

Teacher Guide for Marine Fisheries Discussion

Use the information below to guide the class discussion about how the major fishing regions of the world correspond with the geographic and ecological features of the region.

Major Fishing Regions of the World

1. Northwest Pacific—the shallow seas bordering central and north Japan, northern China, Korea, and northeastern Russia—Bering Sea
2. Offshore of Eastern Canada, the Grand Banks, Newfoundland
3. North Atlantic Coasts of northwest Europe, Norway
4. Eastern Equatorial Pacific, Peru
5. Northeast Pacific from Alaska to California

Key Geographic and Ecological Features

(corresponding to the numbered Major Fishing Regions)

- temperate regions—northern latitudes between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer and southern latitudes between the Antarctic Circle and the Tropic of Capricorn (1, 2, 3, 5)
- upwelling, or the movement of cooler, nutrient-rich water toward the ocean surface—common on the west coasts of South America and California (4, 5)
- a mixing of currents that contributes to high diversity of fish species—Japan, Northwest Pacific, Galápagos (1,4)
- continental shelf and mixing ocean currents contribute to expansive fish habitat—along the coasts of Newfoundland, New England, and the Grand Banks (2)
- submerged land and shallow water with many banks keeps the sea free from ice and available to fish year-round—the coasts of Northwest Europe: the North Sea (3)
- deep water on the continental shelf off the western coasts of North America make for some of the best cold-water fishing grounds in the world—Alaska and British Columbia (5)
- long coastlines with indentations provide ideal bases for commercial fishing operations—west coast of North and South America, Japan, Russia, China (1, 4, 5)

Examples of Seafood by Region

- Atlantic cod (Gulf of Maine and North Atlantic)
- Alaskan salmon (coast of Alaska)
- Bluefin tuna (North Atlantic and North Pacific)
- King crab (Bering Sea, Alaska)
- Swordfish (North Pacific and North Atlantic/Mediterranean)
- Northern shrimp (Canada)
- Sardine (Eastern Equatorial Pacific/Peru and Eastern North Pacific)
- Sea scallops (Eastern Equatorial Pacific/Peru)