



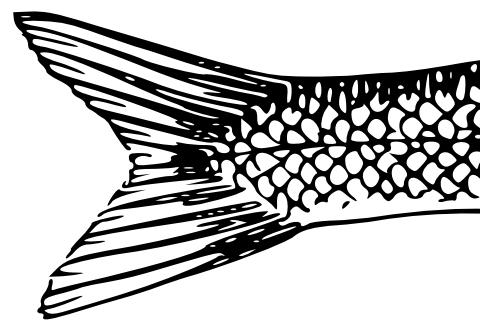
The Sounds Beneath the Sea: Sweden, the Cold War, and a Very Strange Mystery

Listening lesson, A2+/B1

Warm-up

Imagine you are in the navy. It's the 1980s. You are listening to the sea. Suddenly, you hear strange sounds from the bottom of the ocean. Loud. Rhythmic. Mechanical. No one knows what they are...

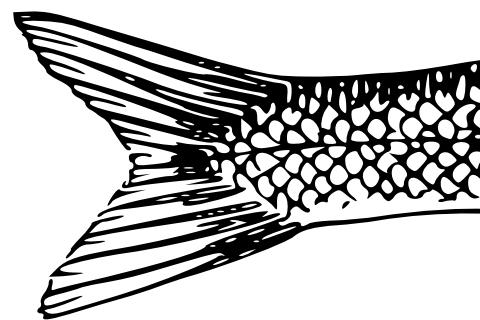
**What could the sounds be?
Would you feel scared? Why / why not?
Which country do you think would be blamed first?**



Warm-up

“Operation: Listen to the Sea”

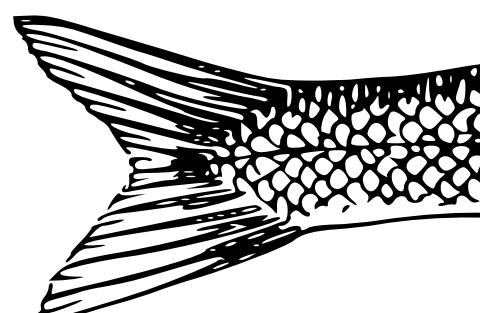
What could that be? Who was involved? What was the goal?



Vocabulary

1. navy
2. surface
3. coast
4. tension
5. submarine
6. investigation
7. to emerge
8. to amplify
9. harmless
10. fear

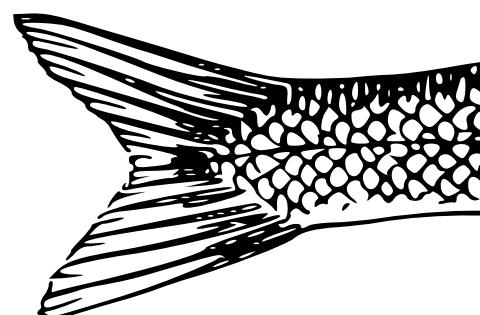
- A. a feeling of worry or stress
- B. a ship that can travel under water
- C. not dangerous
- D. a group of ships and soldiers protecting a country at sea
- E. the land next to the sea
- F. to appear or come into view
- G. the process of finding out the truth about something
- H. the outside or top part of something
- I. to make a sound or feeling stronger
- J. a strong feeling of being afraid



Vocabulary - fill in the gaps

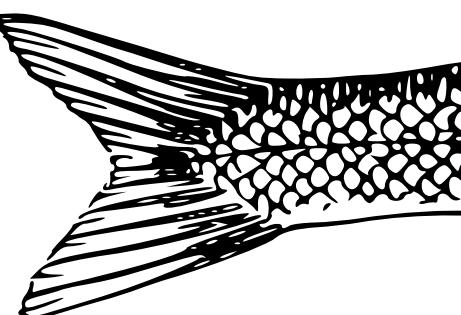
navy - coast - surface - submarine - tension - investigation - amplify - emerge - harmless - fear

1. After the argument, there was a lot of _____ in the room.
2. The police started an _____ to understand what had happened.
3. The child was afraid of dogs, even though the animal was completely _____.
4. Many tourists enjoy walking along the _____ in summer.
5. Please speak clearly – this microphone will _____ your voice.
6. The diver waited to _____ slowly after the dive.
7. The country decided to invest more money in its _____.
8. The boat disappeared, but later a _____ appeared on the radar.
9. Oil floated on the _____ of the water.
10. His decision was based on _____, not facts.



