

Lesson 2: Halibut Hooks

Objectives:

Students learn how halibut hooks were designed to catch halibut.

Essential Questions:

Where do halibut like to feed/sleep? What do halibut eat?

Alaska Native Values:

See connections-All things are related.

Have patience- Some things cannot be rushed.

Honor traditional arts, skills and ingenuity.



Standards:

L7. Sings, uses finger plays, and recites rhymes or poems.

L19. Understands writing has meaning.

SSC3. Asks questions and finds answers through active exploration of nature.

Promoting Culture Self Assessment:

I reflect the cultures and ethnic backgrounds of children and families served in my early childhood program or setting.

I encourage and provide opportunities and experiences for children that support Alaska Native culture.

I use visual aids, gestures, and physical prompts in my interactions with children who have limited English proficiency.

Whole Group	Class Book	Music/Language
Materials: Halibut hook Water table	Materials: Art Supplies List of Halibut Facts	Materials: 5 Little Fish Song Internet site- to get song
Activity: See lesson below.	Activity: Divide the class into groups. In each group choose a fact for students to draw about. Ex. Female halibut lay over a million eggs! Students use markers or bingo daubers to create lots of small circles floating in the water.	Activity: Teach the movement for the fish Sing 5 Little Fish- substitute 'shark' for 'halibut' ex: There were 5 little fish swimming in the sea..Along came a halibut as quiet as can be...

Five Little Fishes Swimming in the Sea Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77x-heb7LLA>

Five Little Fishes Swimming in the Sea

No little fishies swimming in the sea,

(Hold up fist.)

Splishing and a splashing

(Pretend to swim.)

And a rocking to the beat.

Here comes a little fishy,

(Wave.)

Oh, say, "hello."

One little fishy swimming in a row.

(Hold up one finger.)

One little fishy . . . (Hold up one finger.)

Two little fishies . . . (Hold up two fingers.)

Three little fishies . . . (Hold up three fingers.)

Four little fishies . . . (Hold up four fingers.)

Five little fishies . . . (Hold up five fingers.)

Everybody wave 'cause don't you know,

Those little fishies got to go (Wave goodbye)

Oh, ah, away they go.

Halibut Facts

Halibut are able to change their color to match their background.

The eyes of the halibut are first on both sides of the body when they first hatch, but as they grow, the left eye migrates across the head to lie close to the right eye.

The female lays over a million eggs at depths of 900 to 1,200 feet.

The color of the halibut is usually an olive brown, but they have the ability to change the color of the upper side of their body to match what they are lying on.

Halibut eat crabs, mollusks, and worms, but their main diet consists of fish.

Bigger halibut will eat baby halibut.

Activity



Engage: Whole Group Activity: Shapes, Patterns & How to Make a Square

Have students gather around water table. Pass around hook and have students make observations. Ask students “*What do you think this could be used for?*”

Listen to responses. Put the hook into the water and watch it float.

Explain, “*This is a halibut hook. In the past, places along the water in Alaska people designed these hooks to catch halibut. How do you think this could catch a halibut?*” Listen to responses. “*Traditionally, the halibut hook was made up of two types of wood. The bottom piece was a wood that was heavier than the top so that it would float straight up and down. A chunk of herring or other type of fish that the halibut like to eat would go on the sharp hook like this and when the halibut would see the fish or bait floating in the water and moving like this it would think- Yum! I need a piece of that!*” The halibut hook was designed for just the right size of fish. If it was a little tiny halibut it wouldn’t be able to get its small mouth over this hook. If it was too large when it bit down the halibut would also not be able to get its mouth wrapped around the hook. So this hook was used to catch just the right size of halibut. Pretty cool right? If it was a medium fish, just the right size, the fish would be able to fit its mouth right around the hook. When the halibut pulled back the sharp part right here (point to the sharp ivory point) it would get caught in its mouth so that the fish was unable to move. These hooks were attached to a buoy, a seal gut or another object that could float. So if you set this halibut hook and a halibut was on the other end, you would know it because the buoy in the water would bounce up and down.”

Explore: Touch, Agturu, Agtur, Vandaniilchit

Activity : Allow students to play with hook in the water. Ask, “*What can we use in the classroom for a buoy to attach to the hook?*” Allow students to try different objects to see what objects will work well as a buoy.

Explain: Talking, Niugtuk, Qalarte, Qenax

Explain: Tools like the halibut hook have been used for a long, long time to catch halibut. We can make different tools using objects that we have. If you have a sharp tools to make a hook, different wood that will float, and objects that float to make a buoy.

Evaluation

Emerging: Students did not participate.	Developing: Student shared what they thought the halibut hook was or could be used for.	Proficient: Student shows an understanding of what the halibut hook is and how it is used.	Advanced: Student understands what a halibut hook is used for and has ideas of how they would make a hook or what they could use as a buoy for the hook.
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