In this paper, you will be asked to summarize a published paper and to write a brief critique. The purpose of this exercise is to give you experience in examining marine biological literature and getting the essence of the written material, while keeping a critical eye open for a paper's significance, utility, and shortcomings.

Along with these instructions, you will download a published paper (link is on the front page of the course website) that has been stripped of title, abstract, and journal citation. This is the important source material for your paper. The theme and results of the paper are straightforward so that you can concentrate on this writing exercise.

**IT WILL BE CONSIDERED CHEATING TO SEARCH FOR THIS PAPER IN THE LIBRARY OR ON THE WEB, or TO DO THIS COLLABORATIVELY WITH ANOTHER STUDENT**

**TASKS AND FORMAT**

1. **Cover Page.** Provide a cover page with the paper's title (that YOU will make up), plus your name, id, and the date. Remember, a title must be descriptive and encompass the paper's subject and main conclusion. (example: Examination of John Ashcroft's Brain Scan Fails to Find Anything).

2. **Abstract of 250 words or less.** Just about all published papers have an abstract, which is a succinct summary of the paper's major results. The abstract contains informative sentences that describe methods (only when crucial to the understanding of the results), very few details about the organisms and location of work, and mostly the outcome of the study.

   Here are examples of sentences in an abstract that tell us little of the actual results: "The relationship of snail abundance to tidal height was also studied." "The tastiness of boiled worms is contrasted with raw worms."

   These sentences are more informative: "Snail abundance increased with increasing tidal height." "We found that boiled worms tasted better than the raw variety."

   THE LENGTH OF THE ABSTRACT MUST BE NO LONGER THAN 250 WORDS. YOU WILL BE PENALIZED FOR EXCEEDING THAT LENGTH.

3. **Significance and Critique.** After the abstract, write a MAXIMUM three page double spaced paper, summarizing the major significance of the paper. Be sure to describe the hypotheses that the authors tested and their general objectives. Be sure to discuss the broader implications of this paper for studies in marine ecology and ecology in general. WHERE APPROPRIATE, also criticize the paper (alternative hypotheses to consider, improper methods, unfounded conclusion, poor reasoning)

   Thus, your paper will be no longer than 3 pages total + title page. If you need to use a figure, then please do so. References are welcome, but not necessary. DO NOT PROVIDE A REFERENCE UNLESS YOU HAVE INSPECTED IT PERSONALLY.
This assignment is partially designed to improve your writing skills and partially to give you an opportunity to interpret and integrate material reported in the primary literature. You must not consult with others while preparing this assignment.

YOU MUST TYPE YOUR PAPER, DOUBLE SPACED, WITH AN ADEQUATE MARGIN FOR COMMENTS (1 INCH AT LEAST)

Remember the DUE DATE: Friday, MARCH 23, 5 P.M.

A FEW things on which to focus:

(1) What hypotheses were tested? What were the main objectives of the study? What are the major results? What important principles are raised?

(2) What are the important ecological processes?

(3) How can this be applied to other systems, both marine and terrestrial?

Some writing hints:

Paragraph structure: A paragraph is a series of related thoughts. The first sentence sets the main idea of the paragraph and all other sentences are related. Don't restate the first sentence of the paragraph again at the end of the paragraph.

Organization: Headings are very useful. It is also useful to begin writing by having a written outline, with headings.

Writing details:

(1) Avoid unnecessary phrases: "The reason is because...", "It is important to know that ...."

(2) Use the active voice: "She shattered the glass." is better than "The effect of her throwing the glass was that it was shattered."

(3) Species names are always in one of the following two forms:

Homo sapiens

Homo sapiens

After you mention a species name for the first time, afterwards you refer to it as:

H. sapiens

(4) It is = it’s - It is raining outside. It’s raining outside.

Its = possessive form: The dog shook its tail.

(5) Try to avoid words such as incredibly, unbelievably, impossibly, unless you really mean it! If you use the word awesome or other similar words you may find bodily fluids on your paper.

(6) Avoid quoting the text of the paper. It is almost always better to use your own phrasing, as it will integrate better with the rest of your prose. Quotes are only useful when you must
use the exact language that the author used to convey a specific mood, or if the quote is a memorable one.