

of chains of salpæ the one day and of medusæ (*Pelagia*) the next.

We caught a large moonfish (*Mola rotunda*, Fig. 102), Moonfish. which was moving along near the surface with its dorsal fin above water; we harpooned it from a boat, and got it on board with block and tackle and the steam winch. The length was 2.11 metres, and the height of the body 1.2 metres. A huge

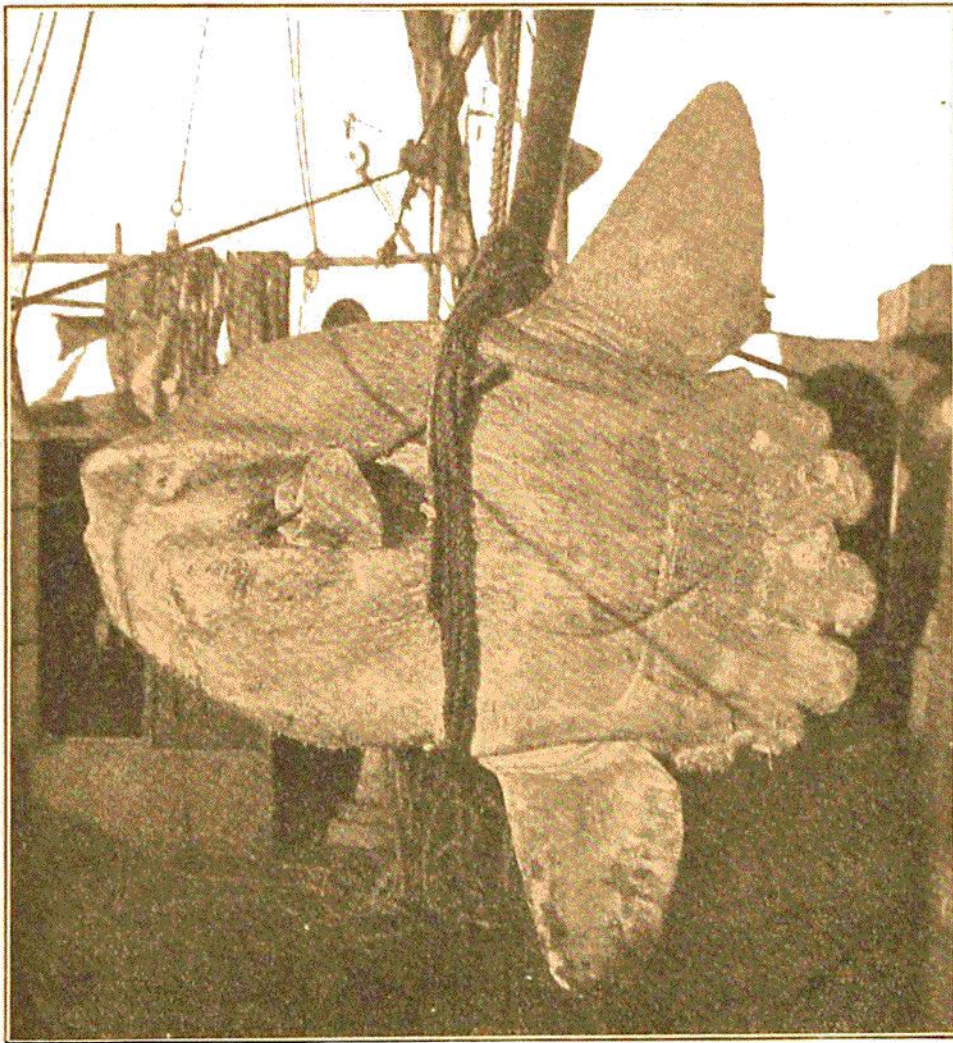


FIG. 102.—*Mola rotunda*, Cuv. Nat. size, 211 cm.

cuttle-fish, too, was found drifting about. Do these creatures, like the turtles farther south, feed on the abundant salpæ and medusæ, and was that the reason why we found them here? Is a richer pelagic life generally to be found just over the ridge, in the same way that we always find a richer plankton over the slope of the coast banks? These problems must be left for future solution.

On the eastern side of our section, towards the Irish coast bank, the conditions were again peculiar, especially at the surface. We found here increasing quantities of young of the