



# Fishin' for Facts™: Toad Lumpsucker

**Scientific name:** Genus Species: "Eumicrotremus phrynoides"



## Size

Not even 3 inches long, this little sucker is maybe as long as a baby carrot.

## Where are they found?

A polar bear in a submersible or a beluga whale could find them in their own back yard. The toad lumpsucker is found in the North Pacific, southeastern Bering Sea and from the central Aleutian Islands to the northern Gulf of Alaska.

The toad lumpsucker is found on or near the ocean bottom at depths from



226 to 558 ft (69 to 170 m) down.

## What do they eat?

What do you feed a hungry pack of toad lumpsuckers? They probably eat animals found on the ocean bottom including

crustaceans (like crabs or shrimp), mollusks and polychaetes (ocean worms).



## Highlights

Such an unfortunate name for such a cute little fish. Speaking of suckers, the toad lumpsucker has a modified pelvic fins (see photo on the right). Pelvic fins are on a fish's underside) that helps it attach to rocks, broken shells... and this guy's fingers!

**Other cool things...**...some lumpsuckers inflate their bodies like a balloon by



swallowing air or water (think of a pufferfish). This may be a way to protect themselves from predators.

And the male toadies guard the eggs.

Very little else is known about any of the toad lumpsuckers or the other lumpsucker cousins like this Pacific Spiny lumpsucker... can you see the family resemblance?



Photos courtesy of Alaska Fisheries Science Center NMFS

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**WhaleTimes:** [www.whaletimes.org](http://www.whaletimes.org)