

3 EURO COINS

SWELL SHARK



Series	Luminous Marine Life
Face value	€ 3
Date of Issue	15 February 2023
Design	Kathrin Kuntner
Diameter	34 mm
Quality	Uncirculated
Mintage	65,000
Alloy	Coloured metal
Total Weight	16.00 g
Edge	Plain

UV Torch for special colour effect

Recommended initial issue price: € 14.40 (incl. 20% VAT)

The swell shark gets its name from its ability to inflate itself to roughly double its normal size by swallowing water as a form of protection from predators. But that's not its only amazing property – the hero of the second coin in the *Luminous Marine Life* series can also fluoresce green all over.

To do so, the swell shark converts incoming ultraviolet light, or blue light, into green light. A special pigment in the sharks' eyes enables it to see the neon green of its conspecifics. Human eyes do not have that pigment, which is why we need an ultraviolet torch to see the swell shark's green glow. The molecules that make swell sharks fluoresce are unique in the animal world. The light areas of their skin glow more intensely than the dark ones. Why the shark does that is not yet fully understood, but it is assumed that the process helps swell sharks to recognise each other and to distinguish between the males and females of the species. It could also be a form of camouflage and because the molecules offer protection against bacteria and algae and just happen to glow.

Although the swell shark is not targeted for fishing, humans are its main predator as the sharks still end up as bycatch in lobster and crab traps as well as in bottom trawls. This is a problem because swell sharks reproduce slowly and have few young. Global warming and overfishing are further challenges, as the swell shark prefers temperate water temperatures and industrial fishing reduces the shark's feeding opportunities. The swell shark is just one of 12 fascinating examples in the *Luminous Marine Life* series of why we absolutely have to protect the marine habitat – not least from ourselves.

COIN MOTIF

All 12 of the magical sea creatures in the *Luminous Marine Life* series are shown in silhouette on the coin's obverse. Air bubbles up between them and a tail fin disappears beneath the waves to the right. A wide band, reminiscent of an old-fashioned porthole frames the aquatic scene on the coin's reverse. A swell shark appears to swim through the porthole, its body brown in colour when illuminated with ultraviolet light glows green. As on all coins in the series, to the left and below a shell and a starfish can be seen.

UV TORCH
FOR SPECIAL
COLOUR
EFFECT





Price: € 22.00 (incl. 10% VAT)

Collector, coins not included.

LUMINOUS MARINE LIFE COLLECTOR ALBUM

Co-developed with marine researchers, this Collector album not only stores all 12 coins in the Luminous Marine Life series but is also crammed with fascinating information about the 12 sea creatures that feature on them.

The album explains in detail how they live in and illuminate their aquatic environment and how vital that environment is for our planet as a whole, the threats it faces from humans and shows what can be done about it. It does so in a style that is understandable for youngsters yet entertaining for adults, making it a source of fun for coin collectors of all ages. You will learn, for example, about the ingenious deep-sea angler fish, which uses its very own illuminated fishing rod to lure its unsuspecting prey when hunting.

The album concludes with a quiz where you can have fun testing your newly acquired knowledge of marine biology.



Price: € 7.80 (incl. 20% VAT)

UV LIGHT EFFECT

The series' dedicated UV torch gives off a special type of light that appears to bring the underwater creatures on the coins to life as they change colour and glow vividly. Tiny creatures, which only become visible when you shine the UV torch on them, also appear here and there next to the main characters in the series, adding an element of surprise.

SERIES OVERVIEW



Blue-ringed octopus



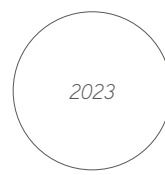
Swell shark



Antarctic krill



Deep-sea anglerfish



Stony coral



Mauve stinger

2022

2023



Blue doctorfish



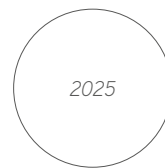
Hawaiian bobtail squid



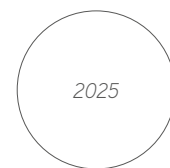
Yellow stingray



Firefly squid



Dorid nudibranch



Devil scorpionfish