

If we now consider what *species* of fish we obtain in our trawlings along the continental slopes, we immediately recognise different strata, each characterised by its peculiar fish-community. It will be of interest to define the extent of these communities by means of the species found most abundantly at different depths, though there are no sharp limits between them, as it is difficult to find even two kinds of fish (or other animals) having in every respect the same distribution. It is thus obvious that on the borders of the different communities recognised by us, we shall find species belonging to neighbouring communities.

We have already mentioned that the "Michael Sars" caught some of the abyssal species along the continental slopes, and the French deep-sea expeditions also gathered similar information. We may then first consider the bathymetrical range of some of these peculiar bottom-fish living at the greatest depths:—

Bathymetrical
range of deep-
sea fishes.

	Bathymetrical Range.
<i>Macrurus sclerorhynchus</i>	from 540 to 3655 metres.
" <i>talismani</i> ,	" 460 " 2220 "
" <i>globiceps</i>	" 1139 " 2995 "
<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>	" 830 " 3655 "
<i>Halosaurus macrochir</i>	" 1183 " 2995 "
<i>Synaphobranchus pinnatus</i> ¹	" 201 " 3250 "

We see here a group of species which may occur in very deep water as well as along the continental slope; the upper limit seems to be about 800 or 900 metres (about 450 fathoms), although stray individuals have been caught in somewhat shallower water.

The main body of the fishes peculiar to the continental slopes consists, however, of other species, which have not been captured in the abyssal plain, though they have a wide distribution, like the denizens of the abyssal plain, and resemble them also in shape. Such are the following:—

	Bathymetrical Range.
<i>Macrurus æqualis</i>	from 460 to 1319 metres.
" <i>zaniophorus</i>	" 830 " 1590 "
<i>Bathygadus melanobranchus</i>	" 830 " 1590 "
" <i>longifilis</i>	" 1374 " 1635 "
<i>Mora mora</i>	" 614 " 1367 "
<i>Lepidion lepidion</i>	" 631 " 1097 "
<i>Chimæra monstrosa</i>	" 535 " 1257 "
Different species of <i>Centrophorus</i> (sharks)	" 1230 " 1853 "

¹ The fact that this form has been taken within such wide limits must, in my opinion, give rise to the suspicion that it may really be caught in midwater; perhaps it never actually occurs in the abyssal area.