

Oarfish sightings linked to quake theory

Giant snake-like fish washed up on Californian beaches in recent days may have died as a result of seismic activity under the seabed. Scientists say there may be some truth in the ancient Japanese legend that the appearance of oarfish precedes an earthquake

Build-up of pressure in rocks could lead to formation of toxic compounds or release of carbon monoxide that could affect deep-sea fish



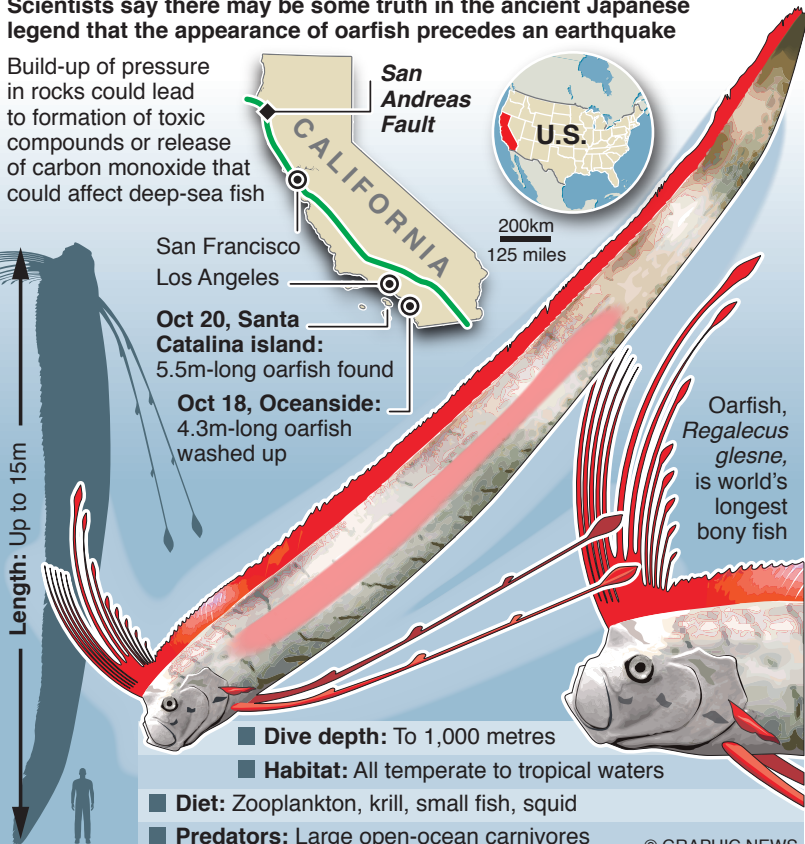
200km
125 miles

San Francisco

Los Angeles

Oct 20, Santa Catalina island:
5.5m-long oarfish found

Oct 18, Oceanside:
4.3m-long oarfish washed up



Oarfish, *Regalecus glesne*, is world's longest bony fish

- **Dive depth:** To 1,000 metres
- **Habitat:** All temperate to tropical waters
- **Diet:** Zooplankton, krill, small fish, squid
- **Predators:** Large open-ocean carnivores