

*What follows is a selection from the greater report "On the Western Periphery and Her Inhabitants" by Athenaeum Scout Mireal Towser. The entire report is about twenty five years old at this point, and does little to explain the local conditions as they may be found today. I have still taken the liberty of having certain sections copied out for you to aid in your new task in Port Elry as they are the best records we have. I hope they will be of use to you and your team Hazar, I would hate to lose you and yours to this fool's errand. Please send status reports as often as you are able, and enjoy your trip upon the Fury.
May fortune favor your steps. - Jerome Brongrae September, 821*

Among the denizens of the Western Seas one group of sentients stand out. Known to the locals as "Fishmen" or as they call themselves, the Melusai, these creatures stand at about the height of a man, bear themselves upon two legs and use their upper limbs to manipulate tools. This is where the similarity between the Melusai and the landborne Mortal Races comes to an end for these creatures' faces are marked by shark-like features and fins, webbed toes and fingers, and a long powerful tail. The few verified times any landborne has spoken to a Melusai it has been in the common tongue, they seem incapable of speaking anything else outside of the water, it appears their native tongue is completely dependent on being submerged in water.

Interactions with the Melusai have been mostly positive in the past, they rarely have anything to say to a landborne person, and even more rarely have grievance with the landborne. Trade between the people of the Coastal Periphery and the Melusai has been very rare and limited to single parties; they don't appear to have any exports of value. Not that they are willing to trade to us at least. According to the locals who claim to have spoken to the Melusai, the creatures live in tribal communities under the waves and for the most part are content to keep to themselves.

In battle the Melusai favor their own claws or weapons made from coral or the bones of aquatic animals. As far as we are aware their understanding of Magic is primal at best and belongs almost exclusively to a class of Melusai called "Wave Callers". These casters are capable of calling forth great gouts of water to harm an enemy or heal an ally.

The Melusai are also known to construct great nets and those skilled in their use are called "Netters" by the Periphery locals. The name itself is pretty self explanatory, they throw nets at prey and drag them off for later consumption. These nets can be deflected with Weapon Shield spells and Cloaks against binding, in addition some breeds of aquatic Wylderkyn have been said to slip them with ease. The nets themselves are not made of any magical materials and can be cut through with a sharp object and some determination. As a brief aside on the topic of these nets, the Melusai abhor being contained within a net or any sort of binding magic themselves seeing it as a personal insult comparing them to regular fish. Some locals claim the temper of a bound Melusai is akin to a wild storm, and this should be avoided at all costs.

The most rare warriors of the Melusai are a sub section called the "Blood Tide". No local has ever had the chance to speak with one, and the other Melusai avoid the topic at all costs. The only sighting that has been reported to Athenaeum scouts was from a local sailor out the

Periphery Coast. He claims that he saw a pair of massive Melusai tear a Great Shark apart with their bare claws and feast upon its blood and flesh in a most gruesome way. This witness has a questionable reputation, known for telling wild stories and drinking entirely too much. We wouldn't put too much stock into this tale, but on the off chance it truly happened, forewarned is forearmed.