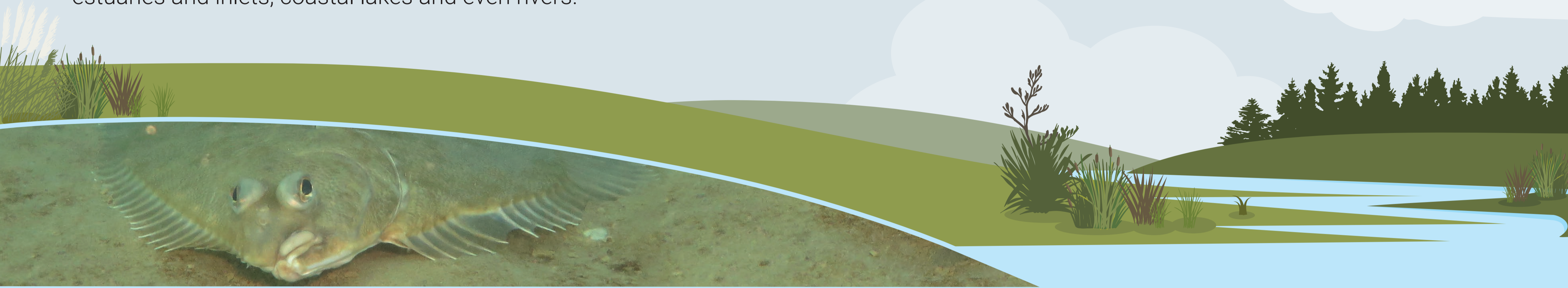


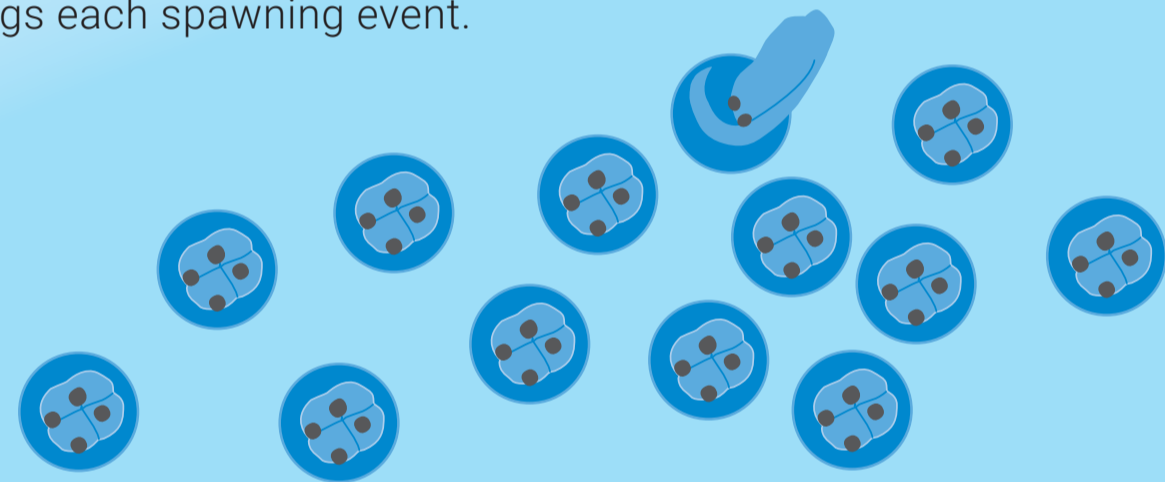
PĀTIKI LIFE CYCLE

Pātiki (New Zealand flounder) are found in shallow, brackish (slightly salty) waters including harbours, estuaries and inlets, coastal lakes and even rivers.



