

# NEWS BREAK

**Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, February 28, 2016** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

**Sardine populations, long sinking, look even worse in forecast** (NW Sunday, page B3)

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions. Also discuss what clues the photo accompanying the article might give you.
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. assessment
- B. conservative
- C. decline
- D. ecological
- E. economic
- F. fluctuations
- G. forage
- H. forecast
- I. implosion
- J. peak
- K. population
- L. rebounding
- M. starvation
- N. stocks

- 1. the relationships between a group of living things and their environment
- 2. a group of people or animals of a particular kind that live in a place
- 3. to change level, strength, or value frequently
- 4. not willing to take risks
- 5. supply of something that is available for use
- 6. to say that (something) will happen in the future : to predict (something, such as weather) after looking at the information that is available
- 7. to reach the highest level
- 8. relating to the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought
- 9. an increase or improvement after a decrease or decline
- 10. to become lower in amount or less in number.
- 11. to collapse inward in a very sudden and violent way (often used figuratively)
- 12. suffering or death caused by having nothing to eat or not enough to eat
- 13. the act of making a judgment about something
- 14. grasses and other plants that are eaten by animals (such as cows)

## Comprehension

1. Sardines off the West Coast have continued on a steep decline, with populations this summer forecast to be down \_\_\_\_\_ percent from a 2007 peak. **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) 90 percent
  - b) 95 percent
  - c) 97 percent
  - d) 100 percent
2. Name one animal mentioned in the article that sardines are a key forage food for.
3. Last year the sardine decline was so severe that the Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to call off the season for West Coast Fleets – **true or false?**
4. How did Geoff Shester, a fishery scientist with Oceana, a marine conservation group, say that marine animals that rely on the sardines for food would be affected, with sardines aged one year or older forecasted to be about a third lower than the 2015 assessment?
5. Shester also said that sardines have been overfished, which has prevented populations from fully \_\_\_\_\_ during prime ocean conditions. **(Fill in the blank)**
6. What did Albert Carter, who serves on a Pacific Fishery Management Council advisory committee, say he thought would happen, if based on the assessment, sardine populations have continue to decline?
7. Historically, sardine populations have had huge fluctuations that reflect what?
8. Marine conservation group, Oceana, is advocating a more conservative management approach to the sardine fishery. What would that conservative approach do?

## Additional Activities

1. As a class discuss the following questions: What is overfishing and why do you think it happens? What do you think the effects of overfishing are? Why is it important to understand the role sardines play in their ecosystem? What does it mean to practice sustainable fishing and why is it important?
2. Why are sardines a healthy food to eat? Research sardines to find out what health benefits they provide and what vitamins they are a good source of. How are sardines normally eaten or prepared? Find a recipe for sardines or one that uses sardines and share it with the class.

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 13
- B. 4
- C. 10
- D. 1
- E. 8
- F. 3
- G. 14
- H. 6
- I. 11
- J. 7
- K. 2
- L. 9
- M. 12
- N. 5

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

- 1. c) 97 percent
- 2. salmon, sea lions (Answers may vary – only one example necessary)
- 3. True
- 4. He said they would be faced with another year of fighting starvation.
- 5. rebounding
- 6. That he would not expect a 2016 sardine season.
- 7. Changing ocean conditions.
- 8. It would cut off fishing well before sardine populations swing to low points in their cycle.  
(Answers may vary)