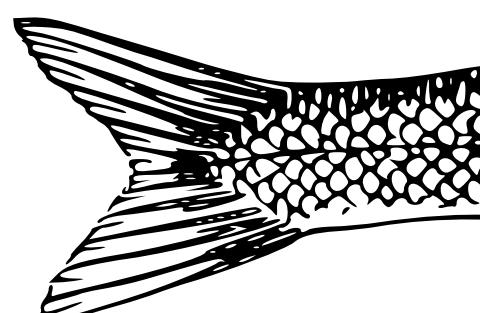
Vocabulary - odd one out

1. fear - tension - stress - harmless
2. surface - bottom - top - outside
3. navy - submarine - aircraft - fleet
4. emerge - appear - disappear - rise
5. investigation - research - search - sentence



Vocabulary - let's talk!

1. Why do you think some countries need a strong **navy**?
2. Do you usually show your emotions on the **surface**, or do you hide them? Why?
3. Would you prefer to live near the **coast** or inland? What are the advantages?
4. What situations usually create **tension** at work or at school?
5. Would you like to travel in a **submarine**? Why or why not?
6. Why is it important to do a careful **investigation** before making a decision?
7. What problems can **emerge** if people don't communicate clearly?
8. Can social media **amplify** small problems? Can you give an example?
9. Can something that looks dangerous be **harmless**? Think of an example.
10. How can **fear** influence the decisions people make?



Listening 1: “The First Sound”

1

Where did the sound come from?

- A from the surface of the sea
- B from deep water near Sweden
- C from inside a ship

2

How did the sound seem to the navy?

- A random and short
- B quiet and friendly
- C regular and strange

3

Why was the situation stressful?

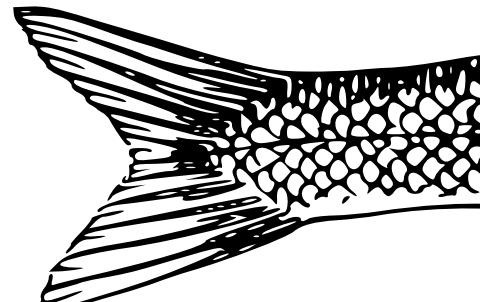
- A Sweden was at war
- B the Cold War created fear
- C the navy had no equipment



What do you think the sound really is?

What do you think the navy will do next?

Do you think fear will help them make good decisions?



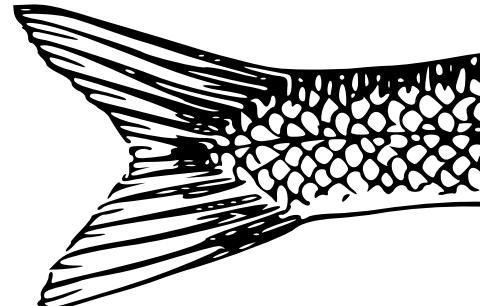
Listening 2: “Searching for the Enemy”

Listen and complete with one word:

1. The sounds returned many times over the next _____.
2. The navy started secret _____ to find the source.
3. Special equipment was used to _____ under the sea.
4. Many people believed the sound came from a Soviet _____.
5. The navy tried to force the submarine to _____.



- Why do you think people believed it was a submarine?
- Was it logical to spend so much money? Why / why not?
- What other explanations could there be?



Listening 3: “The Truth”

Listen and decide if the statements are true or false:

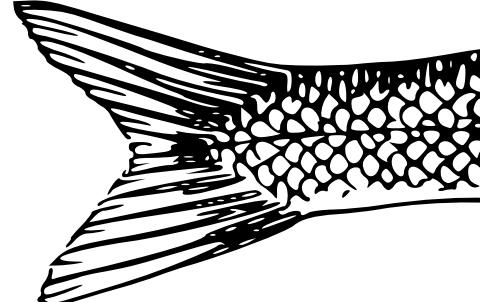
1. Scientists were involved from the beginning.
2. The sound was made by machines.
3. Herring were responsible for the noise.
4. Water made the sound stronger.
5. Fear influenced how people explained the situation.

Why do you think fear was so strong during the Cold War?

How did fear affect the navy's decisions?

Do people still make decisions based on fear today? Give examples.

Can fear ever be useful? When?



Creative follow-up: Journalist's perspective

Imagine you are a journalist reporting on a mysterious situation in Swedish waters.

Create **two short news stories** about the same event, but at two different moments in time.

Story 1 – At the Beginning

Write a news report from the moment when the strange underwater sounds are first discovered.

