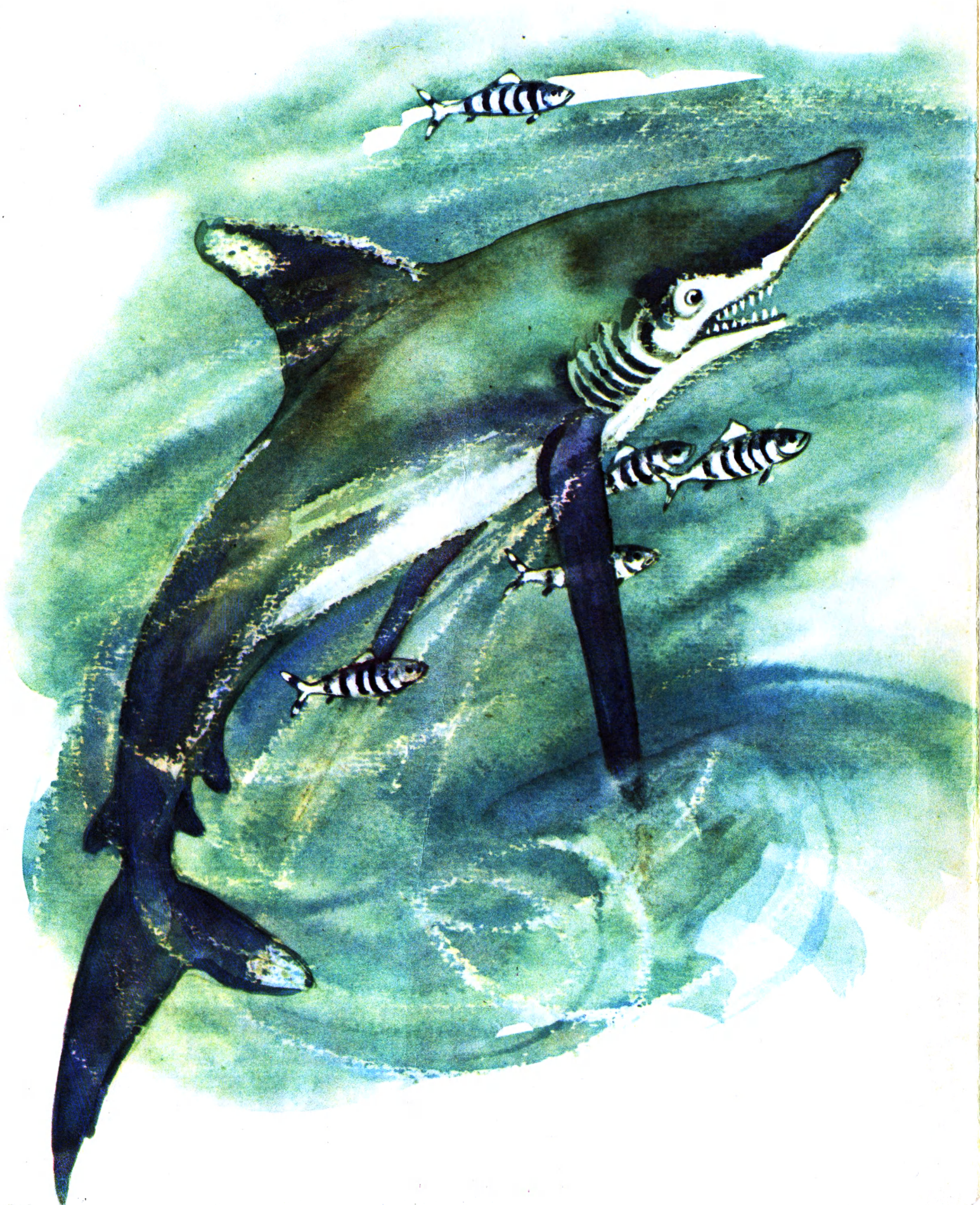


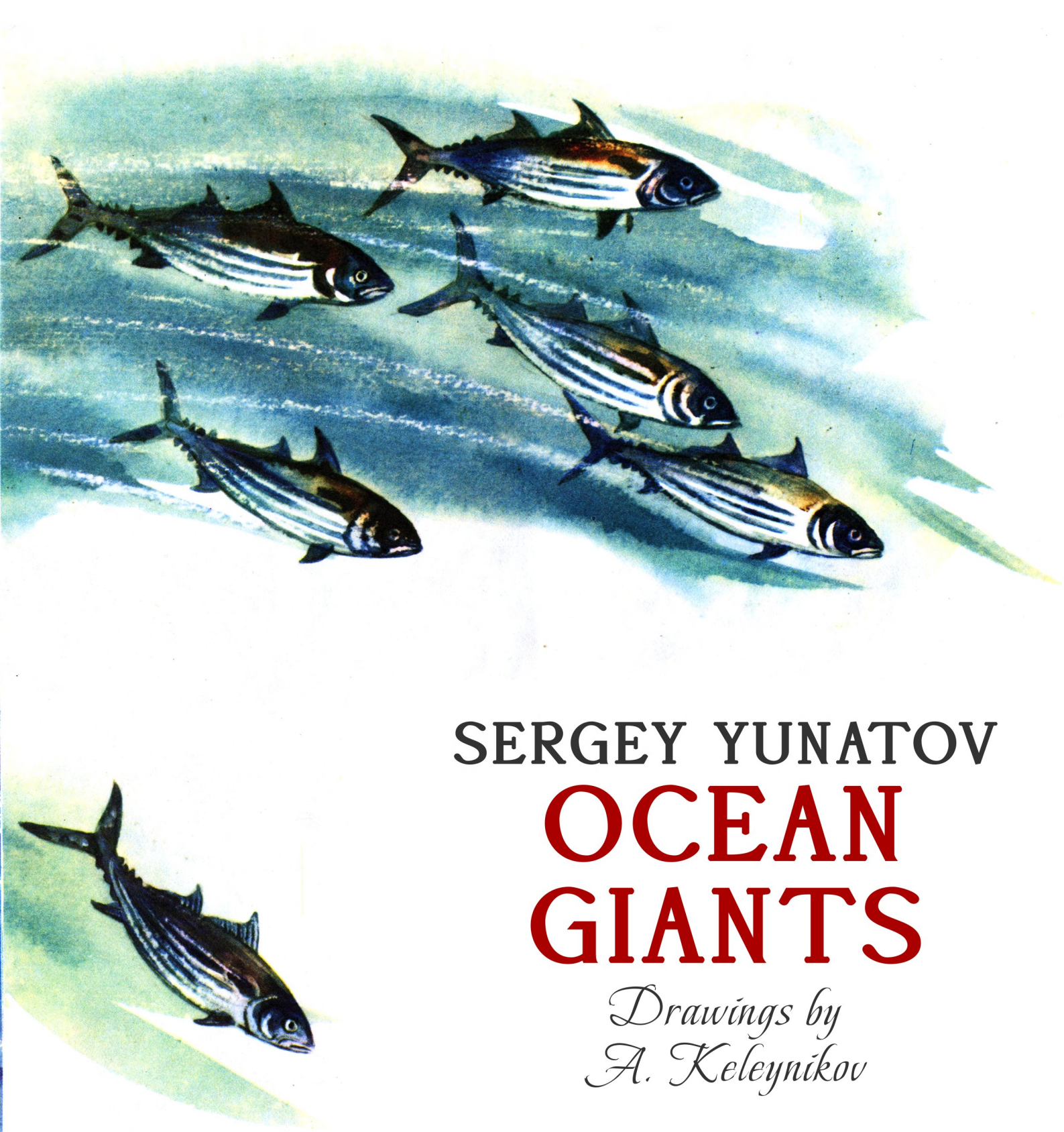


SERGEY
YUNATOV

OCEAN GIANTS

MALYSH PUBLISHERS MOSCOW





SERGEY YUNATOV
**OCEAN
GIANTS**

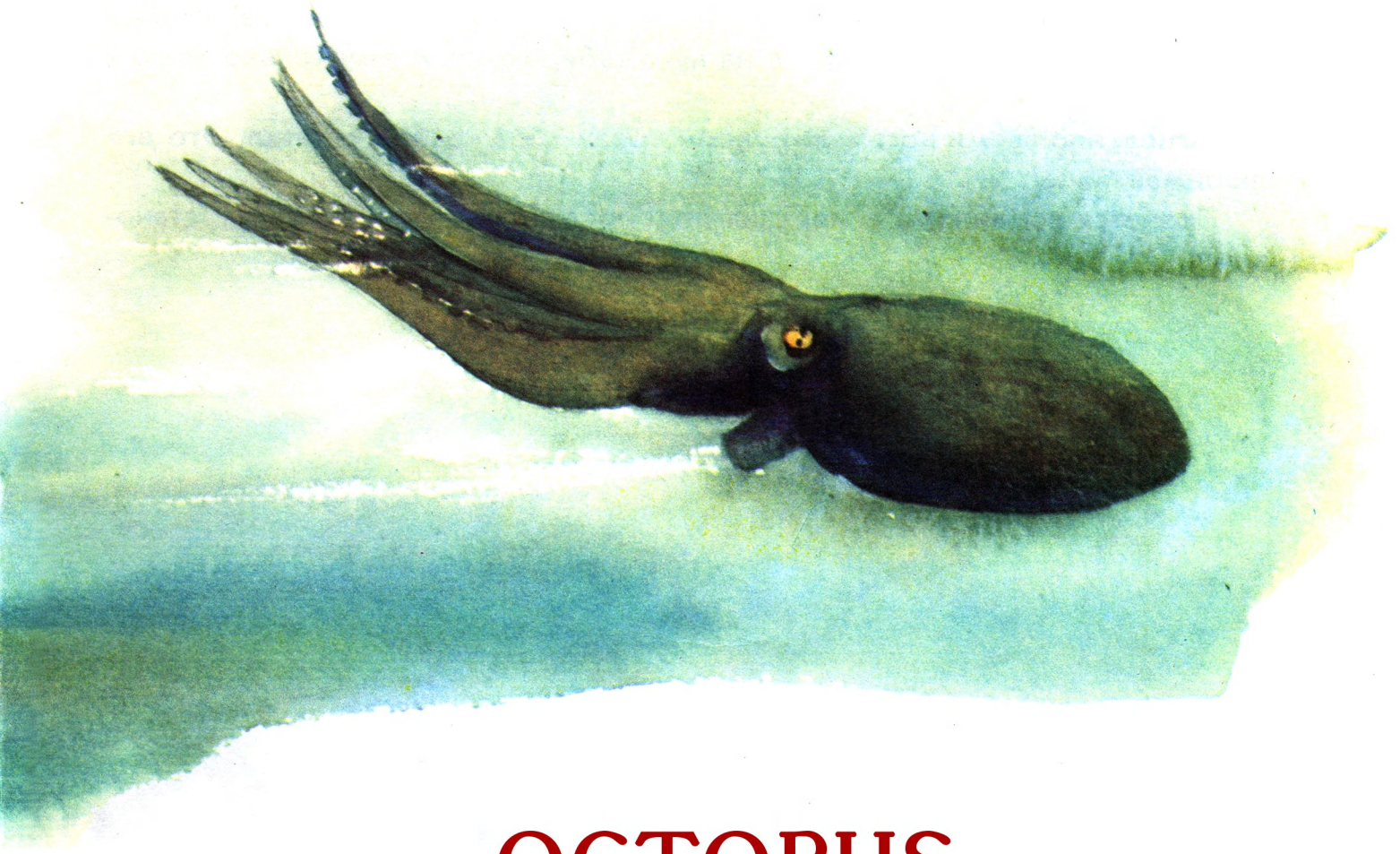
*Drawings by
A. Keleynikov*

MALYSH PUBLISHERS
MOSCOW

The water in the ocean is salty. Everyone knows that. Besides, it is very dense. It is easier to swim in such water than in