The Spotty is a type of fish found in the sea near where we live.

Common name: Spotted Wrasse or Spotty
Māori name: Paketi or Pakirikiri
Scientific name: *Notolabrus celidotus*

Description

A Spotty is a type of fish that belongs to the wrasse family. The Spotty is common on shallow reefs around Aotearoa New Zealand and is an 'endemic species'. This means they are only found in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Spotty isn't a very good eating fish as it only usually grows to 25cm in length.

Distribution

The Spotty can be found throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. They are usually found from 0-15m depth.

Spotted Wrasse or Spotty

Other interesting facts

The Spotty begins life as a female. They change colour and pattern to become male when they are around 20cm long. The Spotty is an opportunistic feeder [which means they eat a variety of food]. Crabs and brittle stars are some of their favourite food.

Read more: Read about coastal fish and the female Spotty on Te Ara

Read more: Read the article by Allan Burgess how easy Spotties are to catch

Extension: Select another species of fish to research and create your own factsheet

QUESTIONS

What did we learn?

(1) Spotties are common to _____ reefs around Aotearoa New Zealand.

    a. Deep

    b. Sandy

    c. Shallow

    d. Icy

(2) Spotties are _____ species. This means they are only found in Aotearoa New Zealand.

    a. Endemic

    b. Native

    c. Introduced

    d. Shellfish

(3) Spotties begin life as _____.

    a. Males

    b. Females

    c. Shellfish

    d. Eels

(4) Spotties are opportunistic feeders [which means they eat a _____ of food]

    a. Lot

    b. Tiny bit

    c. Boring diet

    d. Variety

How well do you observe?

(5) Use the picture of the Spotty or Google for other photos. Draw a picture of a Spotty.

Label your drawing with the following labels:

- ☐ Eye
- ☐ Mouth
- ☐ Gill
- ☐ Caudal or tail fin
- ☐ Dorsal fin
- ☐ Lateral line
- ☐ Pectoral fins
- ☐ Anal fin
- ☐ Pelvic fin

ANSWERS

(1) ANSWER: c.

(2) ANSWER: a.

(3) ANSWER: b.

(4) ANSWER: d.