

**Green Moray Eel**  
*Gymnothorax funebris*

**Size**

This species is one of the largest morays, with a maximum recorded size of 8 feet (2.4 m) and 65 pounds (29 kg).

**Habitat**

The green moray eel is a solitary animal who frequently hides in cracks and crevices. In cooler waters, north of the Caribbean, green moray eels and are commonly found around seawalls and rock pilings. In warmer tropical waters, they can be found in coral reefs, mangroves, and tidal creeks.

**Distribution**

The green moray is found in the western Atlantic Ocean from New Jersey to Bermuda and the northern Gulf of Mexico southward to Brazil.

**Diet/Feeding**

The green moray eel feeds mostly at night on fish, crab, shrimp, octopus, and squid. His strong sense of smell is helpful in detecting his prey.

In order to hide from predators and to stalk prey, the eel will hide in holes in the rocks. The eel has a slimy mucus layer which helps it to slip into these holes while protecting his skin.

**Conservation**

The green moray is common throughout much of its range.

As with all marine life, their future survival is dependent on the health of the oceans.

**#DidYouKnow:**

- When you see the eel opening and closing its mouth, you may think he is threatening you, but he's actually just breathing by opening and closing his mouth to force water over the gills.
- Cleaner shrimp and gobies help the moray eel by eating parasites, bacteria, and dead skin off the eel's body. They might even go inside the eel's mouth to clean!
- The eel's skin is actually brown, but the yellow slime coat that lubricates his skin gives him a green appearance!

## Marineland Dolphin Adventure

Est. 1938

Marineland Dolphin Adventure was founded as Marine Studios on June 23, 1938, designed to be an underwater film studio providing Hollywood movie makers with a window to the sea.

Over the years, Marine Studios served as the set for numerous films such as “Revenge of the Creature” (1955) and “Zaat” (1971). Marine Studios also served as the set for an episode of ABC’s “Benji Takes a Dive” (1981), which featured the first SCUBA diving dog. We continue to serve as a film studio, most recently involved in the filming of “Bernie the Dolphin” (2018).

The visionaries who worked together to create Marine Studios were some of the most successful and well-connected men of their time: Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney founded Pan American Airlines and financed “Gone with the Wind”. He served as the Chairman of the Board for Marine Studios. Douglas Burden, trustee of the American Museum of Natural History, served as the first President of Marine Studios. Grandson of legendary Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy, Count Ilia Tolstoy acted as the Studios’ first Vice President and General Manager. It was the vision and determination that these men had that brought such success to Marineland from the beginning.

Based on the public’s fascination with marine science and passion for marine conservation, Marineland evolved to become Florida’s #1 tourist attraction and the first place to successfully train and breed bottlenose dolphins. So much of what we now know about marine life was discovered right here!

Marineland is proud to have played a part in changing our community’s relationship with the oceans from one of fear and dominance to one of respect and love. Marineland’s role in our community is surely one of the reasons that we are still here, 80 years later, and still being honored with the opportunity to teach and inspire.

