

Colossal Squid Caught in Antarctic

Some New Zealand fishermen may have hauled in the largest squid ever caught.

Called a *colossal squid*, the male squid the fishermen caught weighs about 990 pounds and is about 40 feet long. It took the fishermen two hours to pull the squid aboard their ship.

The fishermen were catching toothfish south of New Zealand when they hooked the squid. The squid was eating a toothfish the fishermen had on their line. After they hauled the squid aboard their ship, they froze it and carried it back to a museum in New Zealand so scientists can study it.

Scientists don't know a lot about colossal squids, because few people have seen them. The first colossal squid was discovered in the 1920s. Scientists know that the creatures live in deep water -- as deep as 6,500 feet below the sea. They think colossal squid can grow to be 46 feet long. They are not much longer than another type of squid, the *giant squid*, but they weigh much more.

A colossal squid has eight arms and two tentacles. Its tentacles have two rows of sharp hooks on the ends. The squid also has a big beak and the largest eyes of any animal. Scientists think colossal squid eats big fish and other sea animals.

MORE FACTS ABOUT COLOSSAL SQUID

- Have you ever eaten little rings of fried squid (called *calamari*)? If a colossal squid was cut into rings, the rings would be the size of truck tires.
- For hundreds of years, sailors have written tales of "sea monsters." Many people think the sea monsters in sailors' stories might really be colossal squid.



NEWS WORD BOX

New Zealand	squid
Antarctic	hauled
colossal	surface
tentacles	calamari

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Imagine you are a scientist studying this colossal squid. What are some of the things you will look for and study? What do you hope to learn from your observations?