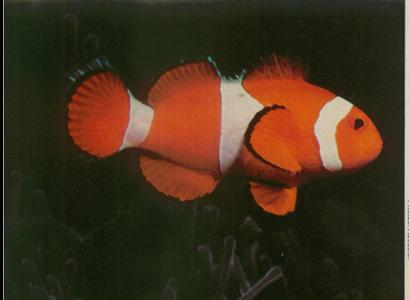


Minuscule coral polyps, rooted forever to their limestone bases, reach out their tentacles to trap the microscopic zooplankton carried by the constantly moving ocean current. Rainbow-hued anemones paralyze and consume any hapless fish that come too close to their waving arms—except for those few varieties of fish that have developed an immunity to the poison, and can live comfortably among the tentacles safe from predation. Starfish rip apart the shells of molluscs to get at the soft flesh inside. Sea snakes kill their prey with a venom so powerful that it later aids in digesting the prey as well. Groupers, ranging in size from several pounds to half a ton, hide under ledges and literally "inhale" their prey from several feet away.

In The Undersea Predators, Carl Roessler presents a rare glimpse into this rich pageant of undersea predation with over 200 color photographs and descriptions of his career as an underwater photographer.

By Carl Roessler

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