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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/05/15

North Sea cod stocks bounce back

New data recently released has shown that cod stocks in the North Sea are now bouncing back from their historical lows due to overfishing in the 1980s and 90s. In 2006, stringent regulations were imposed by the industry to help cod stocks recover. Since then there has been a steady recovery. Today, they are approaching the level of maximum sustainability yield, which is the measurement widely accepted as the gold standard of responsible fishing.

The research was undertaken by *Seafish*, the government-funded body, which represents the seafood industry, and the *Marine Stewardship Council* (MSC), which certifies fish and how many fish are caught by fishermen each year. Their finding showed that just 1 in 9 inshore fisheries are operating sustainably. Some 400 of the 450 inshore fisheries are still not operating sustainably.

Dr Tom Pickerell, technical director at Seafish said, "The biggest surprise unveiled by the research is how close North Sea cod is to being healthy enough to be considered for certification as sustainable by the MSC." He added, "I would like to think that within a decade we will have MSC-certified North Sea cod."

The Marine Conservation Society, which offers consumers advice on seafood consumption, is still recommending cod as a species to avoid eating because of its historical low levels. However, no one actually knows the true status of cod stocks, because of the severe lack of scientific data on the stock size, and how many are actually caught by fishermen each year.

Celebrity chefs meanwhile are cooking up gurnards as a viable alternative. Plaice, haddock or mackerel might however be more preferable.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three different fish you eat. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is Seafish?
- 2) Who is Dr Tom Pickerell?
- 3) Name the fish species.
- 4) What are celebrity chefs doing?
- 5) How many inland fisheries are there?

Student B questions

- 1) What happened in the 1980s and 90s?
- 2) Where is the North Sea?
- 3) What is the biggest surprise?
- 4) What does no one actually know?
- 5) What happened in 2006?

Category: Environment / Fishing / North Sea Cod
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**North Sea fisherman**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you might see on a fishing trawler. Write them below. Discuss!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three dangers you might face of a fishing trawler. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs – One of you spent as a fisherman on a North Sea fishing trawler. The other as a local fisherman on a river or lake. *2-3 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to listen to their day in front of the class.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *Aberdeen FM* radio studio. Today's interview is: *North Sea cod stocks bounce back. 10 mins.*

- 1) A person who likes to eat cod.
- 2) A North Sea fisherman with a small fishing trawler.
- 3) An EU fishery spokesperson.
- 4) A Spanish deep sea fisherman.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - WRITING

In pairs. Think of 20 different types of sea fish, shellfish or river fish. Write them down Discuss together! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 5-10 minutes – As a class.

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The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What species of fish do you eat?
- 3) When did you last eat fish?
- 4) Do you prefer fish from rivers or lakes or sea fish? Explain.
- 5) What three fishes do you eat most?
- 6) Have you ever eaten cod?
- 7) Had you heard of gurnards until this lesson?
- 8) Have you eaten plaice, haddock or mackerel before?
- 9) Why are fish stocks under threat?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What can we do to conserve the fish in the sea?
- 3) Which seas are under threat from overfishing?
- 4) Is the sea near to where you live under threat from over fishing?
- 5) Is deep sea fishing to blame for overfishing?
- 6) Should other countries be allowed to fish in your country's fishing area?
- 7) Have you ever been sea fishing?
- 8) Should there be more fish farms? Explain.
- 9) Where do you like to eat fish? Why?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

North Sea cod stocks bounce back

New data recently released has shown that (1)___ stocks in the North Sea are now bouncing back from their historical lows due to overfishing in the 1980s and 90s. In 2006, (2)___ regulations were imposed by the industry to help cod (3)___ recover. Since then there has been a (4)___ recovery. Today, they are approaching the level of maximum sustainability (5)___, which is the measurement widely accepted as the (6)___ of responsible fishing.

The research was undertaken by *Seafish*, the government-funded body, which represents the seafood industry, and the *Marine Stewardship Council* (MSC), which certifies fish and how many fish are caught by (7)___ each year. Their finding showed that just 1 in 9 inshore fisheries are operating sustainably. Some 400 of the 450 inshore fisheries are still not operating (8)___.

sustainably / cod / steady / yield / fishermen / stringent / stocks / gold standard

Dr Tom Pickerell, technical director at Seafish said, "The biggest surprise unveiled by the research is how close North Sea cod is to being (1)___ enough to be considered for certification as sustainable by the MSC." He added, "I would like to think that within a (2)___ we will have MSC-certified North Sea cod."

