



Bird and Mammal Investigator Student Data Collection Sheet

What influences a marine food web?

Bird and Mammal Investigator: _____

Directions: Collaborate with the people in your group to answer the following questions. You will need access to the internet to complete this task. In some cases you may be directed to a specific website otherwise you may use your favorite search engine. After completing this task you will form a new group where you will be the expert bird and mammal observer. You will then work together to identify what really influences a marine food web.

Go to: <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/library/videogallery.html>

Bird and mammal investigators are responsible for cataloging the species identification and number that are viewed in a given sampling area. But how do they do it? Watch the video of Carol Kieper and Sophie Webb from Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge to find out how the experts do it and answer the questions below.

Mammal Observations

1. What exactly is a marine mammal observer looking for?
2. Where does a marine mammal observer look? From what part of the research vessel?
3. What information does a marine mammal observer record?

Seabird Observations

4. How are seabirds counted?
5. What information does a seabird observer record?

6. How is the information recorded?

Go to: http://sanctuarysimon.org/regional_sections/birds/overview.php?sec=ss

and

http://sanctuarysimon.org/regional_sections/marineMammals/overview.php?sec=mm

7. The research area includes both the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuaries. Brainstorm as a group and use the website as a resource to generate a list of important seabirds, mammals and other vertebrates that would play a role in the marine food web of this area.

8. Are there any species of special interest (endangered species or species with declining populations) in these given areas? Why is it important to identify these species?

Go to: <http://data.prbo.org/cadc/tools/multimap/aocean.php>

Data collected from various research cruises dating back to 2004 is available on this website. The species density recorded by bird and mammal observers is noted at various sampling sites. You will investigate a **minimum of three species** noting general information about the species and the overall trend in density between seasons and years. One of the three species will be the Cassin's Auklet.

9. Species: Cassin's Auklet

General Information about the species:

Notes on species density:

10. Species: _____

General Information about the species:

11. Species: _____

General Information about the species:

Notes on species density:

12. What other factors does your group think may influence the abundance of seabirds, mammals and other vertebrates found in a marine food web?