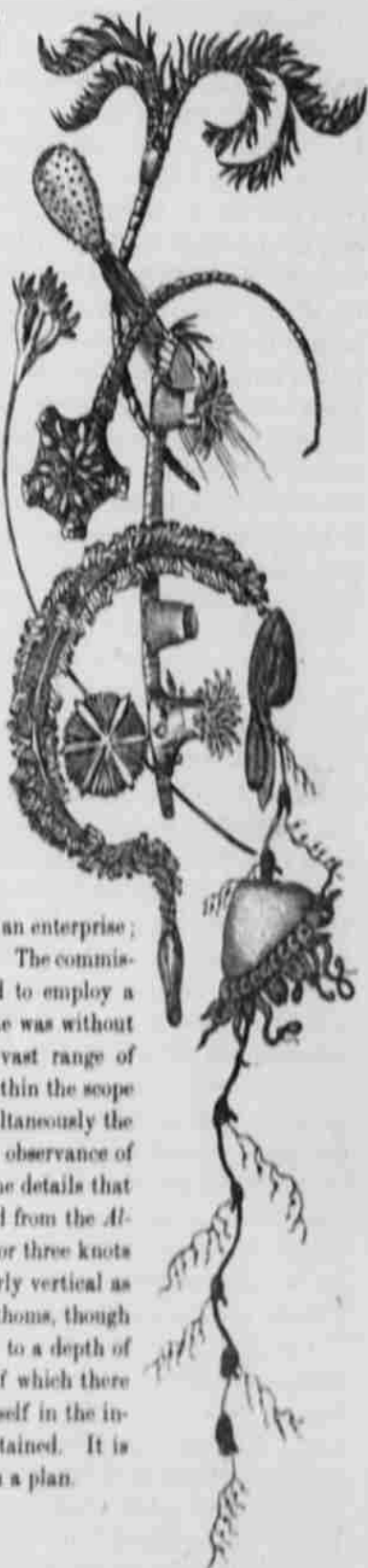




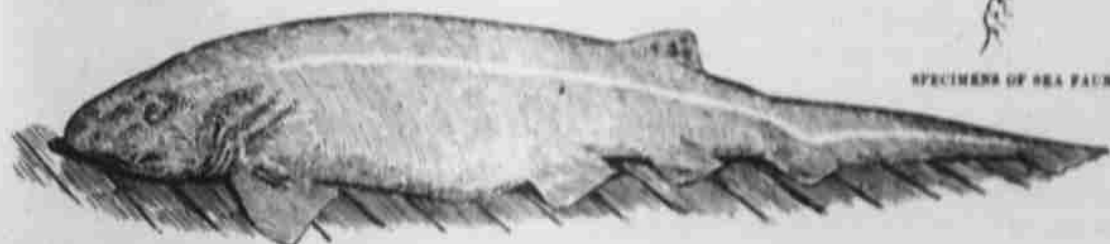
LANDING A SHARK.

also ascertained that such study could be carried on without in any manner interfering with the original design of the expedition. For a number of years it was the custom of the fish commissioner to invite one or more naturalists from some of the foremost educational institutions of the country to accompany the government vessel on a cruise during the college vacation. Generally these invitations were accepted, and considerable was added to the world's knowledge of marine life by the reports of some of these naturalists. Both the elder and the younger Agassiz improved the opportunities thus afforded to study the animal life and the physiology of the sea, and their reports are a part of the standard literature on the subject. But it was found to be a difficult matter to get naturalists to remain permanently with such an enterprise; they wearied of steady sea life. The commissioner was not then authorized to employ a naturalist, so all the work done was without direct compensation. Now a vast range of scientific examination comes within the scope of the ship's operations. Simultaneously the

survey of fishing banks, the capturing of specimens of marine life, the observance of currents and temperatures and specific gravities, and a thousand and one details that are of vital importance to scientific accuracy, are conducted on board and from the *Albatross*. When dredging, the vessel steams along at a speed of about two or three knots an hour; when sounding, the only movement is to keep the line as nearly vertical as possible. Most of her work is confined to depths not exceeding 200 fathoms, though all depths are reached in searching for new banks. This ship sounded to a depth of 3,500 fathoms off the Alaska coast last summer. The deepest sounding of which there is any record is 4,600 fathoms. The *Albatross* is making a record for herself in the investigation of deep sea life and the conditions in which that life is sustained. It is following no precedent for no other expedition has operated on so thorough a plan.



SPECIMENS OF SEA FAUNA.

A HARK SHARK (*HEXANCHUS COREINUS*.)