

The Lobster-Pig is a large (50-100kg) grazing creature with 12 legs and bony plates along its back. It roots around on the floor of the shallow ocean region all around the Central Ocean, eating mostly the dead matter that rains down from the water's surface, or that washes into the ocean from river deltas. It is a large animal, so it eats constantly.

The Lobster-Pig is a classic scavenger, breaking down organic matter into simpler components, returning carbon to the water in the form of carbon dioxide. The only nutrient they have difficulty finding is the calcium for their bony protective armor.

Lobster-Pigs reproduce sexually and almost continually. Mating consists of squirting haploid gametes into the water whenever another Lobster-Pig of similar size gets close enough to be heard grunting (certain predators take advantage of this by imitating the grunts). The eggs and the sperm cells swim towards one another and fuse to form tiny larvae, which soon wrap themselves in seaweed for protection (thus the phrase "Lobster-Pig in a Blanket"). These LPiBs are vulnerable, resulting in a steep early-loss survivorship curve. Less than one in a million LPiBs grow into mature Lobster-Pigs.

There are closely related blind species (13M years) that graze the deeper oceans near the volcanic sea vents and a more distantly related (40M years) freshwater form that migrates up rivers to feed and returns to the Central Sea once a year for breeding purposes.

A full count has never been performed, but it is estimated that there are roughly 100,000 Lobster-Pigs ranging around the Central Sea. LPiBs are eaten by a wide variety of predators, but adults are pretty safe. Since they live under water in the Central Sea, which varies little in temperature, they are mostly immune to the seasons.