Include:

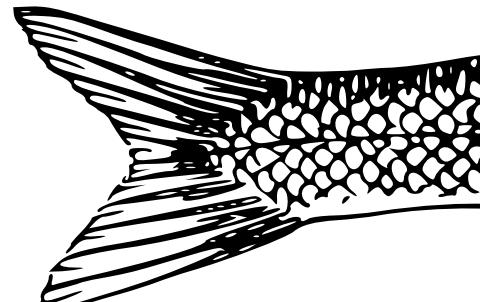
- a title
- a short description of the situation
- the mood of uncertainty or tension
- what people believe is happening

Story 2 – At the End

Now write a second news report after the mystery has been explained.

Include:

- a new title
- a short description of the situation
- the true explanation
- how people now understand the events



Wrap-up vocabulary taboo

F

SURFACE

top
outside
water

NAVY

ships
military
sea

AMPLIFY

increase
louder
stronger

SONAR

sound
detect
underwater

INVASION

attack
enter
force

SCIENTISTS

researchers
experts
study

HERRING

fish
sea
silvery

RANDOM

chance
planned
pattern

SUBMARINE

underwater
ship
navy

UNIDENTIFIED

unknown
named
clear

COAST

shore
sea
border

INVESTIGATION

research
examine
search

ORGANIC

natural
living
biological

FEAR

afraid
danger
emotion

SUSPICIOUS

doubt
trust
fear

EMERGE

appear
surface
come

SPY

secretly
watch
information

NEUTRAL

side
conflict
war

DEPTH

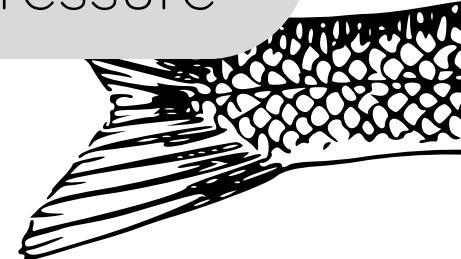
deep
surface
below

PHENOMENON

event
happening
strange

TENSION

stress
conflict
pressure



Transcripts

Listening Part 1 – The First Sound

In the 1980s, people working for the Swedish navy heard a strange sound under the sea.

It did not come from the surface, but from deep water near the coast.

The sound was slow and regular. It did not sound natural.

The navy became worried. Sweden was neutral, but the Cold War was a time of fear and tension.

Some officers started to think the sound came from a foreign submarine.

They asked themselves one question: Was someone spying on Sweden?

Listening Part 2 – Searching for the Enemy

The sounds returned many times over the next weeks and months.

The Swedish navy started secret investigations.

Ships were sent out at night, and special equipment was used to listen under the sea.

Many people believed the sound came from a Soviet submarine.

The navy spent a lot of money trying to find the source.

They tried to force the submarine to emerge, but nothing appeared.

No ship.

No submarine.

Only the sound.

Listening Part 3 – The Truth

Years later, scientists joined the investigation. They listened to the sound in a different way.

They discovered that the noise was natural.

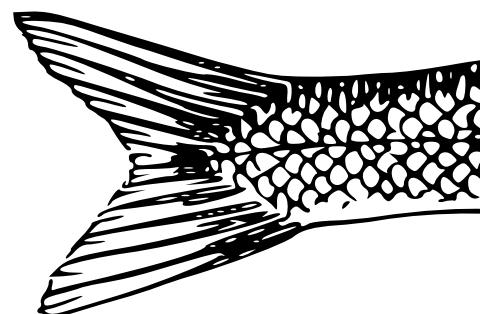
It was made by large groups of fish called herring.

When the fish released gas, the sound travelled through the water and became louder.

The sea amplified it.

For many years, fear and Cold War tension changed how people understood the sound.

What seemed dangerous was actually harmless.



Answer key

F

Vocabulary match

1. navy - D
2. surface - H
3. coast - E
4. tension - A
5. submarine - B
6. investigation - G
7. to emerge - F
8. to amplify - I
9. harmless - C
10. fear - J

Fill in the Gaps

1. tension
2. investigation
3. harmless
4. coast
5. amplify
6. emerge
7. navy
8. submarine
9. surface
10. fear

Odd One Out

1. harmless
2. (others describe negative emotions or pressure)
3. bottom
4. (others refer to the outer or upper part)
5. aircraft
6. (others are connected to sea or navy)
7. disappear
8. (others mean appear or come up)
9. ignore
10. (others are about trying to find information)

