Oolichan Field trip make up work

Read the information below. Using it and the information from the fill in the blanks, write a paragraph about why Oolichans were important to First nations people and the ecosystem.

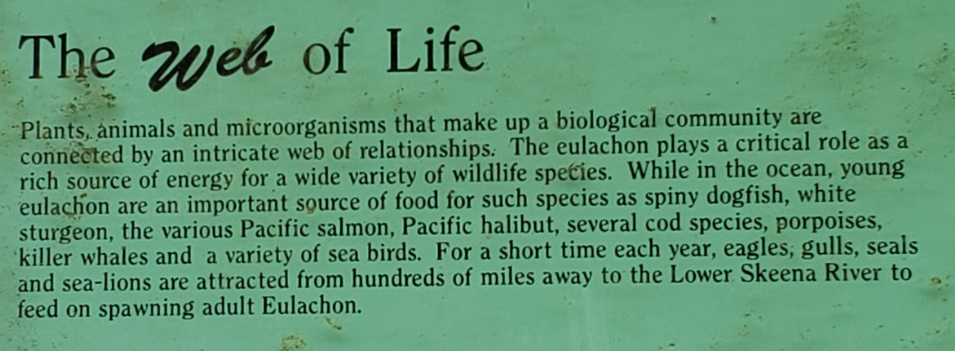
Eulachon, a small type of smelt, were also caught and preserved. They were called "candlefish" because they contained so much natural oil that when dried, they could be burned like a candle. Eulachon oil was not only a food product but also a valuable trade commodity. Eulachon fishing rights were highly prized by the Tsimshian and Kwakwaka’wakw peoples. Other groups such as the Haida and Tlingit had no access or rights to eulachon fishing and would seek oil from those who had a surplus. (Eulachon trade routes were known as "grease trails.")

The fishing areas were so important that jurisdiction was closely monitored; kinship groups held exclusive rights that could be passed down as private property. Two main techniques were used to preserve fish: drying and smoking. Eulachon were pierced by sticks threaded through the gill and mouth and were hung on drying racks (figure 3). With good weather and the right combination of wind and smoke, the fish could cure in about five days.

Eulachon oil, rich and nutritious and a natural source of iodine, was consumed with almost every meal as a seasoning or flavouring agent and was also used for trade with other groups. The fish were allowed to spoil or "ripen" before rendering the oil. Afterwards, they were placed in a vat or a pit filled with water which was heated up to the boiling point. Most of the oil would then rise to the top and be skimmed off and placed into containers. In early times, the oil was stored in "bottles" made from kelp bulbs; later, glass bottles were used. Ingenious fishing techniques and their accompanying tools developed over time, as they were enhanced, modified or discarded depending on their effectiveness and the availability of materials.

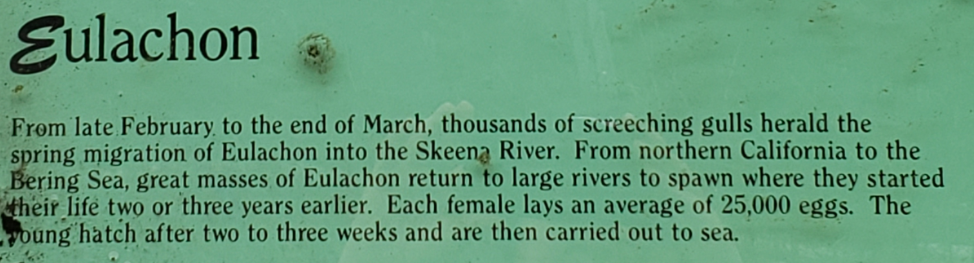


Oolichan facts: Answer the following questions using information from the information given.



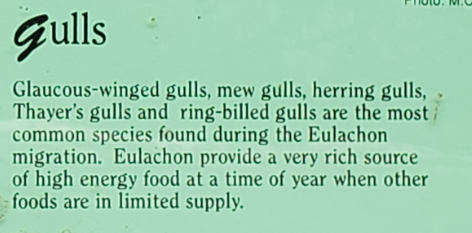
The Web of Life

Oolichan play a critical role as a rich source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for many wildlife species. Oolichan are an important source of food in the ocean for (name 3 species) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Each year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ come from hundreds of miles away to the Lower Skeena River to feed on spawning adult Oolichan.