fresh water. That is why huge animals can live in the ocean. They don't have to spend a lot of energy to move around in the water. There are no such giants on earth.

This book is about some of these animals.





OCTOPUS

Our simplest pond snails have relatives in the seas and oceans. And among them are huge octopus cephalopods,

Of course, it would be more correct to call them thugs. After all, it's not their legs that grow out of their heads at all, but their arms. With these hands octopuses use their tentacles to catch crustaceans, small fish and others marine animals. When they swim, they put all their hands together and get a steering wheel.

With tentacled hands, a large octopus can "hug" ten to twelve people at once.

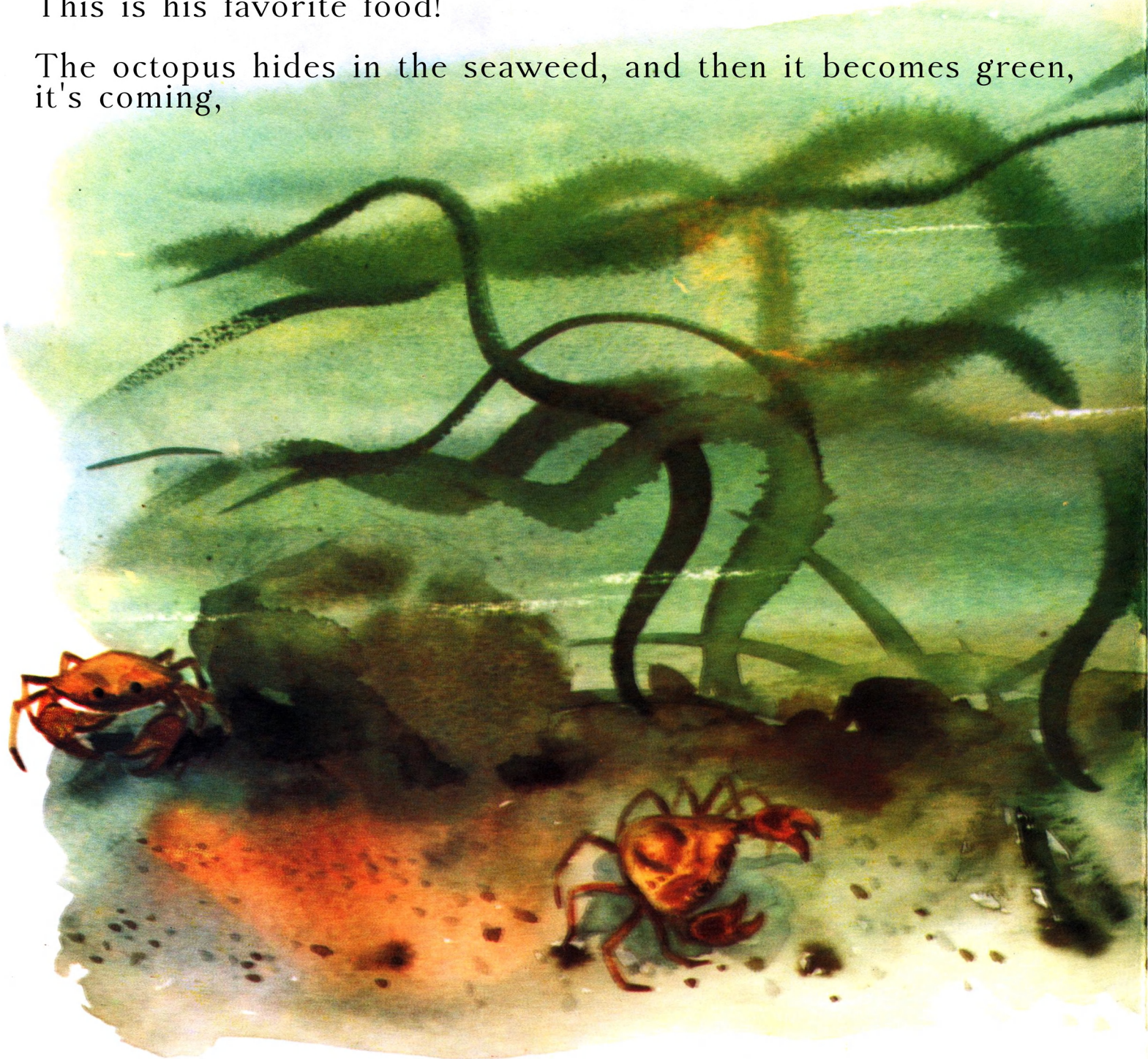
That's how huge it is!