Listening

Part 1

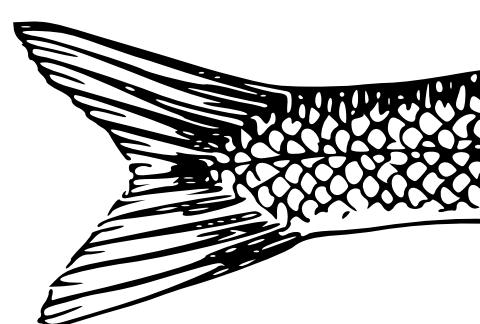
1-B, 2-C, 3-B

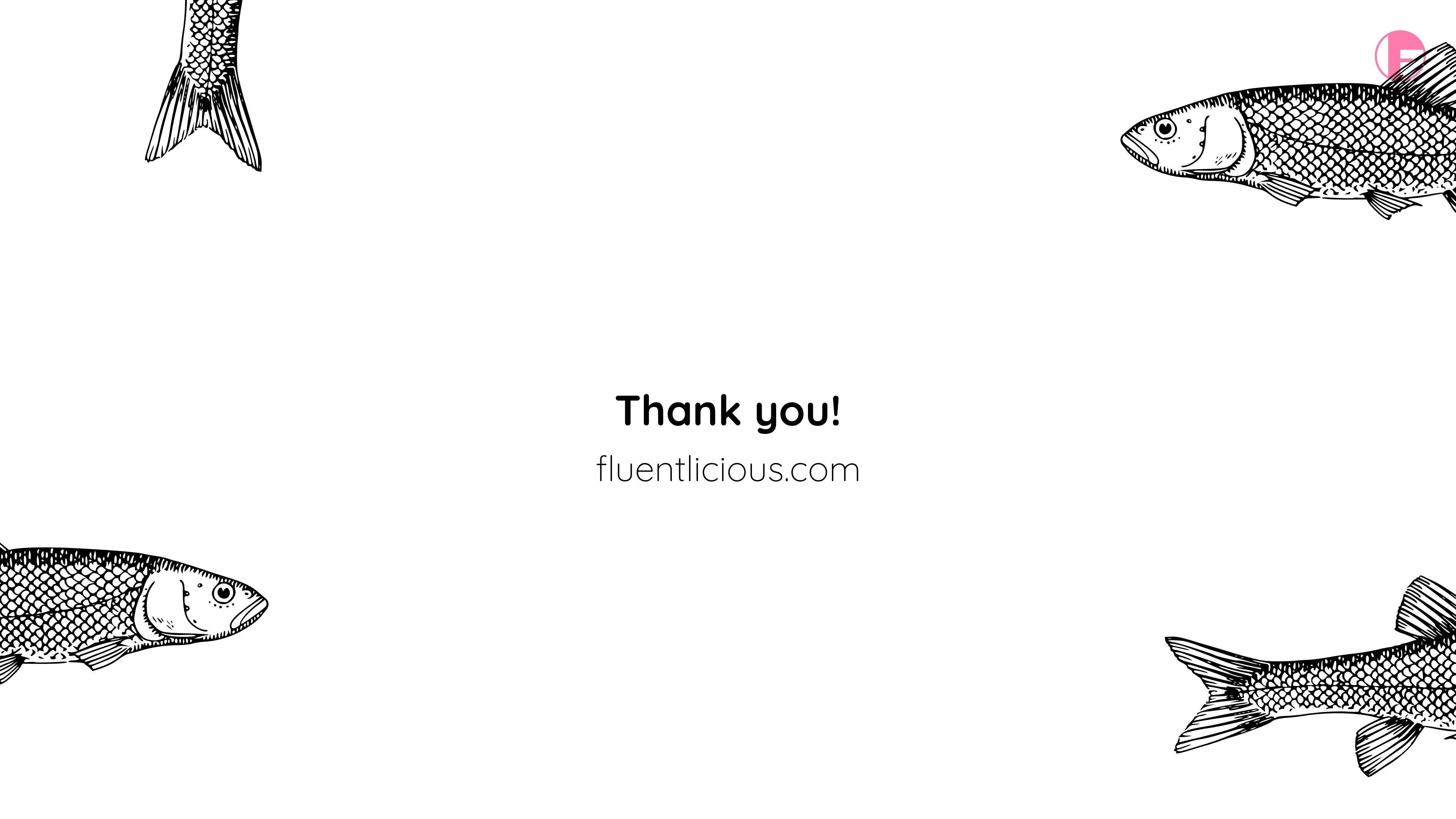
Part 2

- The sounds returned many times over the next weeks and months.
- The navy started secret investigations to find the source.
- Special equipment was used to listen under the sea.
- Many people believed the sound came from a Soviet submarine.
- The navy tried to force the submarine to emerge.

Part 3

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True





Thank you!

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