

## A NEW PELICAN FISH FROM THE PACIFIC

By BARTON A. BEAN

During a morning watch in June, 1900, half-way between Midway islands and Guam, on the U. S. Naval Ship *Nero*, there was brought to the surface what is believed to be the first pelican fish recorded from the Pacific ocean. The specimen was entangled on the sounding wire, near the sinker, the depth of the ocean at the point of capture being between 2000 and 3000 fathoms. The steamer was engaged at the time in a survey for the Transpacific telegraph cable, and it was during this voyage that the greatest depth of water ever recorded was discovered, being 5269 fathoms, in  $12^{\circ} 43' 15''$  N. lat.;  $145^{\circ} 49' 00''$  W. long.

### GASTROSTOMUS PACIFICUS new species

Length of preserved portion  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches (tail end of body wanting); length of cranium  $\frac{9}{16}$  of an inch, equal to its width; length of upper jaw  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches; distance from tip of snout to origin of dorsal fin a little more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of upper jaw; the depth of body at angle of jaws is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the length of upper jaw; the gill slit is under the 12th dorsal ray; the first anal ray is under the 34th dorsal ray. Dorsal and anal rays high, the highest about  $\frac{1}{6}$  length of upper jaw.

This species differs from *Gastrostomus bairdii* Gill, the Atlantic form, in having a more robust body and higher fin rays. The single specimen known is badly mutilated, and better material, should other captures of the fish be made, will doubtless show many points of difference from the Atlantic species. We are indebted to Dr. J. M. Flint, U.S.N. (retired), for assistance in obtaining the records of this interesting capture.

The type is No. 50,724, U. S. National Museum. The accompanying illustration (figure 31) was made by Mr. A. H. Baldwin.

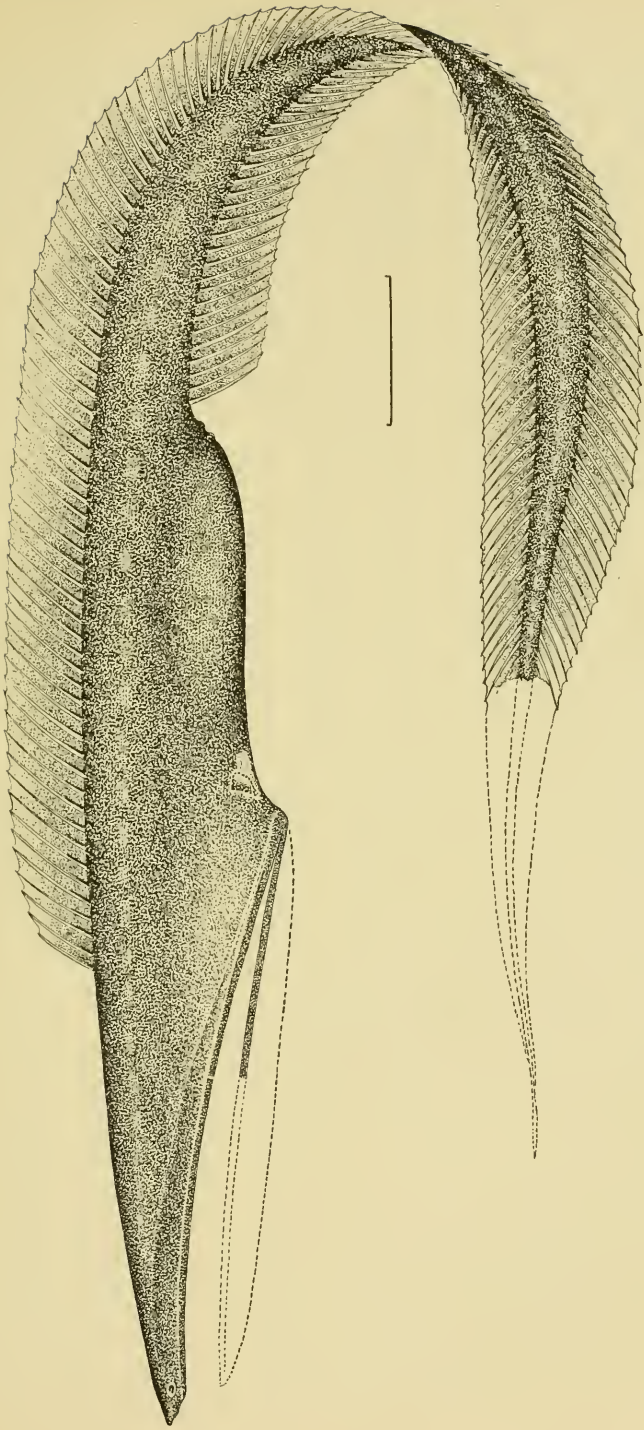


FIG. 31.—*Gastrostomus pacificus* type B. A. Bean. (Restored.) U. S. Naval Ship *Nero*, June, 1900. Halfway between Midway islands and Guam.