

Some of the most popular freshwater predators that people are familiar with are muskies, crocodiles, alligators, and bull sharks. However, there is one particular predator that we are sure you'd like to talk about. The *Niloticus niloticus*, also known as the goliath tigerfish. These massive monsters are one of a kind African freshwater fish that come from the family of *Alboreas*.

Goliath Tigerfishes live in the Congo River Basin and Lake Tanganyika. The goliath tigerfish can only be found in Africa. It has a comparatively very but varied distribution throughout the Congo River Basin's lakes and rivers. Lake Uvumbwe, Lake Tanganyika, as well as the Luvuvu River, have some of the largest populations. Goliath tigerfish can only be found in freshwater and can be pretty short on the land.

The goliath tigerfish hunt alone, which is why they are different from piranhas, which hunt in packs. Goliath tigerfish eat anything that can fit in their mouth, ranging from guppies to catfishes. Goliath tigerfishes are piscivores, meaning that they will also eat smaller members of the same species. When hunting, this fish ambushes its prey by using its keen eyes to recognize prey in murky waters. When another fish is spotted, it will start by waiting to rip it into pieces. In fact, the only animal that can match the goliath fish's strength is the Nile crocodile.

The most unique part of the goliath tigerfish is its teeth. Its teeth are positioned in separate spaces along its mouth. According to biologist and its professor Jeremy Smith, "each of its teeth can grow up to an inch in length." Even just a normal goliath tigerfish can grow as long as 15 meters and weigh as heavy as 100 pounds. That's bigger and heavier than an average 6th grader starting his first year in middle school! However, it's been