

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

Article: Part 4 of Sustainable U.S. Seafood: What's Science Got to Do with It?

Pre-Reading:

Before reading this article, take a look at the headline and subheadings. What does "sustainable" mean? How might a fishes' environment be dangerous? Look at the list of the pollock's life stages. How do those seem similar to the life stages of humans?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today's article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the "context", or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

pinhead

vulnerable

scarce

nutrients

prey

predators

spawn

quotas

sustainable

consumed

membranous

estuaries

Comprehension:

1. What is the order of the pollock's life stages?
2. How can ocean currents and temperatures be dangerous?
3. Why do pollocks not have to worry about food until they hatch?
4. Which predators prey on pollocks?
5. What are the effects of fewer pollocks?
6. In what U.S state do pollock spawn?
7. How long do larvae continue to grow?
8. How big (in length) are Age-0 juvenile?
9. Where do juvenile pollock live?
10. How old can adult pollock live to be?
11. How do scientists collect pollock eggs and larvae?

Post-Reading:

Review the facts in the blue circle in the upper-right corner. Discuss how storms and currents could harm a young Pollock. In what parts of the United States might powerful storms and currents exist? How are these types of dangers similar to the dangers that other young people or animals face?

Building Language Skills:

Review the life cycle diagram. Then choose another animal, like a salmon, to compare the pollock's life cycle to. Write a comparison contrast paper in which you explore the similarities and differences between the pollock and the animal you chose.

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. The life stages are egg, yolk-sac-larvae, larvae, age—0 juvenile, juvenile and adult.
2. Temperatures can limit or increase the growth potential and currents can carry pollock far out to sea where food might be scarce.
3. Pollocks initially have a yolk sac which supplies them with nutrients until they hatch.
4. Jellyfish, euphausiids, small fish, and arrowtooth flounder prey on pollocks.
5. Fewer pollock would mean a lower quota for fisherman to ensure that they are kept at a sustainable level.
6. Alaska.
7. Larvae continue to grow for about three months.
8. Age-0 juvenile measure about five inches in length.
9. Juvenile pollock live near coastal bays and estuaries known as nursery areas.
10. Adult pollock can live to be 17 years old.
11. Scientists use mesh nets called bongo nets to collect pollock eggs and larvae.