

Biologist To Be On TV Show

Sea hares don't have ears or cotton tails, and when annoyed they spit purple ink. A batfish has flippers, not wings (or a cape); and a boxfish looks like an inflated pineapple, not a box.

Jack Rudloe, owner of the Gulf Specimen Company in Panacea and author of the newly published book, "The Sea Brings Forth", will appear on NBC's Today Show, Tuesday, April 30, at 7 a.m., together with a number of live marine actors fresh from the waters of the Gulf. Rudloe and his aquatic friends flew to New York Friday, especially for the interviews; the animals, after their performances Tuesday, will find a final home in the New York Aquarium.

Rudloe's book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, is about his experiences in starting a pioneer business, working with shrimpers and fishermen out of Panacea to get specimens out of the sea and into laboratory tanks.

Rudloe is not new at TV appearances; a year ago he appeared on CBS's To Tell The Truth. Tuesday's performance on the Today Show will be similar to his local monthly program on WCTV's Midday Report, on which Rudloe and Ed Komarek discuss Florida marine life.

"Exhibiting marine life on TV is a science as well as an art", said Rudloe. "The animals are so unpredictable; you never know what they will do next."

On one program, Rudloe said, he hauled a live sawfish to Thomasville, at considerable expense and effort, and on the air the beast was a total flop; it was completely lethargic. Barnacles, exhibited one rainy day for lack of anything more exciting, turned out to be marvelous performers; when the TV camera came in for a close-up, the barnacles opened up, popped out their legs, and began sweeping the water for food. It looked like the pitted surface of the moon with craters opening and closing and popping out legs, Rudloe said.