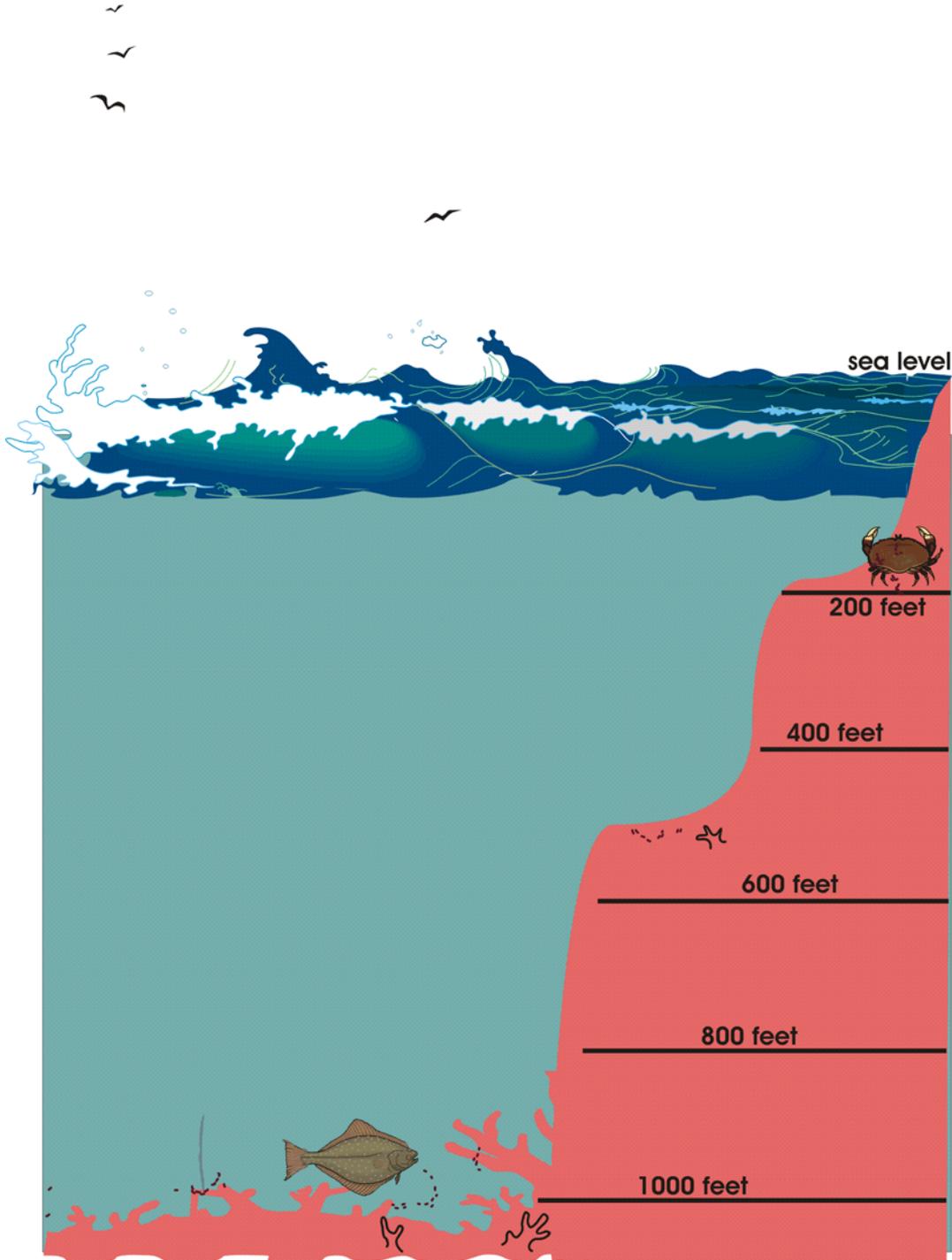


# Student Resource

## Halibut Hangouts

**Directions:** The mature halibut at the bottom of the picture has just laid eggs. Show where the eggs, larva, young halibut and mature halibut can be found in the water column. Briefly note what the animal eats and what, if anything, eats it at each stage of its development. The Internet sources on the next page and the Halibut Slide Show will help you find pictures and information.

