

**SLIME-  
INATORS**  
& Other  
Slippery Tricksters

# SLIME CRIMES

## HAGFISH



by Ellen Lawrence

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**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Ruth Owen Books

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author.

Title: Slime crimes : hagfish / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing, [2019] | Series:

Slime-inators & other slippery tricksters | Includes

bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018016383 (print) | LCCN 2018020344 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781684027415 (ebook) | ISBN 9781684026951 (library)

Subjects: LCSH: Hagfishes—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QL638.I4 (ebook) | LCC QL638.I4 .L39 2019 (print) |

DDC 597/.2—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018016383>

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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# You've Been Slimed!

A long hagfish is wriggling through the ocean water.

A scientist swims after the eel-shaped creature to study it.

When the scientist touches the hagfish, something disgusting happens.

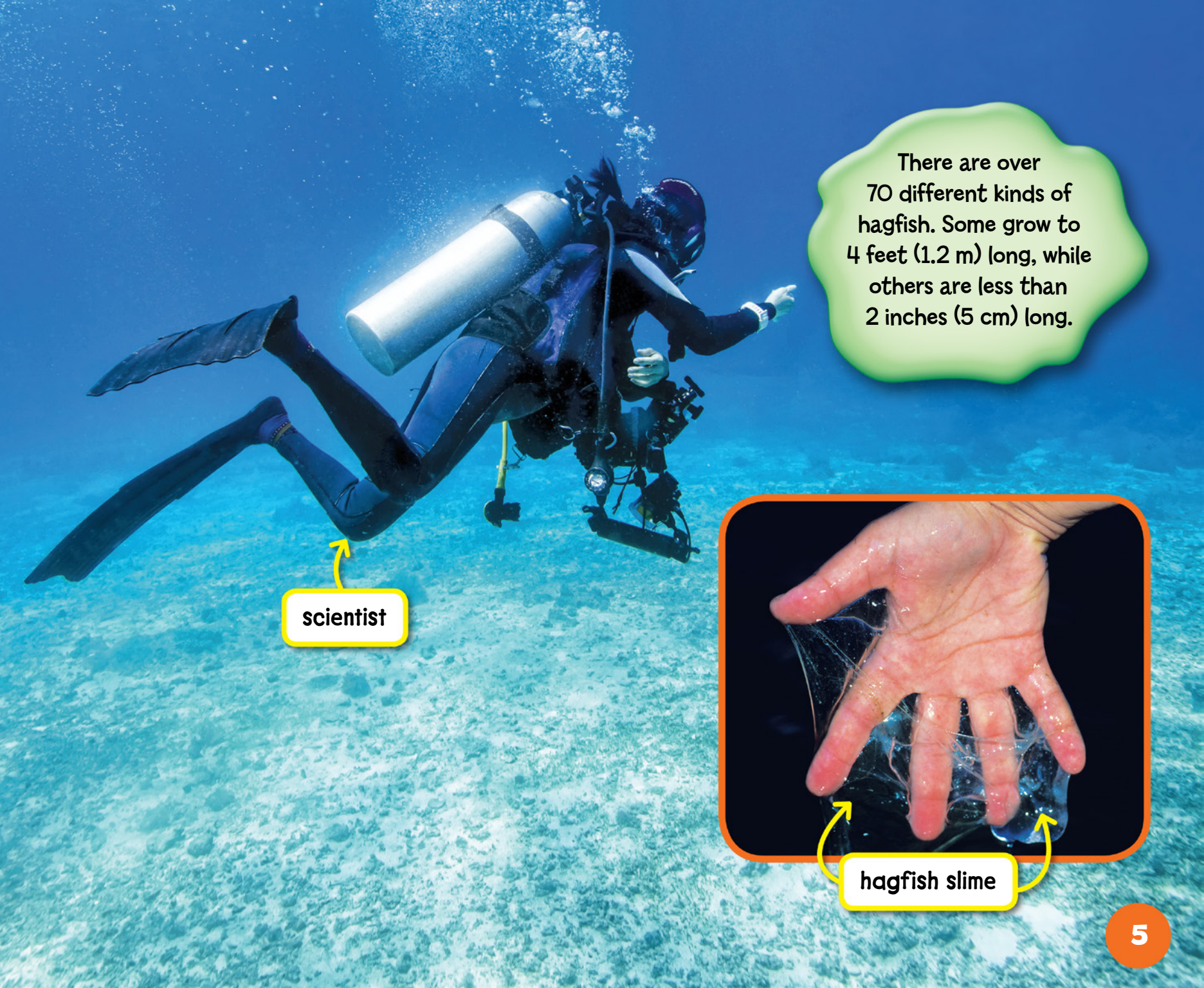
A thick cloud of slime bursts out of the hagfish's body!