Octopuses are painted imperceptibly, dimly. In a grayish-greenish, sometimes yellow color.

So the octopus swam to hunt. He sprawled on the sand and turned yellow, like sand. The crabs have come out of their shelters, they don't see the octopus at all they come close to it and even climb on it. And that's all he needs.

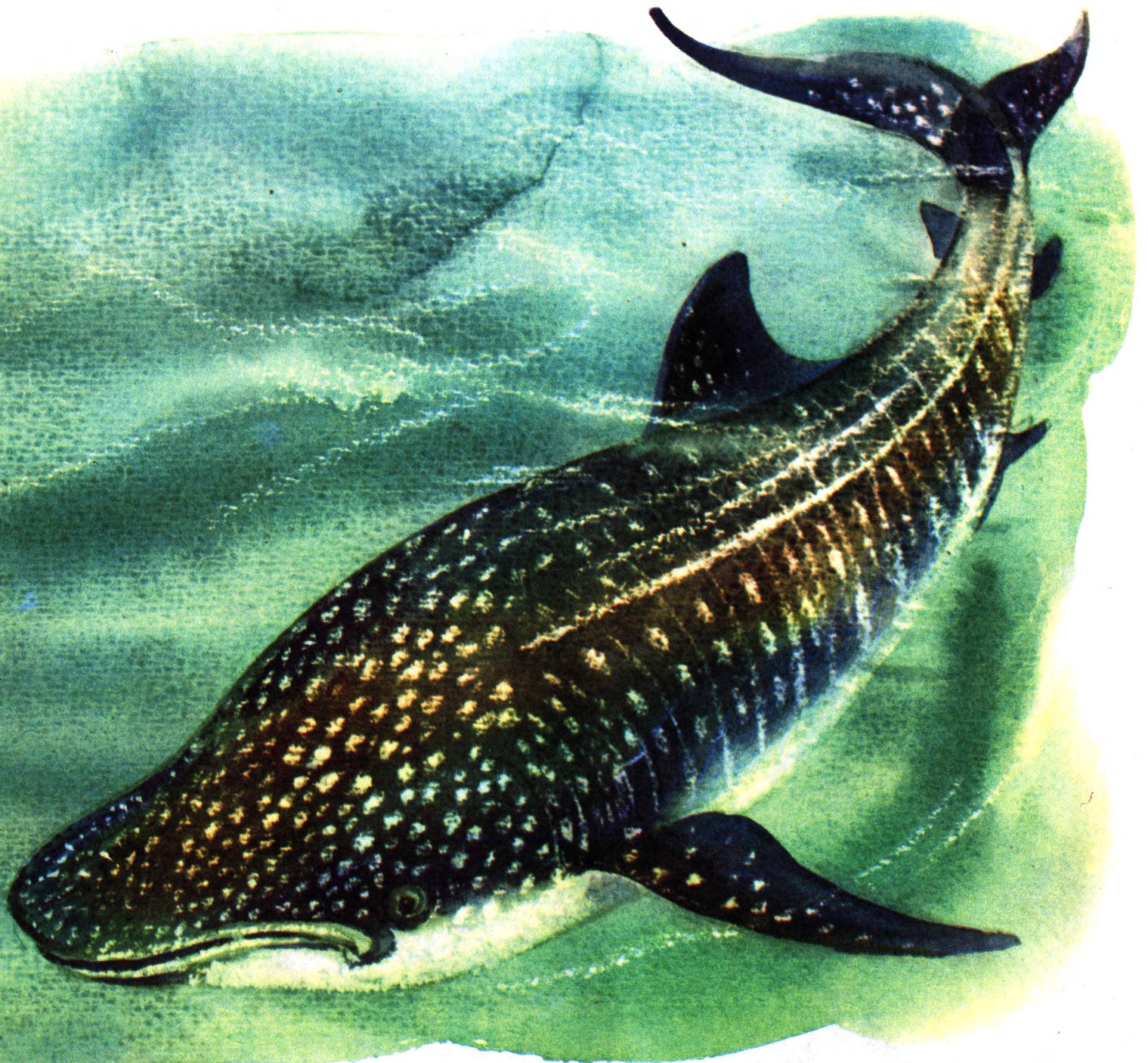
Instantly, he grabbed three crabs with all eight hands at once. This is his favorite food!

The octopus hides in the seaweed, and then it becomes green, it's coming,









GIANT SHARKS

Sharks are different. There are dwarf sharks, a little bit longer than a pencil. And their weight is also very small, only about two hundred grams.

And there are giant sharks - up to twenty meters long and weighing up to twenty Tons!

There are only two types of them: one is a whale shark, and the other is called a giant shark!

Giant sharks, despite their size, are peaceful and calm. Unlike other sharks, they are not predators and never attack large animals — fish, octopuses, seals and dolphins.

And, of course, they never attack people.

