



Photo at left by Paul Cziko and above by Kevin Hoefling / Special to *The Antarctic Sun*
Left, diver Kevin Hoefling holds the fish that he and Paul Cziko found last month. The men didn't recognize the fish underwater and brought it to the lab to check it more carefully. It still doesn't match any of the fish described in the literature, and may be a new species. Above, the unclassified fish swims in the Crary Lab aquarium.

Mystery fish discovered near McMurdo

By Emily Stone
Sun staff

Paul Cziko and Kevin Hoefling were diving in about 15m of water, at the intake jetty at McMurdo Station last month when they spotted an unusual fish perched on a rock.

The 34cm-long, silver fish didn't look like anything the divers had seen before. So Cziko, a research assistant with Art DeVries' fish biology group, decided to bring the fish to the lab.

"I didn't really know what it was," he said. "I couldn't identify it underwater."

That fish might end up being a new species. It doesn't look like anything Cziko, DeVries or the other fish researchers have seen. They took measurements of the fish and counted the pores on its head and the bones in its fins, and it doesn't match anything in the fish literature.

The group will send the information to fish taxonomists to see if they can identify it. Cziko said he'll likely run some genetic tests on the fish to see what it's related to. If he ends up being convinced that it's a new species, he said he will write up a for-

mal description of the fish to submit to a peer-reviewed journal.

DeVries said it's unusual, but not unheard of, to discover new species of Antarctic fish. He identified one five years ago during a cruise on the *Nathaniel B. Palmer*. Still, after so many years studying the fish here, he is always surprised to see something new.

"In 30 years of fishing, you'd think that we would have found it all," he said.

NSF-funded research in this story. Art DeVries, University of Illinois.

Continental Drift

What is your on-Ice Hobby?



"Spending time with my husband ... when he's here."

Dee Werner
McMurdo admin for II/operations from Greybull, Wyo., sixth season



"Reading."

Doug Schwieder
South Pole heavy mechanic from Idaho Falls, Idaho, third season



"Waiting for the sea ice around Palmer to leave."

Nicole Middaugh,
Palmer Station research assistant from Anchorage, Alaska, first season