As the scientist tries to get the goo off her hands, the fish swims away.



How would you describe a hagfish to someone who has never seen one?



A scuba diver in a blue wetsuit and mask is swimming underwater. Bubbles are rising from the diver's equipment. The background is a clear blue ocean with a sandy bottom visible below.

There are over 70 different kinds of hagfish. Some grow to 4 feet (1.2 m) long, while others are less than 2 inches (5 cm) long.

A yellow curved arrow pointing from the label 'scientist' to the scuba diver.

scientist

An inset photograph with an orange border showing a person's open palm. A clear, gelatinous, and stretchy substance is being pulled between the fingers, demonstrating its elasticity.A yellow curved arrow pointing from the label 'hagfish slime' to the slime on the hand.

hagfish slime



# Meet a Hagfish

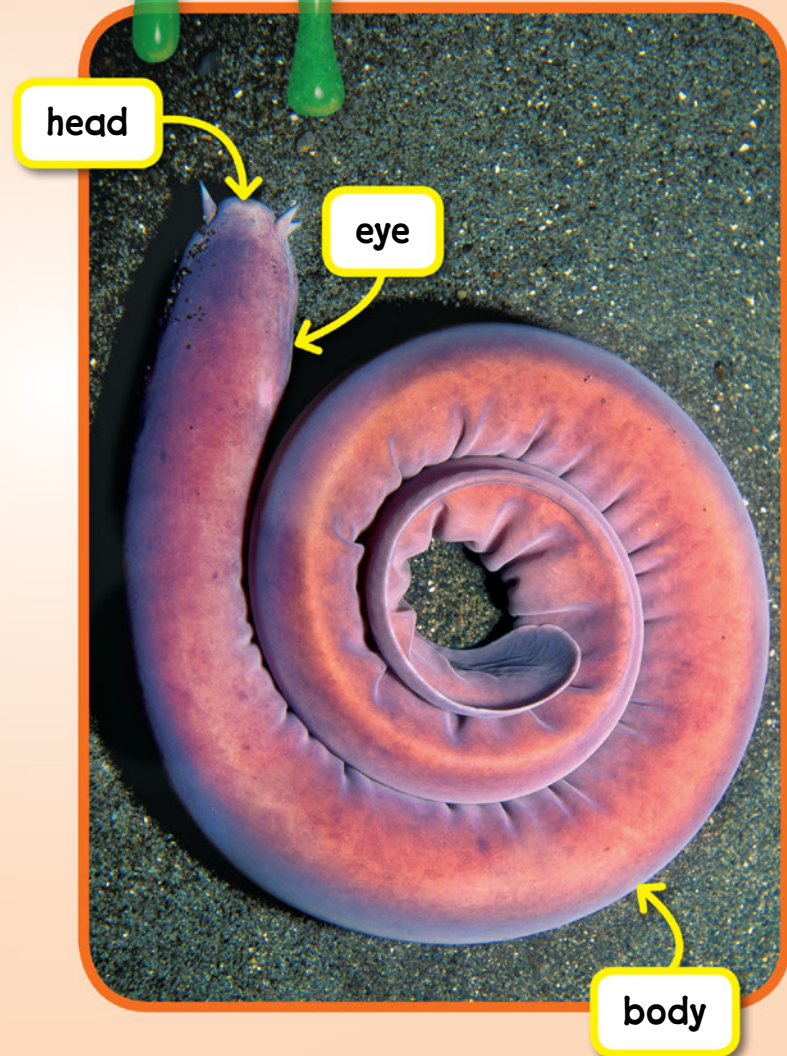
A hagfish's long body is covered with loose pink, gray, or brown skin.

The fish cannot see very well.

Its simple eyes only allow it to tell light from dark.

A hagfish has one large nostril and a powerful sense of smell.

To help it find its way around, it uses feelers on its head called **barbels**.





A hagfish  
doesn't have any  
bones. It does have  
a skull made of cartilage  
(KAHR-til-ij), which  
is the hard, bendy  
stuff that forms  
your ears.

a large nostril  
for smelling

mouth

barbels