

Gap-fill

Complete the text with the appropriate word from the box.

towing	pristine	schools	breeding
remoteness	conservation	trawlers	invasive

Researchers find world's largest fish breeding ground

Scientists in Antarctica have made a surprising and welcome discovery – the world's largest _____ ground for fish. Researchers from Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research came across the fish while mapping the seabed of the Antarctic Weddell Sea. They discovered _____ of around 60 million icefish breeding in an area roughly 240 square kilometers in size. The research team had been _____ a number of cameras to a depth of 530 metres under the Weddell Sea for months. Deep-sea biologist Autun Purser commented on the find. He said: "The idea that such a huge breeding area of icefish in the Weddell Sea was previously undiscovered is totally fascinating."

The researchers have been exploring the region hoping to establish it as an official Marine Protected Area. They say the seas are a unique habitat that must be preserved. They want to prevent fishing and _____ research to keep the waters as _____ as possible. A recent University of Cambridge study found that fishing _____ in Antarctica are bringing millions of "hitch-hiking" species from 1,500 ports around the globe. These are threatening the area's fragile eco-systems. A researcher said: "So far, the _____ and difficult sea-ice conditions of this southernmost area...have protected it, but...we should be much more ambitious with marine _____."

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. welcome | a. investigating |
| 2. came across | b. pulling |
| 3. roughly | c. determined |
| 4. towing | d. discovered |
| 5. fascinating | e. immaculate |
| 6. exploring | f. breakable |
| 7. habitat | g. pleasing |
| 8. pristine | h. engrossing |
| 9. fragile | i. natural environment |
| 10. ambitious | j. approximately |