



Tropical Fish Rescue • Study Guide

The Gulf Stream brings warm water up the east coast of the United States from the Caribbean. During the summer, juvenile tropical fish that get stuck in the Gulf stream often find themselves deposited in the waters of southern New England where they live happily for a few months. But as autumn comes along, the water starts getting cold and by winter, all these tropical fish will die. Jonathan joins the New England Aquarium Dive Club on a tropical fish rescue mission to capture some of these fish in Rhode Island before they succumb to the cold water.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the Gulf Stream and how ocean currents can affect ocean life.
2. Illustrates the juvenile phase of several species of tropical fish.
3. Introduces viewers to safe ways to catch tropical fish without harming them.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is the Gulf Stream? Where is it?
2. Besides water, what other things can be caught in ocean currents like the Gulf Stream?
3. Can a tropical fish from the Caribbean survive in New England waters?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why do divers catch tropical fish in Rhode Island in the fall?
2. What happens to the tropical fish that do not get caught?
3. How do the tropical fish get all the way to New England?
4. Why are the tropical fish safe during the summer in Rhode Island, but not in the winter?
5. Where are the caught fish going?
6. Are there sea horses in New England? Are they tropicals, or local?
7. Describe some of the ways the tropical fish were captured without harming them.