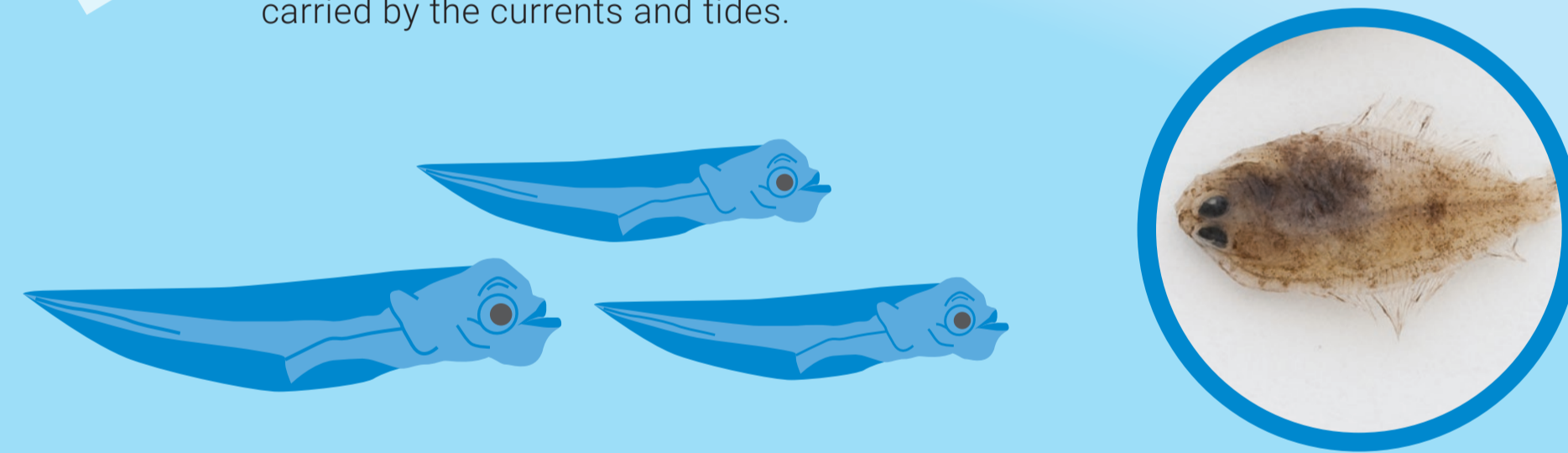
1 EGGS

The pātiki starts its life as an egg off the coast. Adult pātiki spawn offshore and their eggs are washed into estuaries, harbours and inlets with the tides. Some pātiki can produce up to one million eggs each spawning event.



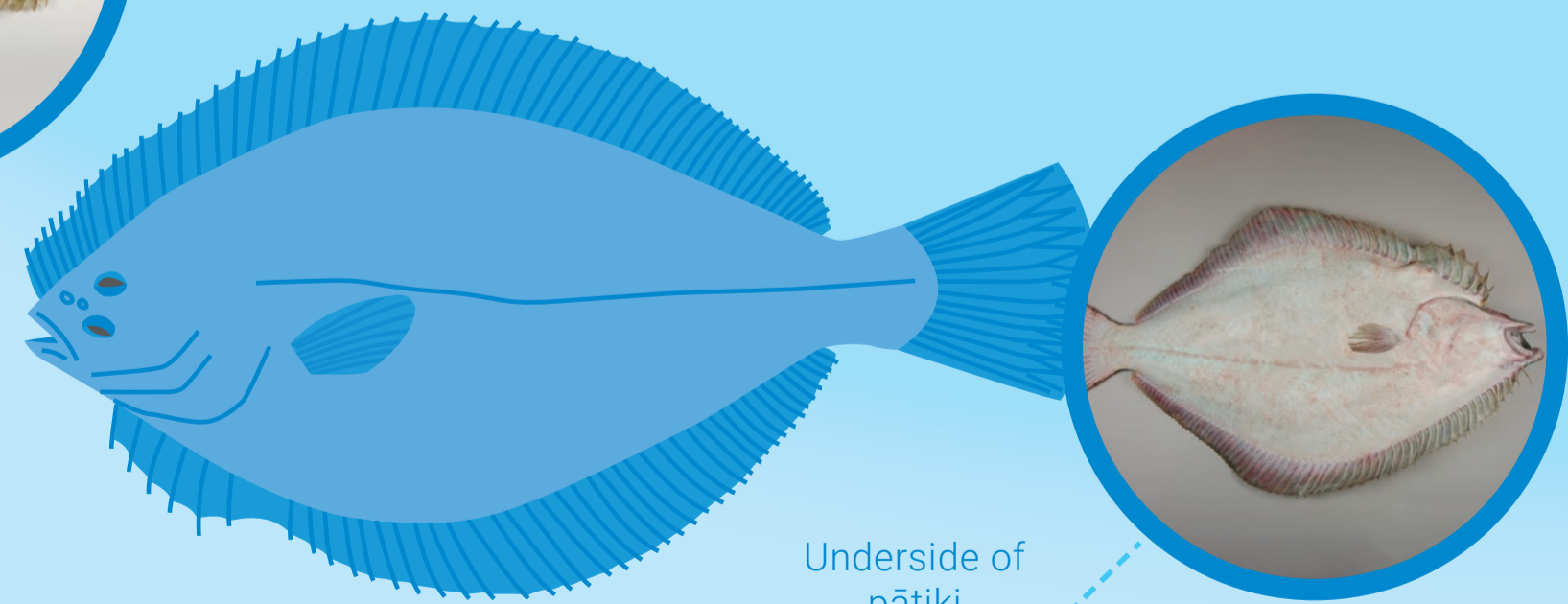
2 LARVAE

Pātiki hatch into an upright swimming fish with one eye on each side of their body. As they grow the left eye moves to the right side of the head to prepare for when they are lying on the sea floor. Although they can swim a little, they are usually carried by the currents and tides.