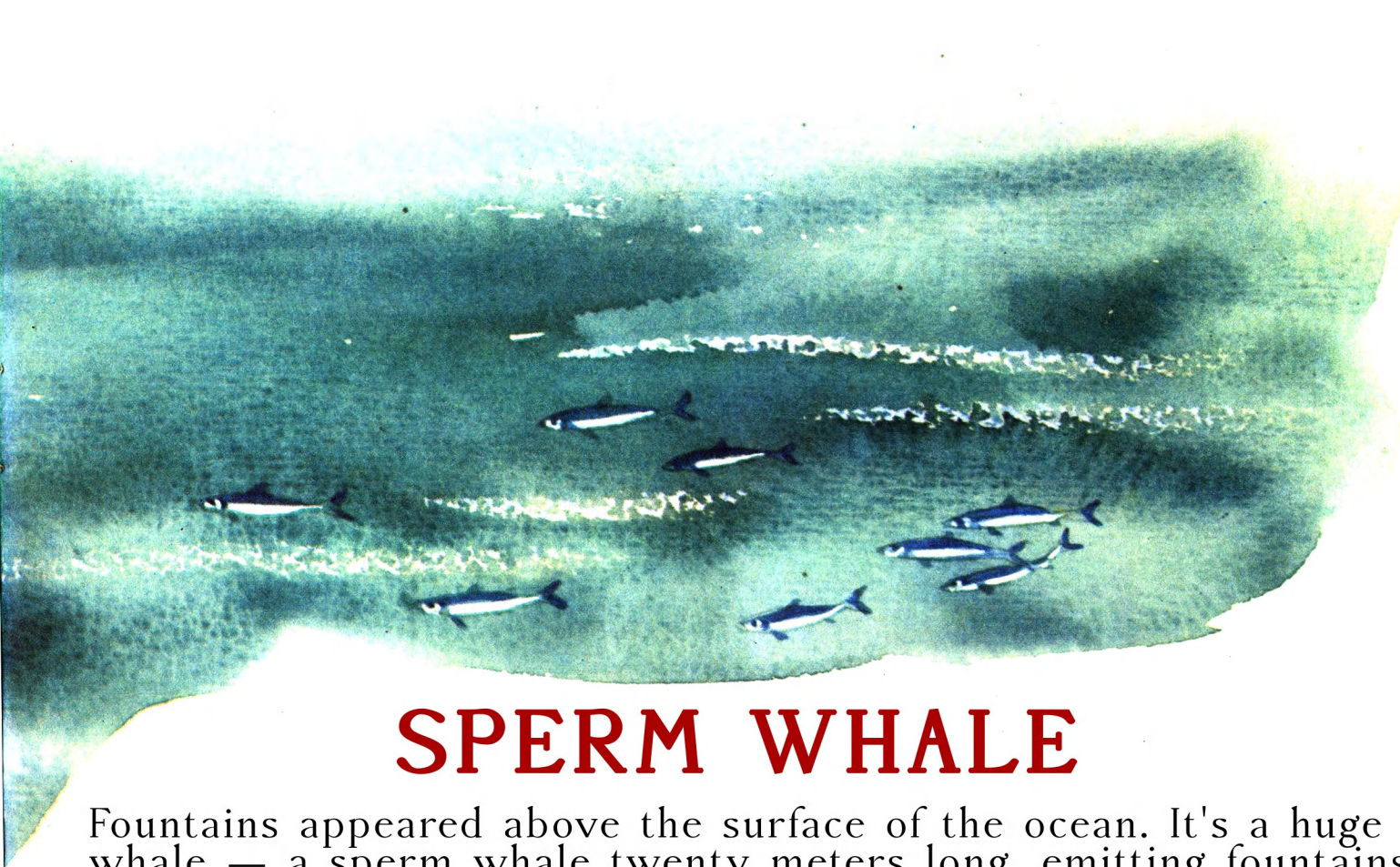
These sharks have a huge mouth, from ear to ear, or rather, from eye to eye. Four to five adult humans can fit in the mouth of a giant shark. But the teeth are very small, not at all like those of other sharks.

Both giant sharks feed on the tiniest marine animals — crustaceans, mollusks, and fish fry.









SPERM WHALE

Fountains appeared above the surface of the ocean. It's a huge whale — a sperm whale twenty meters long, emitting fountains from its single blowhole. This is how it breathes — forcefully exhaling air while at the water's surface, forming a low fountain. Then it takes a deep, deep breath, takes in a new portion of air, and dives back underwater, for an hour or even one and a half!

