

LOCAL FISH WORKSHEET: SPOTTY



Spotties are a type of fish found in the sea near where we live.

Description

Spotties are a fish that belongs to the wrasse family. Spotties are common on shallow reefs around Aotearoa New Zealand. Spotties are an 'endemic species'. This means they are only found in Aotearoa New Zealand. Spotties aren't good eating as they only usually grow to 25cm in length.

Distribution

Spotties occur throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. They are usually found from 0-15m depth.

Other interesting facts

Spotties begin life as females. They change colour and pattern to become males when they are

around 20cm long. Spotties are opportunistic feeders [which means they eat a variety of food]. Crabs and brittle stars are some of their favourite food.

Read more: Read the story Dr Malcolm Francis about the [Ubiquitous Spotty](#)

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

Common name: Spotted Wrasse
or Spotty

Māori name: Paketi or Pakirikiri

Scientific name: *Notolabrus celidotus*



Spotted Wrasse or Spotty



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?

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.