

Order LAMPRIFORMES

Oarfishes

Family **REGALECIDAE**

Gill 1884



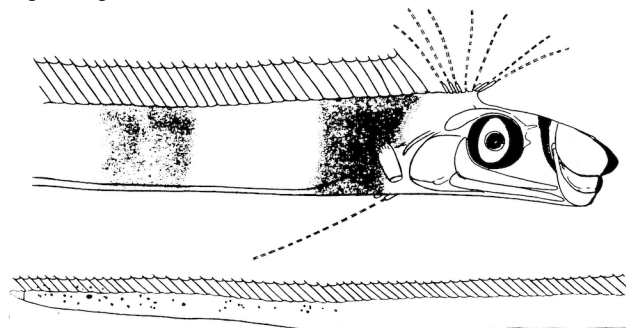
*Regalecus glesne*. From: Ascanius, P. 1772. Icones rerum naturalium, ou figures enluminées d'histoire naturelle du Nord. Copenhagen. Pt. 2. 8 pp. Pls. 11–20.

***Agrostichthys***

Phillipps 1924

etymology not explained, perhaps *ágrōstis* (Gr. ἀγρωστis), a forage grass, referring to its body shape, “one of the most strikingly attenuate fishes yet known from the ocean depths”; *ichthys* (Gr. ἰχθύς), fish

***Agrostichthys parkeri* (Benham 1904)** in memory of Benham’s predecessor, zoologist Thomas Jeffery Parker (1850–1897), University of Otago (New Zealand), who made a “careful study” of the anatomy of *Regalecus glesne* in 1886



*Agrostichthys parkeri*. From: Benham, W. B. 1904. An apparently new species of *Regalecus* (*R. parkeri*). Transactions of the New Zealand Institute 36: 198–200, Pl. 9.

***Regalecus***

Ascanius 1772

*regalis* (L.), of a king or kingly; *-alecus*, from *halecum*, genitive plural of *halec* (L.), herring or herring-like fish, i.e., “King of the Herrings”; according to folklore, North Sea fishermen associated the appearance of *Regalecus* with the arrival of great schools of herrings, and they sometimes regarded *Regalecus* itself as a giant herring

***Regalecus glesne* Ascanius 1772** Latinization of Glesnaes, a farm at Glesvær, Norway, type locality

***Regalecus russelii* (Cuvier 1816)** in honor of surgeon-herpetologist Patrick Russell (1726–1805), whose 1803 account of an oarfish from India served as the basis for Shaw’s non-Linnaean name (“*Russelian Gymnetrus*”) in 1803, later given as a binomial by Cuvier (who, unfortunately, continued Shaw’s mistake of misspelling Russell’s name by omitting an “l”)