

Reading whole Australian herring otoliths

Name: _____

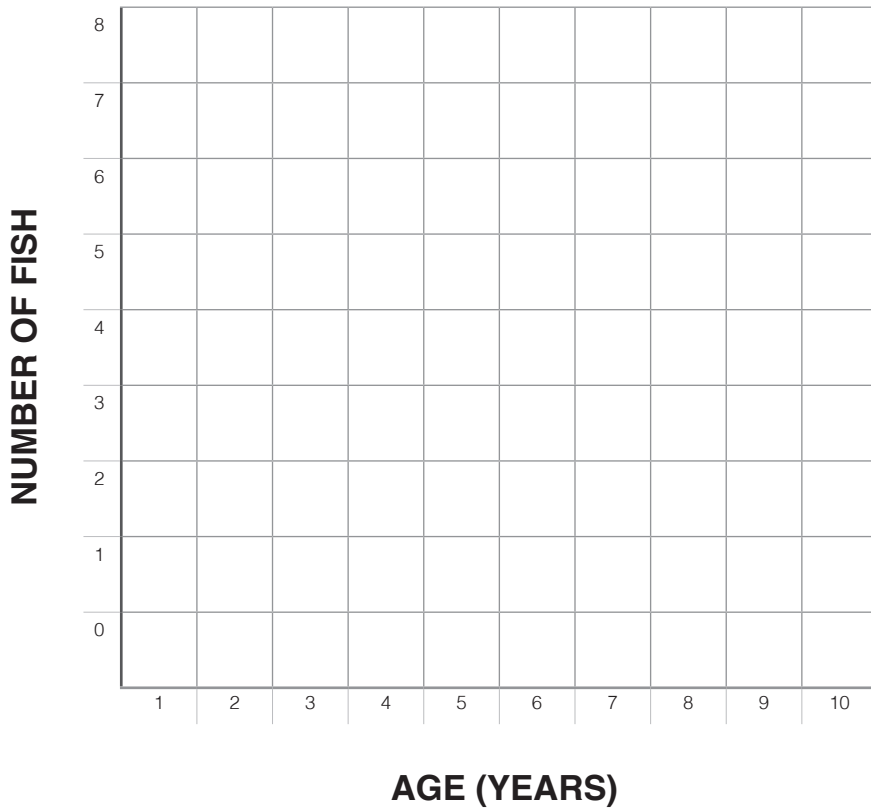
Using the set of whole otolith images, count the growth rings (bands) of each otolith and tally the age of each of the fish in the table below.

Growth bands appear as milky or opaque rings. For the fish species provided, each band represents one year of life. Refer to the image below for an example of how to read each whole otolith image.



Number of samples: _____

Age	Running Tally	Age	Running Tally
1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	



What was the youngest and oldest fish? _____

What was the average age of your fish sample? _____

Was any age group more abundant in your sample? _____

Describe the amount of young fish compared to older fish?

How does your sample compare with the maximum age of your fish species?

At what age and size do Australian herring become sexually mature (i.e. begin to spawn)? _____

Is there currently a size limit for Australian herring in Western Australia? If so, what is it? If not, why not? _____

What is the risk if most fish kept by recreational fishers don't comply with the current recreational fishing regulations? _____
