DECEMBER IN THE DEEP

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December in the Deep

by Hilari Jones

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As Christmas nears, the sky is hushed; the birds have all departed.

On terra firma, humble beasts seek shelter: snow has started!
But underneath the ocean waves
diversion you may seek -

A forty-fathom festival:
December in the deep.
Octopi help deck the halls...

and the ceilings...and the walls.
Tiny drifters glimmer with glee;

Starfish spangle the holiday tree.
Santa beckons fry and roe;

Cuttlefish cuddle under mistletoe.
Snails sculpt ginger-houses grand;

Rays flap angels in the sand.
A feast is hosted by crustaceans;

Barnacles brim with merry libations.
Mollusks make calciferous wrappings;

Squid adjust ribbons, gift cards, and fastenings.
Cetaceans gather: A sonar chorus -
Each dolphin and whale, and every porpoise -

Sings, "Peace undersea, and joyous wishes
To plankton, sponges, worms, and fishes!"
And on December twenty-fourth
The preparations serve their purpose:

Eyes and eye-spots all look up
As St. Nick floats down from the surface.
Merry Christmas