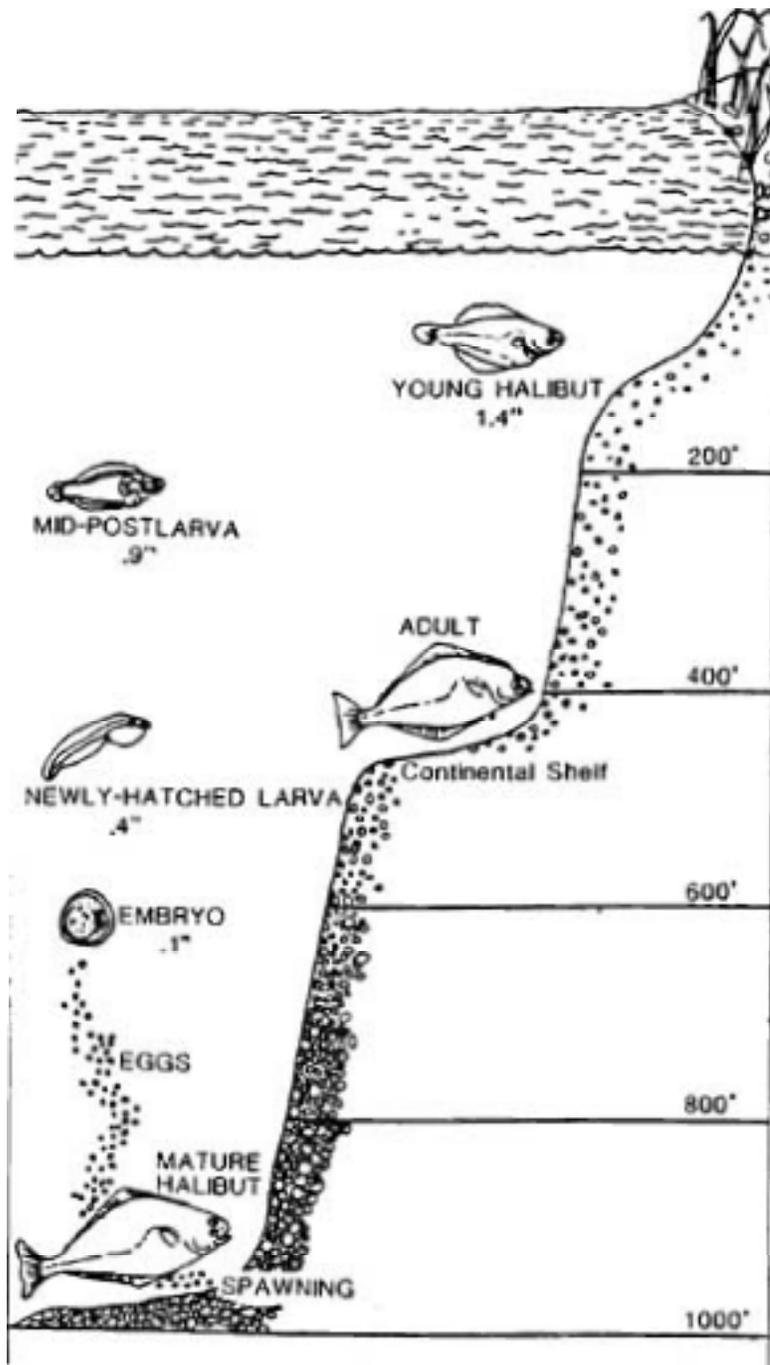


## Internet Resources

- Bob's Piscatorial Pursuits: Pacific Halibut <http://www.piscatorialpursuits.com/wafish.htm>
- Summary for *Hippoglossus stenolepis* Larvae Pacific halibut <http://filaman.ifm-geomar.de/larvalbase/Summary/LarvaSummary.cfm?GenusName=Hippoglossus&SpeciesName=stenolepis>
- Larval pictures
  - Larval Stages <http://filaman.ifm-geomar.de/larvalbase/Photos/PicturesSummary.cfm?ID=514&what=larvae>
  - Egg <http://filaman.ifm-geomar.de/larvalbase/Photos/PicturesSummary.cfm?StartRow=1&ID=514&backp=-2&what=larvae>
  - Larva <http://filaman.ifm-geomar.de/larvalbase/Photos/PicturesSummary.cfm?StartRow=2&ID=514&backp=-3&what=larvae>
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Halibut <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/notebook/fish/halibut.php>

# Student Resource Answers

## Halibut Hangouts



**Favored Habitat:**

Pacific halibut are found on or near the bottom over mud, sand, or gravel banks. They have been found as deep as 1200 m. Free-floating eggs and larvae float for up to 6 months and are transported up to several hundred miles by deep currents of the North Pacific. As the larvae grow they become lighter, rise nearer to the surface and migrate to the shallower waters, floating on the surface currents. Generally, young halibut are found close to shore, and older, larger individuals in deeper water near the edge of the continental shelf. However, in the summer months, larger halibut move towards shallower water

**Prey:**

Halibut will feed on almost any animal they can fit in their mouths including: sand lance, octopus, crab, salmon, hermit crabs, lamprey, sculpin, cod, pollock and flounder. The larva eat plankton.

**Predators:**

Pacific Halibut are apex predators. In the North Pacific, the halibut's only common predators are the sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), orca whale (*Orcinus orca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*) and humans (*homo sapiens*). Juvenile halibut have been found in the stomachs of adult halibut, Pacific cod and sand sole.

**Means of capturing prey:**

Many adults usually hunt for prey by lying in wait at the bottom of the ocean for the prey to swim by. Less mature fish actively hunt for the prey they eat.

**Means of finding safety:**

Mature halibut generally hide by burying themselves in the sand, silt or gravel of the deep flat ocean bottoms. Juvenile halibut are usually found nearshore where there are rocks, shells and plants among which they can hide from predators.