

Approach: Station

Year: 8

Focus: Finding information in a non-fiction text


Resources: Book: *Marine Fishes of New Zealand*, calendar page

Questions / instructions:

% response
2009 ('05)

year 8

11 **Yellow moray eel/Puharekeke/Kaingaraa**
Gymnothorax prasinus
Family MURAENIDAE
Moray eels



Relationships - Five morays occur here: the yellow, grey, speckled, mottled and mosaic.

Distribution - A warm-water eel found only north of Hawkes Bay. Normal habitat is in rocky areas from the shore to depths of about 20 m. The yellow moray is the most common moray eel in New Zealand. It is widely distributed in Australia and probably elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific.

Recognition - Small eyes, teeth and dorsal fin usually hidden by thick skin. Colour: variable: yellow or greenish (which fades to brown after death). (The other moray species are well described and almost identifiable by their common names, listed above.)

Size - Average length 80-100 cm; maximum 120cm.

Food - Crustaceans and small fishes.

Reproduction - Not known; probably open-water spawning to produce planktonic larvae.

Capture - Recreational fishers: accidentally on lines. Commercially: occasionally on lines or in setnets near reefs, sometimes in lobster pots.

Imagine that your class is making a calendar for next year. The calendar will show pictures and information about fish found around New Zealand. You are going to find information for the February page. It is information about the Greenback Flounder, the Yellow Moray Eel and the Red Rock Cod.

Your calendar page needs to say:

- in what part of New Zealand they are found and
- the average length of the fish.

Use the book *Marine Fishes of New Zealand* to find this information. Write the information on the calendar page.

New Zealand Fish



Yellow Moray Eel
Where found in NZ:
Average Length:

Red Rock Cod
Where found in NZ:
Average Length:

Greenback Flounder
Where found in NZ:
Average Length:

Yellow Moray Eel:

(found north of Hawkes Bay)

Mentioned: north of/and Hawkes Bay
Hawkes Bay only

Average length: 80-100 cm
120 cm

Greenback Flounder:
(found around South Island and southern Australia)

Mentioned: South Island only
both places

Average length: 25-40 cm
50 cm

Red Rock Cod:

(found North Cape to East Cape; eastern Australia)

Mentioned: North Cape to/and East Cape
one area

Mentioned: eastern Australia

Average length: 25-45 cm
60 cm

Total Score: 12-13

9-11

6-8

3-5

0-2

48 (42)

38 (39)

93 (90)

2 (2)

71 (73)

6 (6)

89 (92)

2 (1)

68 (62)

7 (4)

5 (2)

84 (74)

2 (3)

30 (23)


41 (38)

22 (30)

4 (7)

2 (2)

85 **Green back Flounder**
Rhombosolea tapirina
Family PLEURONECTIDAE
Right-eyed flounders



Relationships - Eleven right-eyed flounders occur here, and the eight most common species are described in this book.

Distribution - A moderately common flatfish of shallow coastal waters around the South Island, also in southern Australia.

Recognition - Oval body, a triangular head and clearly pointed snout with a white fleshy tip to the upper jaw. Colour: dark green above, white below.


Size - Average length 25-40 cm; maximum 50cm.

Food - A variety of mainly surface-living sea/for invertebrates, and small fishes.

Reproduction - Free-spawning in coastal seas.

Capture - Recreational fishers: usually in beach seines or setnets. Commercially: by trawl and setnet.

30 **Red rock cod/Matuwahaapuku**
Scorpaena cardinalis
Family SCORPAENIDAE
Scorpionfishes



Relationships - Over a dozen scorpionfishes occur here, but only a few are common. Other inshore species described are the sea perch (No. 28) and red rock cod (No. 29); the deepwater sea perch (Book 2, No. 53) is offshore.

Other Names - Northern scorpionfish, grandlani hapuku.

Distribution - North Cape to East Cape, on reefs or rocky ground, from shallow water down to 100 m. Also in eastern Australia.

Recognition - Large, strongly spined head, deep but relatively small tapering body. Colour: variable, mainly reddish to orange brown, with pink and whitish banding and mottling. (The red scorpionfish is smaller, brighter coloured, without areas of pale mottling, without areas of pale mottling. The sea perch, and unrelated redbanded perch, have less spiny heads and more uniform colour banding).

Size - Average length 25-45 cm; maximum 80 cm.

Food - Large crustaceans and smallish fish.

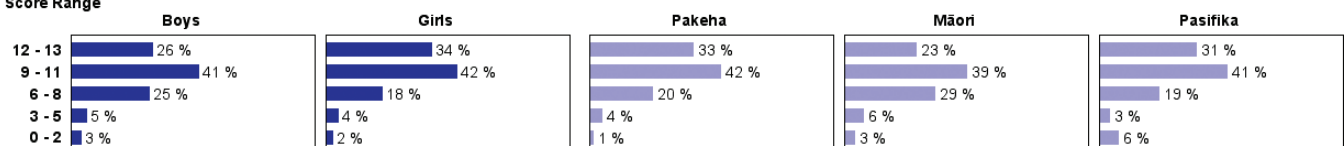
Reproduction - Oviparous, giving birth to small larvae.

Capture - Recreational fishers: by line over rocky ground, or speared. Commercially: sometimes accidentally in setnets. The head and fin spines can inflict painful stab wounds.

Subgroup Analyses:

Year 8

Score Range



Commentary:

Year 8 students were quite successful in locating and recording information about various fish found in New Zealand. Modest growth was seen from 2005. Girls slightly outperformed boys, and Pakeha and Pasifika students slightly outperformed Māori students.