Let’s Talk about SCIENCE

Topics: scientific paper, eel migration
Grade Level: High School

Students analyze and interpret American eel data by reading a scientific paper about eel migration.

Student Activity:
1. Print out copies of the article “Direct observations of American eels migrating across the continental shelf to the Sargasso Sea” or share the website link.

2. Reading and interpreting scientific papers can be challenging. Share with students the guidelines for understanding research papers. Go over the article with students, pointing out the different sections.

Guidelines for Understanding Research Papers:
- Take note of the journal in which the article was published.
- As you read, write down or circle words you don’t understand.
- Read the introduction first (not the abstract).
- Identify the BIG Question.
- Summarize the background.
- Identify the specific question(s)
- Identify the approach. How did they do their research.
- What were their methods? Draw a diagram.
- Summarize the results.
- Do the results answer the specific question(s) the author was trying to answer?
- Read the conclusion, discussion section.
- Read the abstract.

3. Have students read the article and complete the “Let’s Talk about Science” student worksheet. Have students share their interpretation and responses.