

Glow-in-the-dark fish art project

Background information:

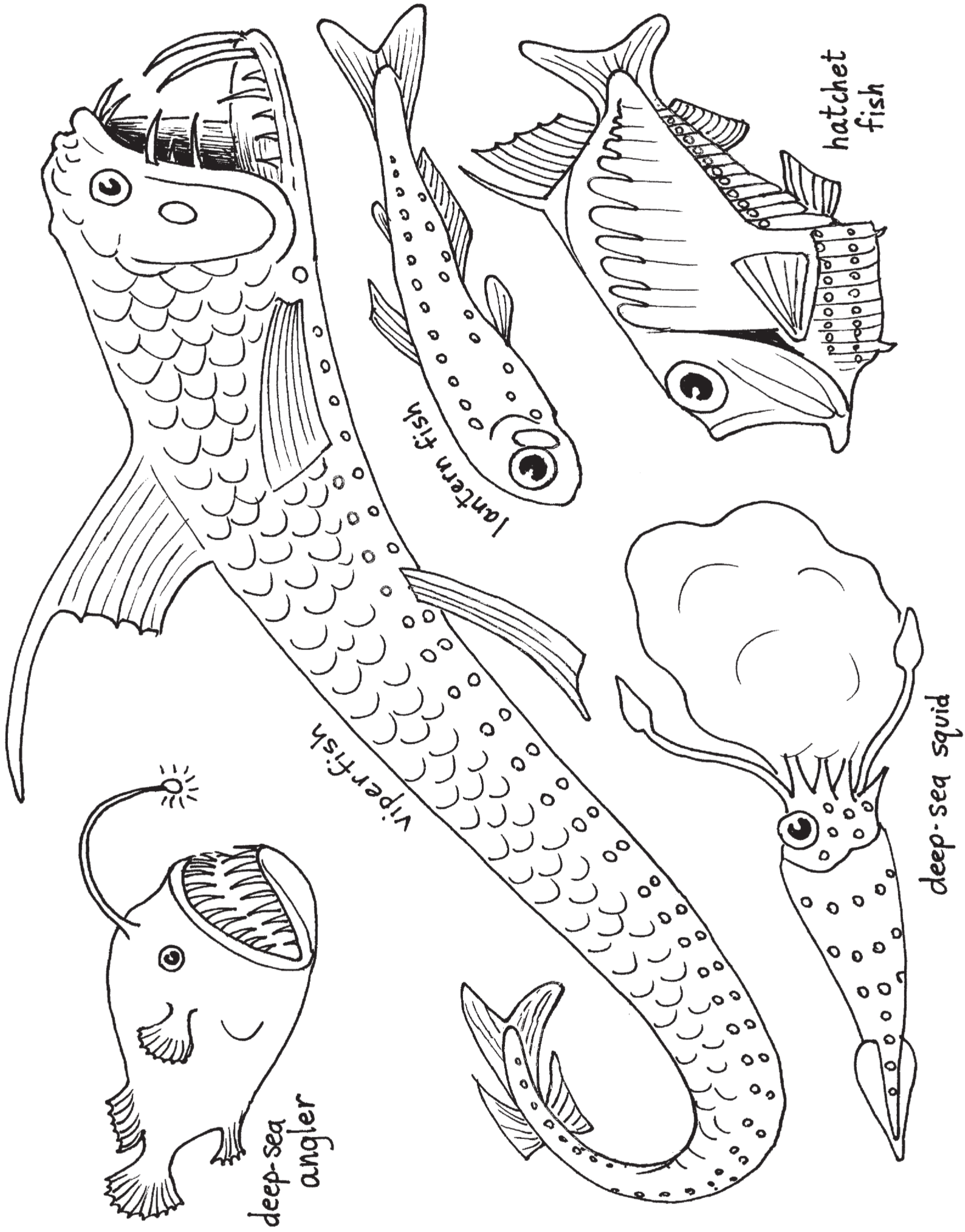
Ocean creatures that live in the deep ocean where there is no light often carry a light source of their own. Sometimes they have special cells that can make light the way fireflies do. Just as often, the light comes from bacteria that live in and on the sea creatures. For example, the flashlight fish has light spots beneath its eyes. These spots are home to millions of luminescent bacteria. The bacteria get nourishment from the fish and the fish gets to have light. Light is important for catching food. The angler fish uses a light on the end of a thing that looks like a fishing rod coming out over his head. Very small fish and crustaceans will be lured in by the light, close enough to be captured and eaten. Also, light can aid in confusing larger predators. The blinking lights of a school of fish and can leave a predator not knowing who or what to go after. Check out some sites on the web to learn more.

