

Signals from the Abyss

Suggested Era of Play: 2380s

Suggested Spotlight Role: Science Officer, preferably empath or telepath

Opening Log

„Our Betazoid Lieutenant Ral complained today that she was feeling some kind of psionic signal coming from the Abyss deep sea trench. She described it as a mumbling psionic noise without a recognizable message. We have to find out what is down there, if it is intelligent life we may have to evacuate the colony.“

Synopsis

A few years ago the Federation founded a colony on the ocean planet Naunet, near Narendra Station and the Endurance Divide of the Shackleton Expanse. The colonists are supported by a Starfleet Liaison Team. All went reasonably well until a newly arrived Betazoid member of this team claimed to have been disturbed by some strange psionic signals coming from the Abyss, a deep sea trench. Now someone has to take one of the aquashuttles of the colony and find out about the source of these signals. This mission has the highest priority, because the Federation's Bureau of Colonization will have to remove the colony if there is native intelligent life on Naunet.

The Twist

This mission was designed as a kind of anti-climax, somewhat inspired by a fairy tale from my homeland, The Seven Swabians. There the brave heroes come together to slay a terrible dragon, but in the end the monster turns out to be a hare. So when the player characters start their expedition into the Abyss to search for the source of the psionic signal, they usually expect - and have prepared for - an encounter with strange intelligent aliens or some hideous sea monster, but all they will find are some utterly harmless little jellyfish calling for mates.

Mumblers and Sirens

The first creature is now called a "Mumbler" by the colonists. It is a small bioluminescent jellyfish native to the Abyss. During the mating season the Mumbler uses psionic signals to attract a mate. These signals are often strong enough to be sensed by natural empaths and telepaths.

The second creature is named a "Siren" by the colony's marine biologists. It is also a bioluminescent jellyfish native to the Abyss, and a close relative of the Mumbler. It emits psionic signals very similar to those of the Mumblers in order to attract Mumblers, but with the intention to capture and eat them.

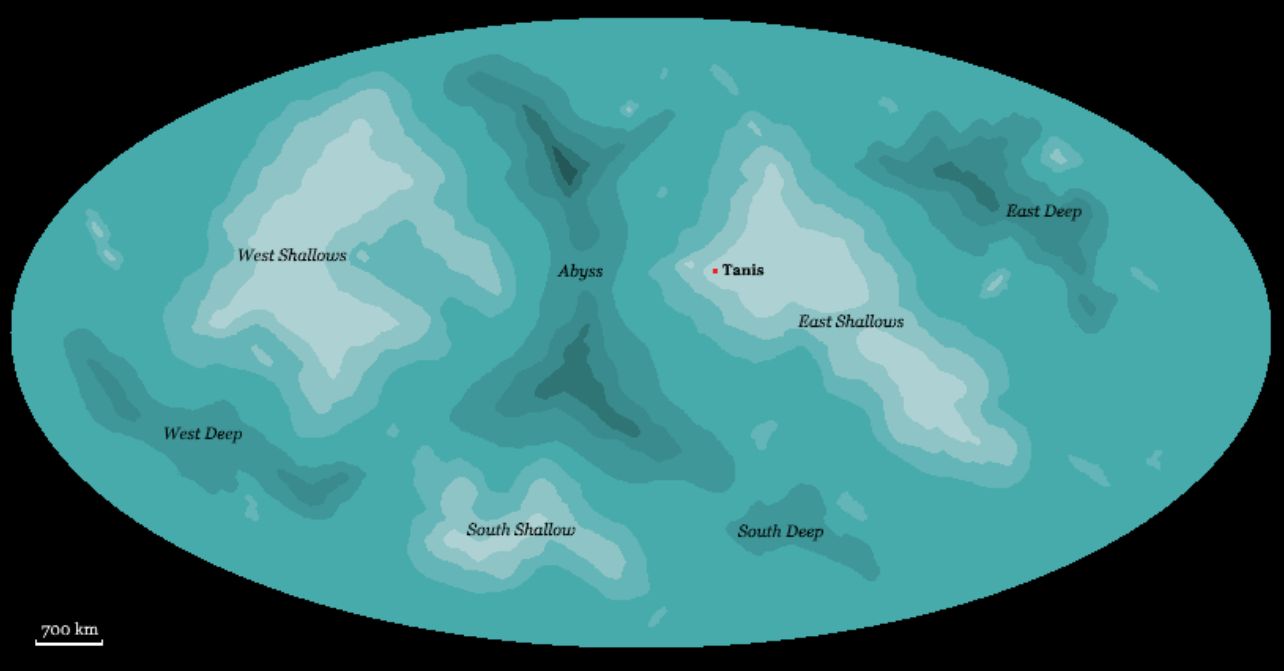
Key NPCs

The crew of the aquashuttle, which should include the pilot, a sensor specialist and a security specialist. If the science officer is not an empath or telepath, Lieutenant Ral could serve as the sensor specialist.

Conclusion

The members of the expedition will hear jokes about their „great first contact mission“ for quite a while, but at least the marine biologists of the colony are thankful.

The Planet Naunet



A Mumbler

