

# Swims With Wolves



Witek's job is to clean the teeth of one particular species of fish called the "wolf fish."

Does the name Witek "Swims With Wolves" Mojsiewicz mean anything to you? Can you even pronounce it? How about the Macduff Marine Aquarium? Martha Stewart? Martha has nothing to do with the content of this article, we just wanted to determine how knowledgeable you are about current events. Obviously, if Witek Mojsiewicz and the Macduff Marine Aquarium don't fall within your purview, your wasting time with *Survivor* and *Fear Factor* isn't doing much to broaden your dental horizons.

Update: Witek Mojsiewicz is curator of the Macduff Marine Aquarium, a first-class aquatic operation about 50 miles north of Aberdeen, Scotland. He's a member of the British Marine Life Study Society and as such has been very much in the news lately, specifically in the Ripley's Believe It or

Not! series. Witek has the look of an accountant working out of the Edinburgh branch of H&R Block, but once he pops in a phone booth and dons his 200 pounds of scuba-diving gear, he makes the late Jacques Cousteau look like a member of the YMCA's Tadpole Group.

Witek's self-assigned job at Macduff's is to jump in this huge pool at the aquarium swarming with assorted denizens of the deep and — get this — clean the teeth of one particular species of fish called the "wolf fish." We suppose it is safe to assume you've never heard of a wolf fish up 'til now, and it's just as well. This is one rough-looking customer, the largest fish in the suborder of blennies. Blennies don't get a lot of press in spite of the fact that they date back as far as 50 million years. Wolf fish add a new dimension to the

Continued on Page 641

Continued from Page 642

word “ugly,” having a gross fat head with a large mouth filled with teeth you wouldn’t believe. Barracudas and piranhas turn green with envy when they see a wolf fish. It looks like that thing that lusted after Sigourney Weaver in the Alien, only not as attractive.

So here’s Witek, all suited up with his tanks and fins right in there with dozens of these maloccluded monsters all undulating around looking for something the size of a cow to reduce to bones. They look meaner than a junkyard dog and twice as hungry. Mojsiewicz, making up in dumb-fool courage what he lacks in common sense, swims right up to one of these odontic horrors. Armed with nothing more than a child’s soft-bristled toothbrush, *he begins to brush its fangs*. Yes! And if fish could purr, that’s what you’d hear emanating from this finned patient. The other members of the wolf pack are jockeying around jostling one another for a chance to get a free prophylaxis from their benefactor. Go figure!

Witek claims he undertook this mission because nobody was crazy enough to volunteer, but mostly because he

knew enough about wolf fish to realize their dentition needed some professional looking after or else they would lose these weapons of mass destruction, spending the balance of their lives in edentulous embarrassment.

We wish Mr. Mojsiewicz well and advise him, besides counting his fingers

The other members of the wolf pack jockey around for a chance to get a free prophylaxis.

each night, to be wary of accepting offers from abroad to reprise his fish schtick routine on the *Ripley* show. The California Board of Veterinary Medicine, for example, takes a dim view of unlicensed personnel performing routine prophylaxis on animals. You will recall the famous “Undercover Cat Sting” of 1988 when animal groomer Cindy Collins suf-

fered arrest and detention for performing a prophylaxis on an undercover kitty sent in by the Department of Consumer Affairs to discourage this sort of thing by nonveterinarians. Although the cat performed its entrapment role with typical feline duplicity and never said a word, the charges against Ms. Collins were eventually dropped. The official message, however, was clear — no tick-ee, no washee.

You might remember if you are ever tempted to do a little preventive

maintenance on any individual who is not certifiably human, that a dentist is not allowed to perform such without the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. So say the provisions of the Dental Act and so says a chastened Ms. Collins. Just who is going to explain this to the wolf fish is not clear. It could turn nasty. **CDA**