[Fins]

He could not believe it was time already. They had just arrived, and he had made all the proper arrangements. He should have years, decades more.

The certainty of the event closed with the finality of a bank vault door thudding into place. He sighed, then pulled the flower close. He pressed his nose into its petals, then inhaled deeply.

He woke up surrounded by water. Panic seized him. His eyes darted left and right. Only then did he realize he was already breathing. He flexed his right arm, which earned him a darting move leftward. He chanced a look – fins!