The Marine Conservation Society, which offers consumers (3)___ on seafood (4)___, is still recommending cod as a species to avoid eating because of its historical low levels. However, no one actually knows the true status of cod stocks, because of the (5)___ lack of scientific data on the stock size, and how many are (6)___ caught by fishermen each year.

(7)___ (8)___ meanwhile are cooking up gurnards as a viable alternative. Plaice, haddock or mackerel might however be more preferable.

consumption / chefs / celebrity / actually / decade / healthy / advice / severe

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

North Sea cod stocks bounce back

New data recently released has shown (1)___ cod stocks in the North Sea are now bouncing back from (2)___ historical lows (3)___ to overfishing in the 1980s and 90s. In 2006, stringent regulations were imposed by the industry to help cod stocks recover. Since then there has been a steady recovery. Today, they are approaching the level of maximum sustainability yield, (4)___ is the measurement widely accepted as the gold standard of responsible fishing.

The research was undertaken by *Seafish*, the government-funded body, which represents the seafood industry, and the *Marine Stewardship Council* (MSC), which certifies fish and how many fish are caught by fishermen (5)___ year. Their finding showed that (6)___ 1 in 9 inshore fisheries are operating sustainably. (7)___ 400 of the 450 inshore fisheries are (8)___ not operating sustainably.

just / which / still / due / that / each / their / some

Dr Tom Pickerell, technical director (1)___ Seafish said, "The biggest surprise unveiled by the research is how close North Sea cod is to being healthy enough to be considered for certification as sustainable by the MSC." (2)___ added, "(3)___ would like to think that within a decade (4)___ will have MSC-certified North Sea cod."

The Marine Conservation Society, which offers consumers advice (5)___ seafood consumption, is still recommending cod (6)___ a species to avoid eating because of its historical low levels. However, no one actually knows the true status of cod stocks, because of the severe lack of scientific data on the stock size, and how many are actually caught (7)___ fishermen each year.

Celebrity chefs meanwhile are cooking up gurnards as a viable alternative. Plaice, haddock (8)___ mackerel might however be more preferable.

or / he / as / by / on / at / I / we

GAP FILL: LISTENING

North Sea cod stocks bounce back

New data recently released has shown that cod stocks in the North Sea are now bouncing back from their historical lows _____ in the 1980s and 90s. In 2006, stringent regulations were imposed by the industry to help cod stocks recover. _____ been a steady recovery. Today, they are approaching the level of maximum sustainability yield, which is the measurement widely accepted as _____ responsible fishing.

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The _____, which offers consumers advice on _____, is still recommending cod as a species to avoid eating because of its historical low levels. However, no one actually knows the true status of cod stocks, because of the severe _____ on the stock size, and how many are actually caught by fishermen each year. Celebrity chefs meanwhile are cooking up gurnards as a viable alternative. Plaice, _____ might however be more preferable.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board – *As a class / In pairs* - List 20 things about **Fishing boats**. *Five minutes. Discuss together.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) North Sea cod _____
- 2) Fish stocks _____
- 3) Fishermen _____

3) On paper - Write a paragraph about: *North Sea cod stocks bounce back*. (30-50 words)

The teacher can select some students to read their paragraphs aloud.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **North Sea cod stocks bounce back**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) cod
- 2) stringent
- 3) stocks
- 4) steady
- 5) yield
- 6) gold standard
- 7) fishermen
- 8) sustainably

ANSWERS

- 1) healthy
- 2) decade
- 3) advice
- 4) consumption
- 5) severe
- 6) actually
- 7) celebrity
- 8) chefs

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) historical
- 2) responsible
- 3) certifies
- 4) sustainable
- 5) fisheries
- 6) surprise
- 7) decade
- 8) conservation
- 9) seafood
- 10) consumption

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) actually
- 12) status
- 13) actually
- 14) alternative
- 15) meanwhile
- 16) celebrity
- 17) alternative
- 18) viable
- 19) preferable
- 20) overfishing

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