life socialization. Brilliantly photographed and written in an easygoing style, *Citizens of the Sea* will inform and enchant you with close-up documentation of the fascinating facts of life in the ocean realm.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (81 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

My father, who was a P.O.W. survivor of World War II always urged us to eat slowly and chew our food thoroughly. He credited that practice for his survival when many men around him in the prison camps wolfed down their food, developed digestive problems, and died. That same advice comes to

my mind in reading Nancy Knowlton's wonderful book, "Citizens of the Sea: Wonderful creatures from the Census of Marine Life." The pictures are amazing, but the text is the real treat. And it needs to be consumed slowly, savoring every fascinating morsel. Superficially, it looks like another pretty coffee table book of sea creatures that sits on your coffee table for a while as visitors occasionally flip through the photos. But when you take the time to sit down and digest the text, you realize the greatest strength of the book is the writing that supports the stunning photos. Dr. Knowlton (who is a long time friend) has dug up soooo many tidbits in support of the images that it almost reads like a trivia book. Everything from the fact that there are waaaay more bacteria in the ocean than stars in the sky, to defensive "rosettes" of spiny lobsters and whales, to the awesome Bob Marley Worm -- the book is packed with memorable details. I once went to a diving trade show where they had slide show presentations from sport divers. One after another they got up and showed amazing underwater photos of fish and corals they had taken. The only problem was they had no idea of what was in the photos. So the audience -- hundreds of people -- just sat there in dead silence, cooing over the images, but having no clue of what they were seeing. This book is the opposite of that. For each photo, not only is your question of, "What's that?"

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