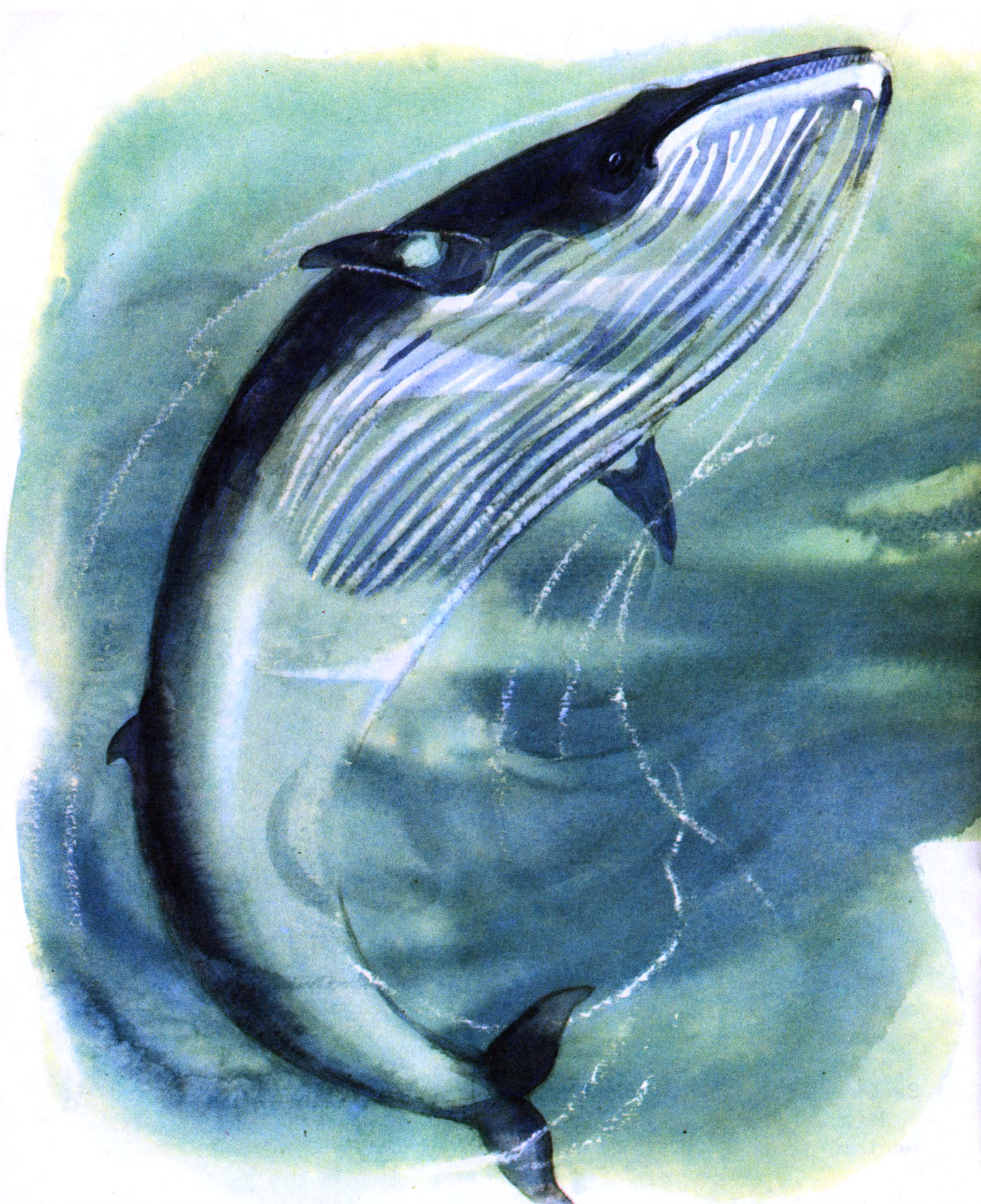
The sperm whale dives to a tremendous depth — more than a thousand meters. It hunts there for squid and deep-sea fish.

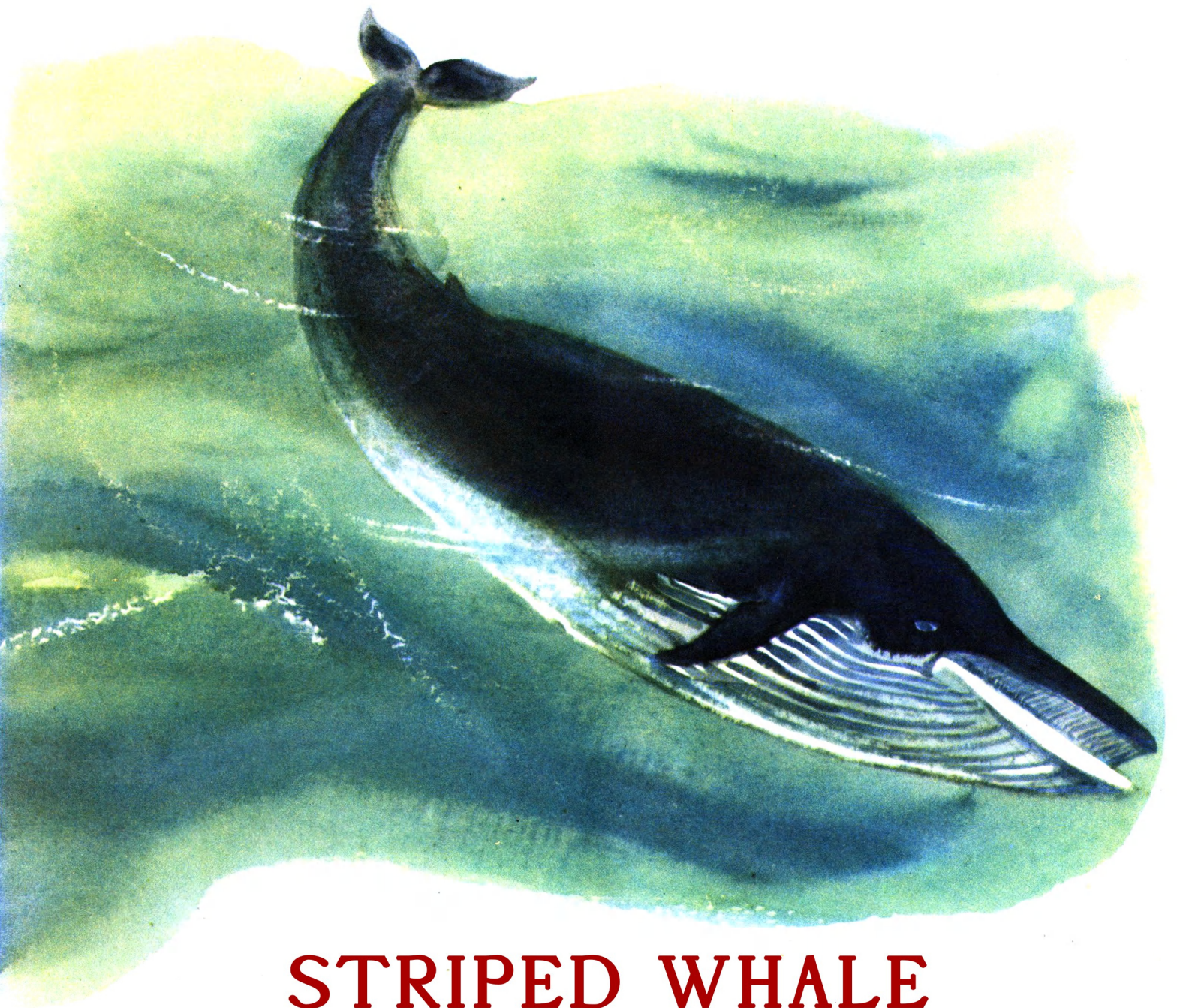
Sometimes it swims for a long time, and it starts to run out of air. Then the sperm whale, of course, hurries to the surface. It emerges and breathes... It doesn't have gills like fish. After all, whales are not fish, but mammals. When a mother whale gives birth to a baby, she feeds it milk, just like cats, dogs, cows, horses, lions, elephants, monkeys, and all other animals do.