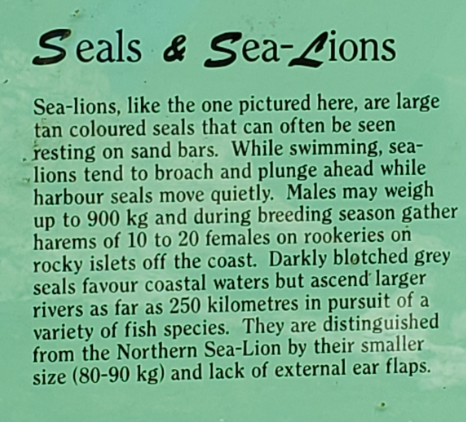
Eulachon

The spring migration of Oolichan into the Skeena River happens from late \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They travel from northern \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Bering Sea returning to large rivers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where they started their life 2 or 3 years earlier. Each female lays an average of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eggs. The young hatch after \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ weeks and are then carried out to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.



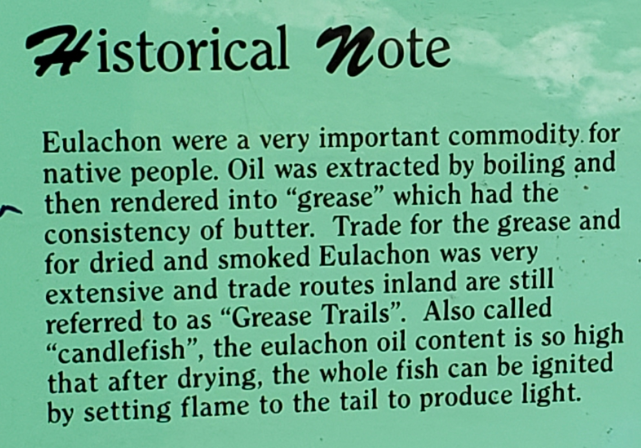
Gulls

The most common species of gulls during the Oolichan migration are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- winged gulls, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gulls, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gulls, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gulls and ring-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gulls. Oolichan provide them with a high energy food when other foods are in limited \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.



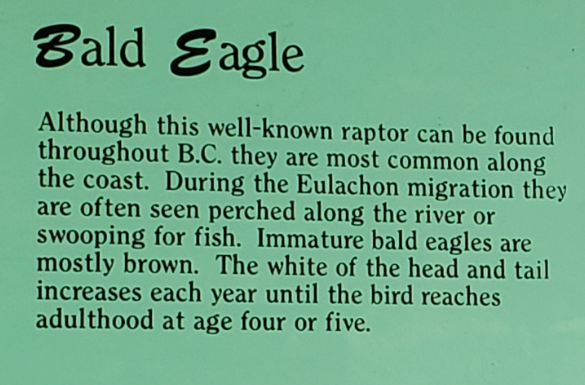
Seals and Sea-Lions

Male Sea-Lions weight up to \_\_\_\_\_\_ kg and during beeding season they have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of 10-20 females. Seals and Sea-Lions go up large rivers as far as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ km in pursuit of various fish species including oolichan. Seals are distinguished from Sea-lions by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ size and lack of external \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flaps.



Historical note

Oolichan were a very important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Indigenous peoples. The oil was extracted by boiling and then rendering it into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had the consistency of butter. Trade for the grease, as well as dried and smoked oolichan was very extensive and trade routes were called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Trails. Oolichan are also called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because their oil content is so high after drying that that whole fish can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by setting flame to the tail to produce light.



Bald Eagle

Eagles are most common along the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of BC. During the oolichan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they can be seen perched in the trees and swooping down for fish. Immature bald eagles are mostly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. While the white of their head and tail increases every year, their heads become the most white at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when they turn \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.