

WHERE CAN SCIENCE TAKE YOU?

DEEP-SEA FISH COLLECTOR

REAL-LIFE SCIENCE CAREERS



NAME: Dr Thom Linley

ROLE: Curator of Fishes at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and deep-sea fish zoologist.

FROM: Born in Birmingham in the West Midlands of England

STUDIES: BSc (Hons) in Marine and Freshwater Biology and MSc in Marine Biology (University of Wales). MPhil in Zoology and PhD in Marine Science (University of Aberdeen).

FOLLOW: www.deepseapod.com  [thom.linley](https://www.instagram.com/thom.linley)

WHY SCIENCE?

Thom has loved fish since he was just 5 years old. As a child, he read fish and aquarium guidebooks cover to cover—just like storybooks. When he discovered that studying fish could be a real job, he knew exactly what he wanted to do. Learning wasn't always easy because Thom has dyslexia, but his determination helped him turn his childhood passion into an amazing career exploring the deep ocean. Today, Thom is a deep-sea fish zoologist who loves to tinker and invent, designing clever cameras, traps and other equipment that can survive the enormous pressures at the bottom of the ocean.

WHAT'S THE COOLEST PART OF THEIR JOB?

Seeing creatures that no human has ever seen before! His special cameras sometimes capture amazing animals living thousands of metres in the deep ocean that scientists didn't even know existed. Thom also loves learning from scientists who lived more than 100 years ago. He hopes his discoveries will help future scientists unlock even more mysteries of the deep ocean.

FUN FACT!

"I accidentally gave the Faceless Cusk Eel that name. The species hadn't been seen for decades. When an Australian team saw it again, I was the only person they found online talking about it. I had called it 'the fish without a face' and they loved that. The name has stuck!"

ABOVE: A deep-sea fish trap that Thom designed being lowered into the ocean. Top / Above image credits: Earth Sciences NZ / Ocean Census / Rebekah Parsons-King.



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