

just the facts **Katew**

Eel *Anguilla rostrata*



Ekinu'tmasimk

- Msit kataq etl-wskwijinultijik Sargasso Sea, apaqt ta'n etek wjipenuke'l Bermuda.
- Katew etl-ketaqa'teket qata'skw-iktuk. Kate'jk pekiji-alqo'qutijik apaqtuk mi'soqo petto'kuti'tij ta'n eymu'k Unama'kik aqq pemjajikiaq. Mi'soqo ika'tij Pitu'poq, ki's pemikutijik, 'sapuasamuksit aqq telui'tut "glass eel".
- Kataq piskweta'tij atqatmnew sipu'l, qospeml aqq qospemij'jl poqji-piluamkwita'jik, nike' telui'tujik kate'jk.
- Na tujiw wataptamkwita'jik aqq etl-qatmu'titaq mi'soqo na'tamiaw tapuiskekipunqekl jel nanipunqekl kis-pmiaq. Sulieweyamkwita'tij na apajita'taq Sargasso Sea naji-sika'lanew aqq npu'tinew.
- Ta'n tujiw watapsit katew sulieweyewamkwa'sit, wpisk piluika'silijik kulaman wli'kwe'tew. Wpukikl pemi-atki'kl aqq punatakl. Ula koqoey tela'sik kulaman naji-knekk wji'kwe'tew, l'miej.
- Na'sik pemi-mtua'sik ta'n telo'lti'tij kataq, tela'luek keska'sik etl-qatmu'tij, keplutasikl, awsami-ktanujik, ksnukwaq aqq pemi-aji-wetqane'k wskitqamu.



Kikmanaq telua'tijik

Katew wpukuluan (maqtewe'k pemapaqtek katew wtlamiluk) na ketuksa'luek.

"Nujjaq, Eugene Denny'o'q, i'-tluepnaq mu kate'kemit Kisikwekewiku's. Kiskuk kejitekemkewey teluek katew eliet piamiw 8000 km naji-sika'lan katu kniskamijinaq'k etlite'tmi'tip katew etli-sika'lan tett Kisikwekewiku's. Nemitu'tip na't-koqoey katew-iktuk. Mu kejitu'tikip weti'jk nemia'tijik, na'sik Kisikwekewiku's mu kate'kemit.

-Terry Denny

Kate'kemk mkumi-iktuk, sam'qwan keltik nikoq-iktuk, na keskukkl aqq sesupe'kl nikoql. Oqpilmn nikoql awni'skwa'tekemkewey-iktuk ma' mkumi kisi'sinuk.

Msit katew kis-we'wasit. Kata'qi kis-we'wmumk eliut tepotk, elqanatekewey mkisn-iktuk, keltaqpilaqnn aqq elt sekipilmn o'pliske'k kiswa teme'k kkat kiswa kpitnokm.

Katew wsukni kis-we'wmumk wjit waqatikn, wa'qi wjit npisun, aqq mimey ki'smn koqoey piluey.

Kato'mi ewe'wmumkip wjit wen wsituaqk ksnukwaj kiswa ketalqa'tumk kulkwikn.



Koqoey wjit weji-ksalu'kik

Atel kejikawe'l, kataq poqji-tkle'jijik Unama'kik. Na wjit Kanataewey Mawio'mi Ta'n Maliamajik Pemi-ktmaqsenejik Waisisk aqq Nme'jk sespete'lma'tijik kataq. Ki's piamiw pituimtlnaqnipunqekl Mi'kmaq Unama'kik menaqajeweywa'tiji kataq.

Kataq keknue'kik wjit mijipjewe, npisun aqq wi'kipaltimkl.

Toqa'tumkl Mi'kmawey wsitqamuey kjijitaq aqq kejitekemkewey aji-wli-nsitmnenu ula keknue'k nme'j wsitqamuem. Ula kina'matnewey apoqnmuksi'k menaqaj tli-ankweywanew kataq ke'sk me' tett eymu'ti'tij kulaman kisi-apajita'taq Sargasso Sea aqq pilue'k kataq apaji-pejita'ta'q elmi'knik.



Ktu' kinu'tmasin me' lie:



just the facts **Katew**

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ALL The Facts

- The life of every Katew begins in the Sargasso Sea, a large area of the Atlantic Ocean east of Bermuda.
- Born in seaweed, tiny larvae drift for months in the Gulf Stream before finding their way to Unama'ki and other coastal areas. By the time they reach the Bras d'Or Lakes, they are called glass eels because they are transparent.
- As Katew move into fresh water to make their homes in rivers, ponds and lakes, they gain colour to become eelvers.
- Here they become yellow eels and grow for up to 25 years before leaving as silver eels on the long trip back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and die.
- When adult Eels change from yellow to silver, the shape of their fins change so they can swim better, their eyes get larger, and they stop eating. This helps them make their long journey home.
- Unfortunately, habitat loss, dams, overfishing, disease, and perhaps global warming, may be causing problems for Katew.



What Our People SAY

The kidney (black string part inside the Eel) is the part that makes you sleepy.

"My father, the late Eugene Denny, said that people would not fish for Eels during August. Science says that an Eel travels 8000 km to spawn but our people believed that Eels could have spawned during here in August. They would see something in an Eel. They did not know it was parasites, but the Eel was still not caught during August." – Terry Denny

When eeling through the ice, water builds up on your spear and gets heavy and slippery. Wrap your spear with electric tape; ice will not build up.

All parts of the Eel can be used. Skins have been used as boot/moccasin soles, ties, bindings, and to stabilize sprained or broken limbs.

The tails Katew are used as bait, skins used as medicine, and fat to cook other foods.

Oils from larger Eels were used to treat ear infections and loosen ear wax.



WHY We Love Them

In recent years, Katew have shown signs of disappearing in parts of their home territory. As a result, the American Eel is now considered to be a species of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

For thousands of years the Mi'kmaq people of Unama'ki have shared a cultural and spiritual relationship with Katew.

Katew were used as an important food source, an ingredient in medicines, and for ceremonial purposes.

The combination of Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge and scientific study gives us a better understanding of the ecology of this important species. This information helps us protect them while they are here, so they can make their way home to the Sargasso Sea and new generations of Eels return to us.

Learn MORE Here



UNAMA'KIAQ

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Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey



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