A baby sperm whale drinks two hundred liters of milk a day! That's almost twenty buckets! That's why it grows very fast. It gains thirty or even fifty kilograms a day!

An adult sperm whale eats two to three tons of squid or fish a day. But it weighs about a hundred tons!

Of all the toothed whales, the sperm whale is the biggest of them all. A true giant!





STRIPED WHALE

In the ocean, there are huge baleen whales. They don't have teeth at all; instead, they have "whiskers" growing from their upper jaw! That's why they're called baleen whales.

These "whiskers" are quite different from those of other animals, like cats or dogs.

In whales, the "whiskers" are wide triangular plates with long, thin bristles. The bristles are tightly interwoven, forming a dense sieve.

When a whale swims underwater, it opens its huge mouth, water passes through the "sieve," and all the tiny crustaceans remain on the bristles of the mustache, which it then swallows.

That's how it feeds.

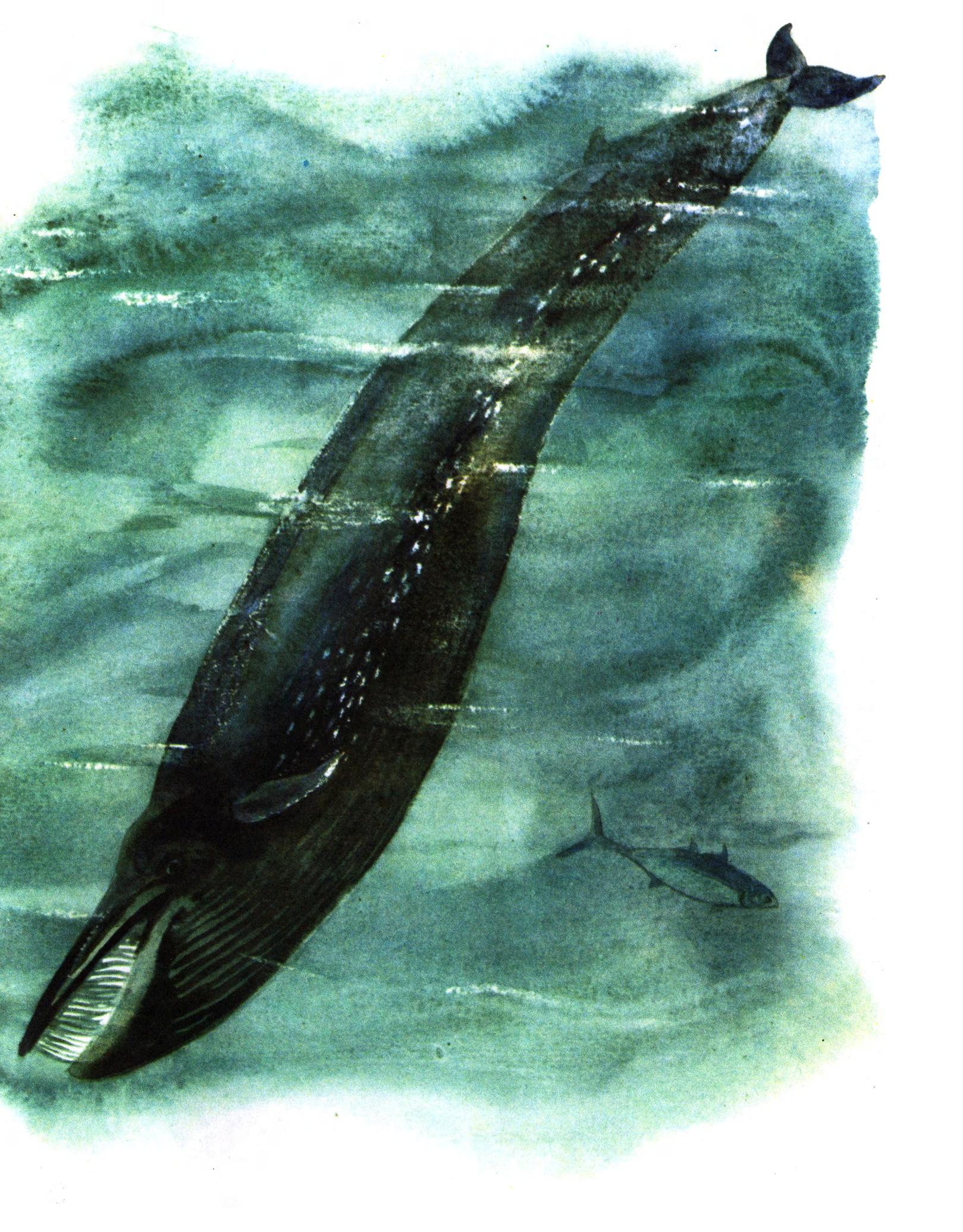
Some baleen whales are also called striped whales. Here's the thing. They have thick folds of skin gathered into pleats on their throat and belly. Water flows down these folds, like channels, when the whale swims forward quickly.

