

# COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

*Students explore commercial salmon fishing and the importance of this industry to families and the region.*

## STANDARDS

Environment &  
Sustainability  
Life Science  
Social Studies

## GRADES

2 - 5

## TIME

20 - 30 minutes

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand what commercial salmon fishers do and the challenges they face bringing salmon to market.
- Develop a rudimentary understanding of the importance of commercial fishing to family, state, and regional economies.
- Gain an understanding of the types of jobs involved in commercial fishing.

## PREPARATION

1. Preview the 7-minute YouTube video, "Arika's Commercial Salmon Adventure in Alaska," narrated by a young adult who helps in the family business. Access the video at

*<http://how2heroes.com/videos/field-trips/arikas-alaskan-salmon-fishing-adventures>*

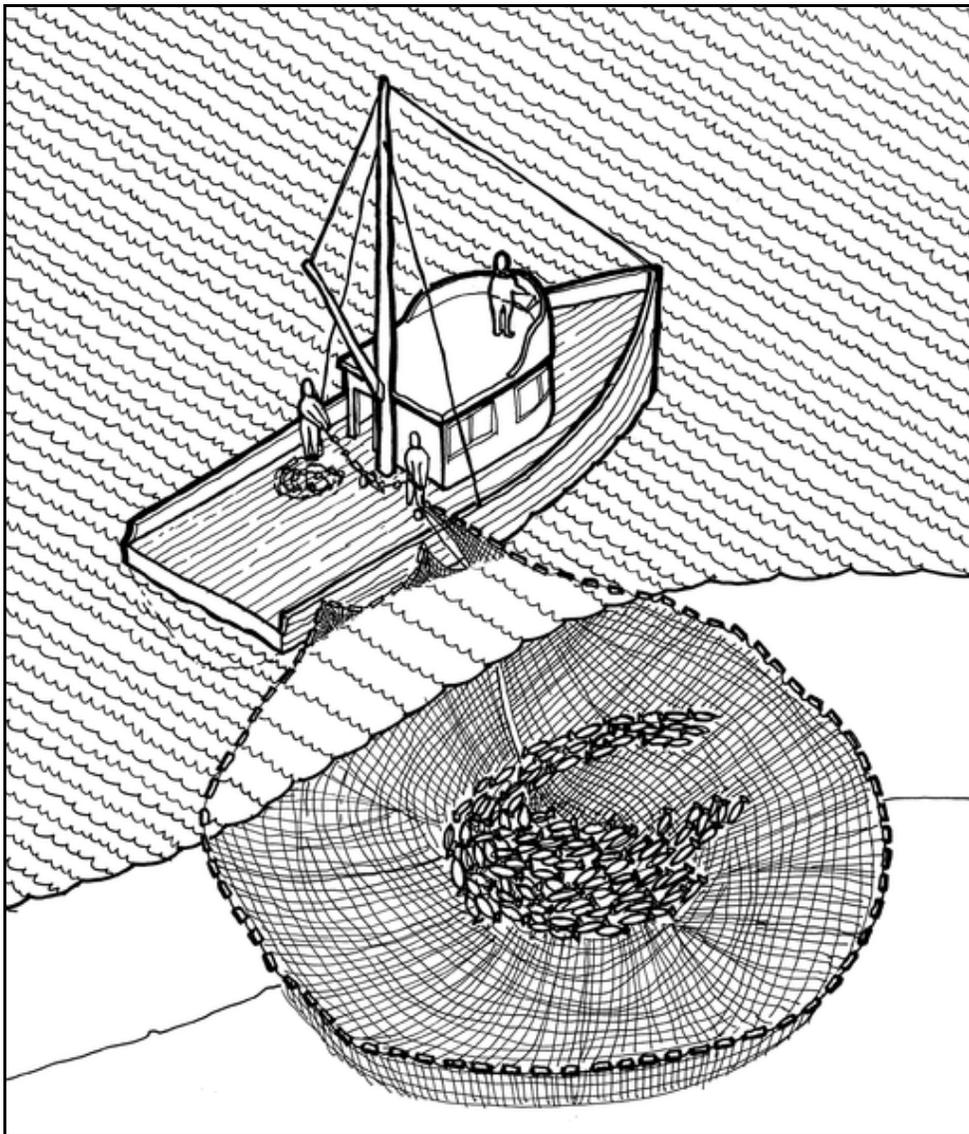
2. Develop points to cover and questions to ask after the viewing.
3. Copy the trawler and processor photos, purse seine drawing, and gillnet/longline drawings.

