

WHERE CAN SCIENCE TAKE YOU?



DEEP-SEA FISH COLLECTOR

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 did Thom choose SCIENCE?

For Thom, science is about exploring the unknown, solving complex problems and making discoveries that deepen our understanding of nature. Because the deep ocean is one of Earth's least explored environments, every expedition has the potential to reveal new species or uncover adaptations to life under extreme conditions. Thom combines biology with engineering and creative problem-solving, designing innovative cameras, traps and other equipment that can withstand the crushing pressures of the deep ocean. He loves that science allows him to ask big questions and collect knowledge that will help future scientists make discoveries of their own.

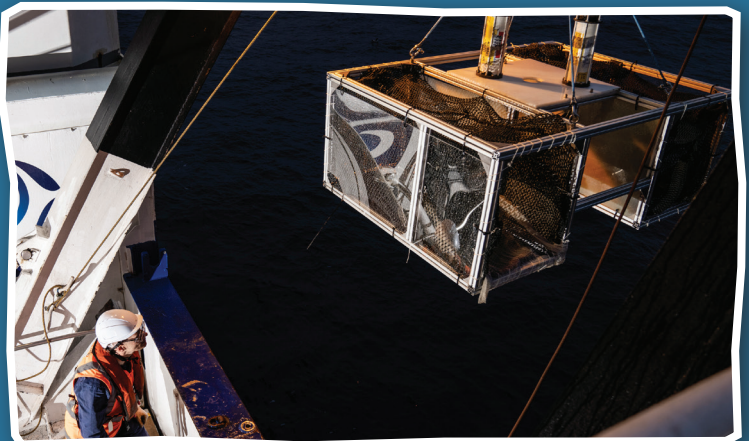
What's the COOLEST PART of your job?

"The coolest part about my job is seeing things that no other human has seen. My deep-sea cameras come back, and I get to see a part of the world that no human has ever seen before—and THEN something beautiful swims into the picture, something we didn't even know existed. And, it's not something you'd imagine a scientist doing, but I am really good at throwing a grappling hook! Some of my cameras float in the ocean, and I need to grab them from a ship!"



FACELESS CUSK EEL

"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: Earth Sciences NZ / Ocean Census / Rebekah Parsons-King.



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