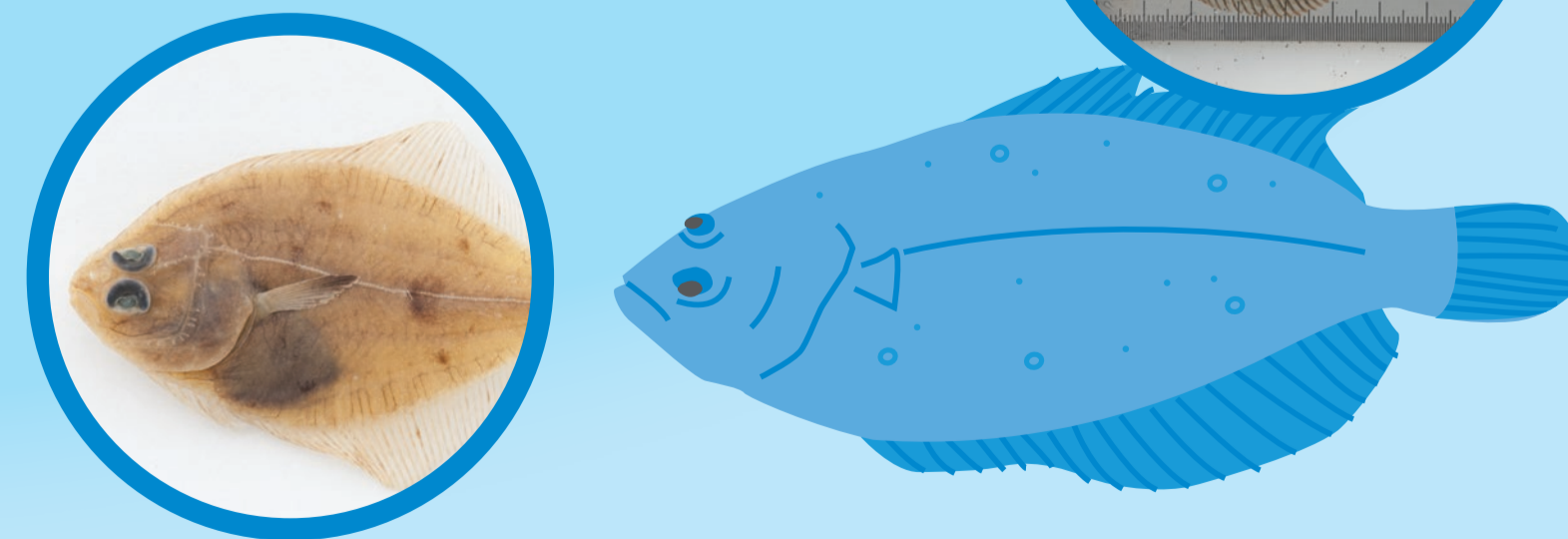
4 ADULTS

After about two years, pātiki have grown enough to begin to move out into deeper waters including the deeper parts of estuaries and harbours and inlets as well as out onto the open coastline. Sand flounder males reach maturity at around 12 cm, females from 18 – 22 cm. Yellow-belly flounder males mature at 15 cm and females at 26 – 27 cm. During summer they travel back into harbours to feed and to prepare to spawn in late winter and spring.



3 JUVENILES

Once the eyes of the pātiki are both on the right side of their bodies, they begin to lie on their side and move to the sea floor as juveniles. As juveniles they like to stay in the shallower parts of estuaries, harbours and inlets.



THERE ARE FOUR SPECIES OF PĀTIKI IN AOTEAROA



Rhombosolea plebeia

Common name: Sand flounder
Māori name: Pātiki

Diamond shape, greenish brown with white belly. Maximum length 45 cm



Rhombosolea retiaria

Common name: Black flounder
Māori name: Pātiki-mohao.

Oval shaped, brick orange spots on black back. Maximum length 45 cm



Rhombosolea leporina

Common name: Yellow-belly flounder
Māori name: Pātiki-tōtara.

Oval shaped, Greenish brown with yellow belly. Maximum length 50 cm



Rhombosolea tapirina

Common name: Greenback flounder

Oval shaped, dark green with white belly. Maximum length 50 cm

For more information visit
niwa.co.nz/te-kuwaha/patiki

