

Marine Communities

(20 points)

Due in class on Monday December 7, 2009 [no exceptions].

Make sure to read these pages with the instructions before you begin exploring these amazing organisms!

NOTE: ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT ATTACHED RECEIPTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT! MAKE SURE TO GET ONE (MEMBERS AS WELL)!

[Keep asking and explain the situation in case you have a problem. Don't take a no for an answer.] In addition, your tickets/receipts need to be **marked / time-stamped before 2pm**. You are not allowed to copy information from displays, texts, journals or web sites (unless you quote or refer to the source/s). All of the above are examples of plagiarism. The consequences of any plagiarism on this assignment will result in that you receive an 'F' in the course.

Admission: Bring \$27.95 and a student ID (otherwise \$29.95). You may want to bring money for lunch? For \$50 you can become a student member for a year (well worth it if you will visit the aquarium more than twice over the coming year). The hours of the aquarium are 10am – 6pm daily. Bring writing materials and a notebook. The lines to the aquarium are often long at the time the aquarium opens. The best time to visit is on weekday afternoons between 2-6pm.

Directions from the South Bay: Take **85 South** to Hwy **101 South**. In Prunedale, take **Hwy. 156 West**/Monterey Peninsula to **Hwy 1 South**. [*Do not take 156 east which you will encounter before 156 west.*] Take Hwy. 1 South to Monterey; **exit at the Pacific Grove/Del Monte Ave.** exit. **Follow Del Monte Ave.** (in the right 2 lanes) past Fisherman's Wharf then **through the tunnel**. Follow the brown directional signs to **Cannery Row parking** and the **aquarium**.

[Alternatively you can take Hw 17 to Santa Cruz and then follow Hw 1 south to Monterey.]

The aquarium's Web site <http://www.mbayaq.org/> // Phone: (831) 648-4888/4800

Introduction: Monterey Bay Aquarium has made it possible for the human species to become familiar with an alien environment. Obviously the evolutionary and ecological challenges in these habitats are very different compared to the land environment. You will get an opportunity to experience the diverse marine communities existing in Monterey Bay. The purpose with the visit is to bring an understanding of the physical challenges of living in these communities as well as the impressive biodiversity existing locally offshore. You will become familiar with the most common species found in these communities. Hopefully your understanding and interest in the "invisible" world of marine life will be enhanced by your visit.

Your visit to the aquarium will probably take anywhere between 4-5 hours. **Plan accordingly.** Enjoy the exhibits and take plenty of breaks as you become more familiar with these fascinating marine communities. The goal of the trip is to get a sense of the diverse marine communities and the life within them.

What is Due? The Report!!! Your task is to write essays focused on three different topics linked to the aquarium: The Outer Bay, Marine Conservation issues, as well as musings/observations of the aquarium itself (marked in **bold (and framed)** below). I expect these essays to be well-written, factual as well as thoughtful ponderings.

Your report needs to be typed (**Times New Roman, point size 11, single spaced, minimal space for titles**). The report should contain essays focused on the following three topics (see below) [**total 6 pages** + title page/references + any sketches/drawings etc.]:

❖ **Outer Bay (Open Sea) [2 pages]**

- This essay should focus on the open water in the bay. You will need to discuss and ponder the different types of organisms that live in this environment. Examples. What do they look like? How are they adapted to a life in this realm? Look at their bodies, fins, mouths, eyes, colors, shapes, behavior and whatever catches your eyes. Look through and read all the displays in this "Outer Bay" exhibits. Which phyla are represented? Sit down in front of the giant tank for at least 20 minutes and watch the marine life in it. Imagine being one of these organisms being suspended in the blue water. What is life like? What is important for survival? Try to encapsulate factual information and your own thoughts related to these questions.

❖ **Protecting Marine Life [2 pages] (below the Outer Bay exhibit and dispersed throughout the aquarium)**

- The focus of this exhibit is the fragile conditions of the marine habitats and the rapidly declining fish populations across the world. In your essay you should write about how the aquarium attempts to present this situation to the public eye. What species are they using to convey the information? What are the issues facing those species? Do you think they were well chosen? What are your own impressions of the environmental state of the ocean realm?

❖ **Essay focusing on your impressions of the aquarium as a tool for understanding marine biodiversity [2 pages]**

- In your final essay I would like you to ponder how the aquarium presents the marine realm to the public eye. What kind of life forms are they showing in the exhibits? Do you think they are representative of what is out in Monterey Bay? How do people respond to these exhibits (yes, watch the people watching the marine organisms). Are people learning things or is this a marine circus/zoo? Do you see differences among people around you? What are your own impressions of the marine realm and biodiversity after visiting the aquarium? Does it serve a valuable purpose? Explain and discuss these issues.

Note: Feel free to attach sketches/drawings or anything else that seems appropriate. Make sure to visit all the available exhibits at the time of your visit regardless if any of the assigned essays are related to them. Enjoy the rest of the aquarium.

The essays (typed [otherwise not accepted]) need to be turned in on time for credit.

Do not copy information from different sources! I would like you to describe the exhibits/communities based on your own knowledge and writing skills!!! DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!! You will receive an 'F' in the course if your paper contains plagiarism.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the aquarium!! : -)