There are five different species of striped whales living in the ocean.

The largest of them is the blue striped whale.

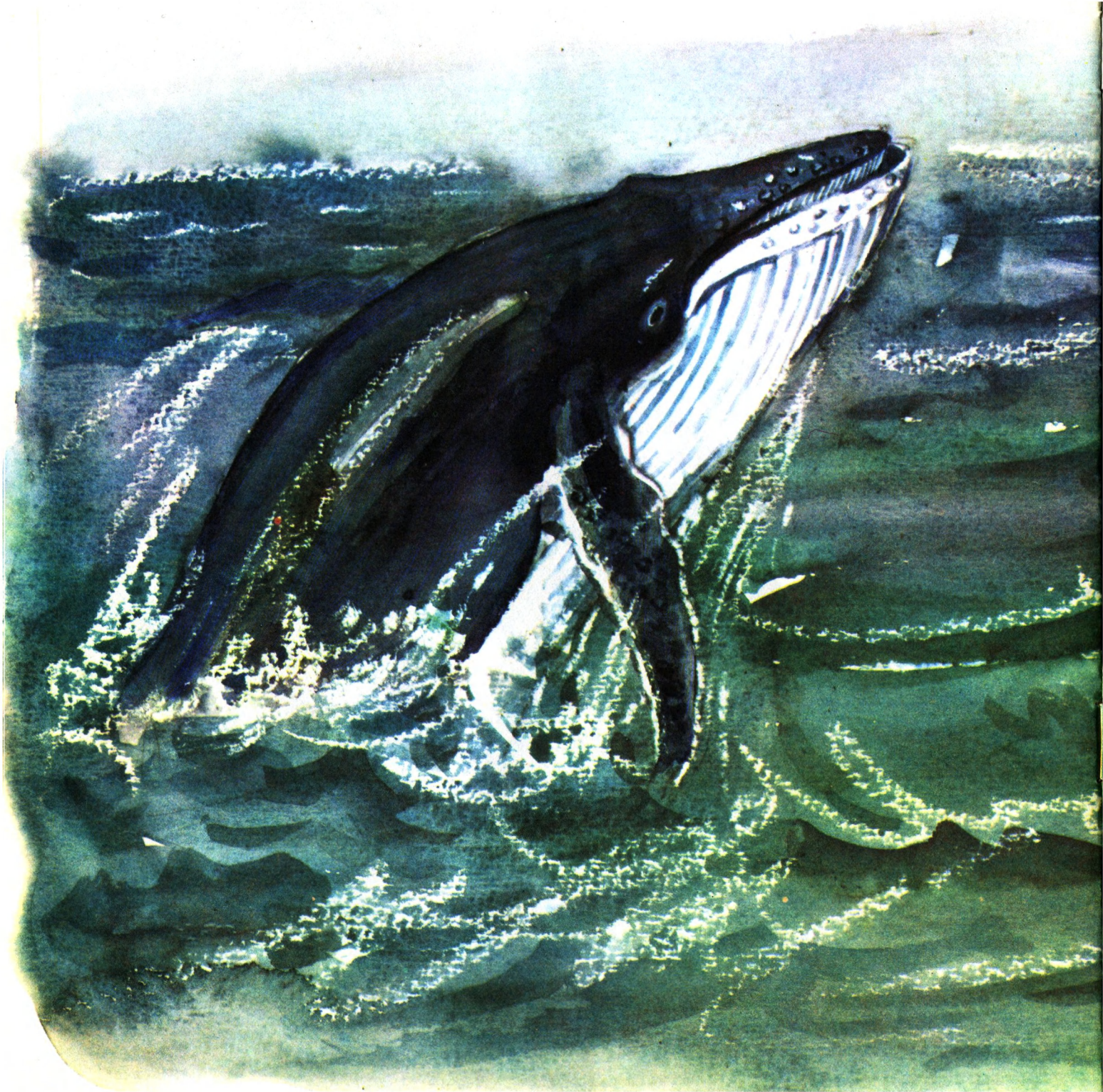
One of the largest blue whales ever caught, measured, and...





weighed, it weighed one hundred and sixty tons, and its length was thirty-three meters. This means that if this whale were placed on the ground on its tail, it would be taller than the roof of a ten-story building.

That's what an enormous striped baleen whale it is!







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