You will need:

- Copies of the pattern page printed onto black paper. Yes, you will still be able to see the printed pattern on the black paper, even though it is black on black. [NOTE: Black card stock has just become available at places like WalMart. Another solution is to use black construction paper and trim it down so that it is 8 1/2 x 11. Construction paper usually comes in 9 x 12 sheets, so it will need to be trimmed to fit some copiers and printers.]
- Colored pencils or crayons (I highly recommend Berol Prismacolor pencils. They are a bit pricey but worth every penny. They are soft enough that when you press, you get rich, brilliant color.)
- A small jar of glow-in-the-dark paint. You find it at any craft shop (or craft section of places like WalMart) in the acrylic craft paint department. Sometimes you will be offered "glow-in-the-dark medium". This is almost better, because it is more concentrated.)
- Very small paint brush

Directions:

- 1) Do all your coloring before you apply any paint.
- 2) Use the painting guide to help you know where to put the glow-in-the-dark paint.
- 3) After your painting dries, hold it to a light to charge it up, then look at it in the dark. This is what you would see if you were in the deep ocean!



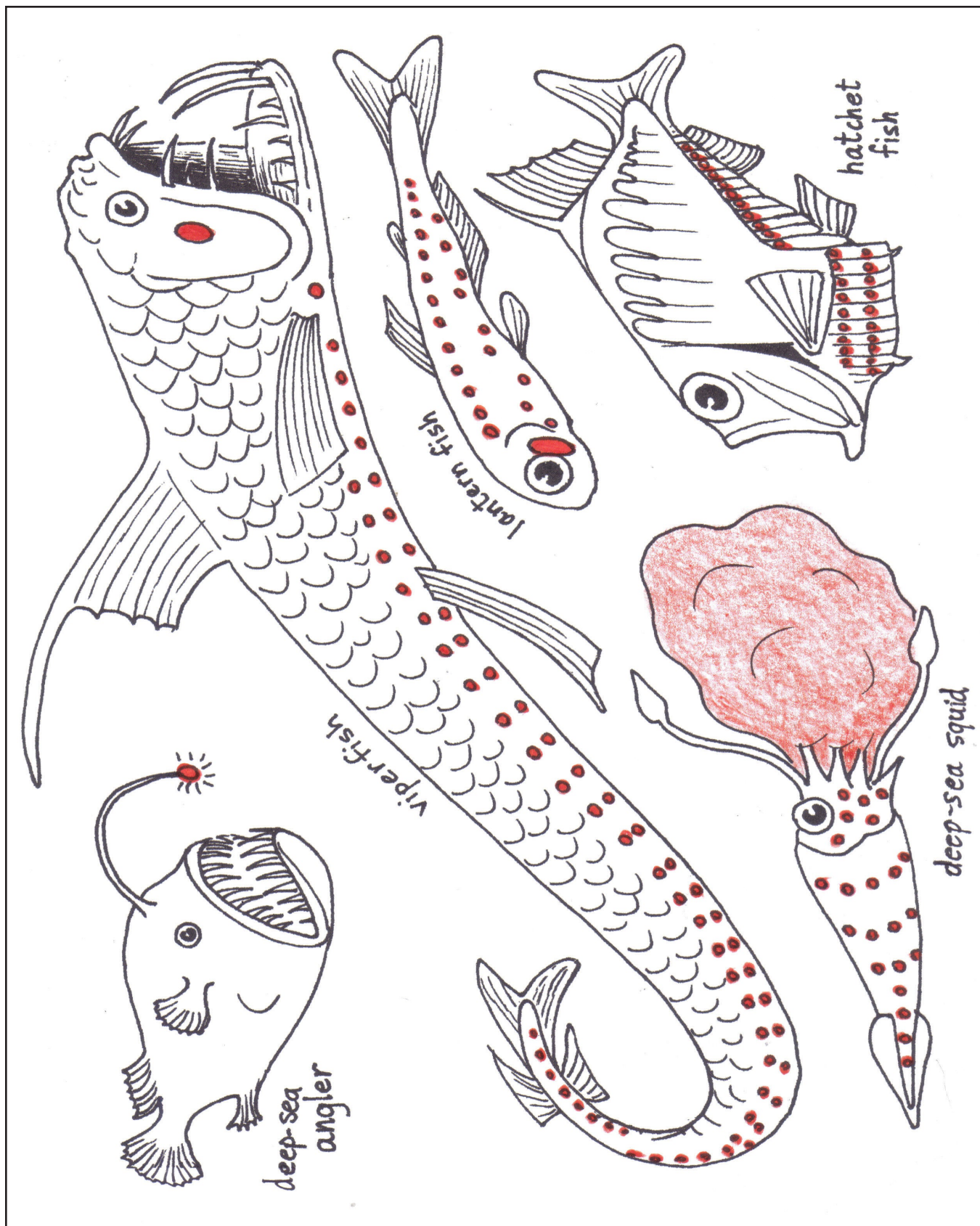
hatchet
fish

lantern fish

viperfish

deep-sea
angler

deep-sea squid



Glow-in-the-dark painting guide.

The areas shown in red are where you put the glow-in-the-dark paint.