

Squalus Suckleyi Is Fishermen's Nemesis

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Upon seeing an angler land a fish in a sulfurous cloud of salty sentiments, it is an open-and-shut case he got a dogfish. These small sharks provoke more profane expression concerning the creature's origin than any other incidental catch in the salmon fishery. If ever any plague was sent to irritate salmon fishermen it surely must be *Squalus suckleyi*, the Pacific Dogfish! Amen.

It has been said that if you have enough of anything it is worth money but it seems the dogfish has been the exception of this adage. Any persistent salmon fisherman will regale one and all with tales of what a pest these scavengers are, of baits ruined, leaders cut or kinked and salmon chewed up before they could be landed. Their numbers are legion but their attributes are few indeed.

Dogfish vital statistics are the same as for other sharks. They are brought forth as small editions of their parents complete with no fastidious food habits. Three to fourteen young are born at a time in alternate years.

For a while they were fish-

ed for their livers which have a high vitamin A content. However, since the advent of synthetic manufacture of the vitamin, the dogfish has increased to the point of angler exasperation.

Attempts have been made to use these small sharks for food. Sea lions eat them and even a seagull will try one if he is particularly hungry.

The greatest trouble is that like all other sharks, dogfish maintain their osmotic balance in the sea with amounts of urea in their blood. Cooking one usually will gag a stove-hood blower. However, there may be promise in the manufacture of fish protein flour for which they can be used.

Many anglers destroy all dogfish they hook. This seems to make them feel better but is really futile. They are too severely outnumbered. The only answer seems to be to troll fast enough with either spoon or plug that the dogfish will not take the lure.