## LESSON

1. Introduce the video and the narrator:

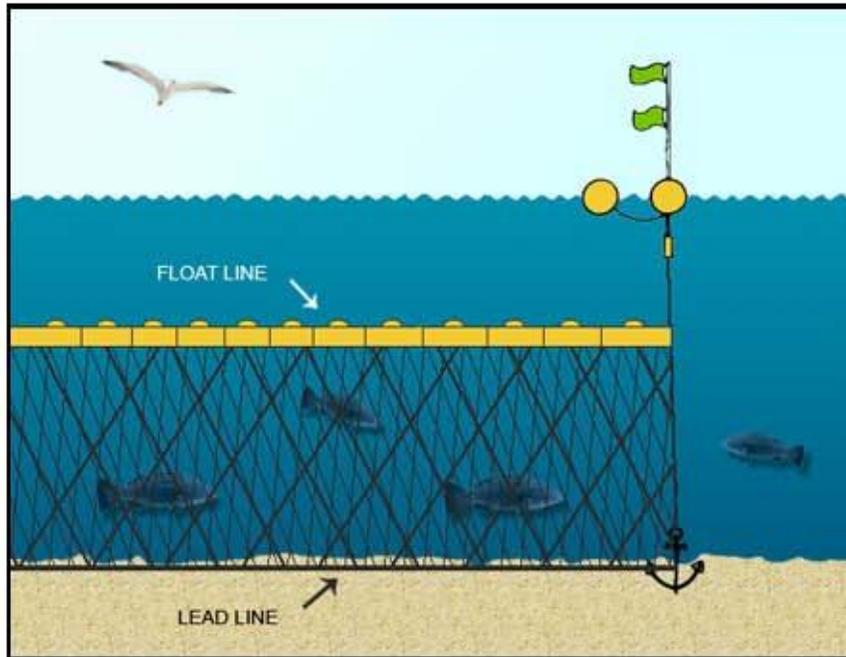
*Arika Beaudry (bow-dree) was born in Juneau, Alaska, and grew up there. Her dad is a commercial salmon fisherman and she'll tell us about her month fishing for wild salmon on her father's boat.*

2. Tell students they will be discussing what they see.
3. Show the video.
4. Show the purse seine and gillnet/longline drawings.
5. Show the trawler and processor photos to complete the sequence of what happens to the fish after they are caught.
6. Lead the class in discussion. Consider posing such questions as the following:
  - What method of fishing are the people in the video using? (Give students a chance, then put up the drawings again.)
  - What did Arika's mom warn her about (sun, jellyfish)? What else did you see that she had to be careful about?
  - What did you see that supports Arika's description of commercial fishing as a lifestyle, not just a job?
  - What are some of the environmental factors she mentioned that can make the difference between a profitable or unprofitable fishing season?
  - What types of jobs were people doing? Do you have family members who work in commercial salmon fishing and, if so, what do they do?



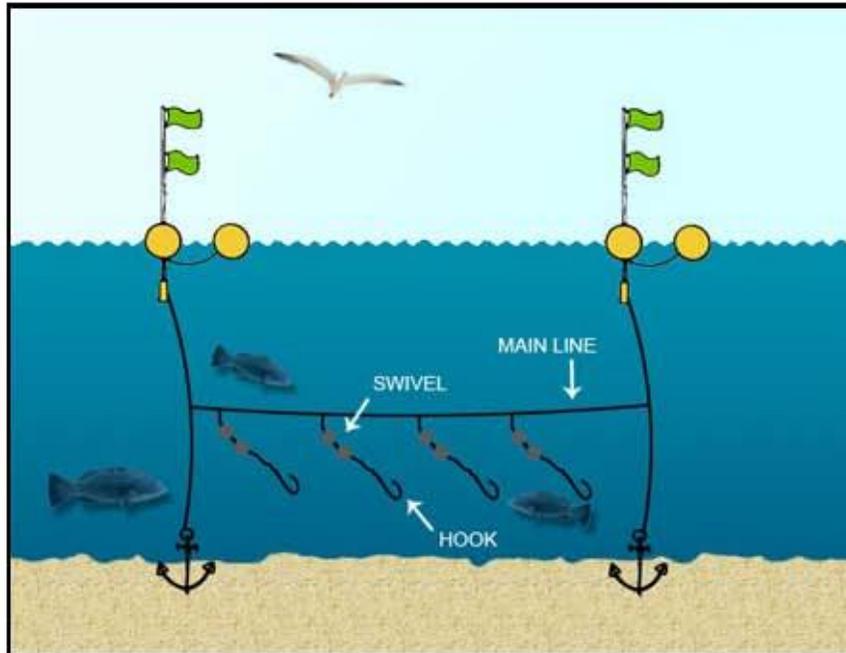
### **PURSE SEINE FISHING**

**Commercial fishers often use a small boat (skiff) to anchor one end of the seine.**



### GILLNET FISHING

Fish attempt to swim through the net, which traps their gills.



### LONGLINE FISHING

Fish are caught along a line of baited hooks.



**TRAWLER TIED TO TENDER**  
Fish are put on ice and taken to shore for processing.



**SALMON PROCESSING SHIP**  
Fish are cleaned and frozen at sea.