



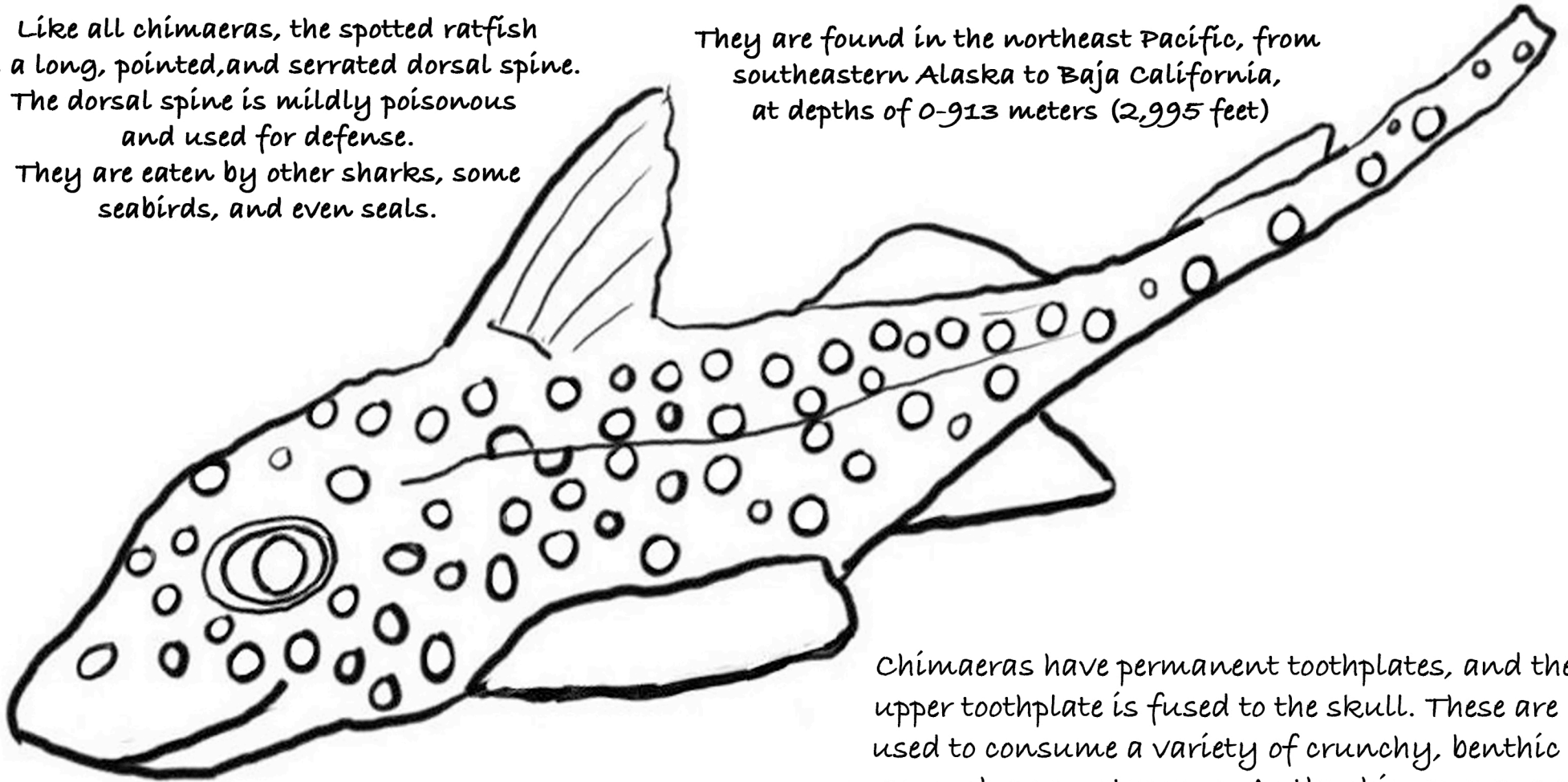
SPOTTED RATFISH

(Hydrolagus colliei)

The spotted ratfish belongs to the "short-nosed" chimaera family, Chimaeridae

Like all chimaeras, the spotted ratfish has a long, pointed, and serrated dorsal spine. The dorsal spine is mildly poisonous and used for defense. They are eaten by other sharks, some seabirds, and even seals.

They are found in the northeast Pacific, from southeastern Alaska to Baja California, at depths of 0-913 meters (2,995 feet)



They can grow to nearly 1 meter (3.3 feet) in length

Chimaeras have permanent toothplates, and the upper toothplate is fused to the skull. These are used to consume a variety of crunchy, benthic prey, such as crustaceans. As the chimaera grows, its jaw strength (and crushing force) increases substantially, allowing the chimaera to consume a wider variety of prey as adults.

