3. Research paper on oceanography/marine biology topic (120 pts)

Each student will be required to complete a research paper that covers any topic within the field of oceanography or marine biology that has been discussed in a popular press article (i.e., newspaper/magazine/online article) **within the past year only**. These articles may only come from a news source. Examples may include the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, CNN, etc. Blog articles (opinion pieces) will not be accepted.

STEPS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

1. Topic Justification (10pts): You will be required to 1) select a general topic that is of interest to you, 2) find the article that corresponds to this topic, and 3) submit the idea, the weblink to the article in question, and a 1 paragraph justification of why you chose this topic in a word document on Blackboard for approval on or before **9/25**.

Here is an example of an appropriate topic: I am really interested in the sea cucumber fishery and their export to Asia for consumption. I’ve researched it and found that an article was written by the National Geographic on June 2, 2017 (“Why smuggling of this ocean creature may skyrocket”). A word to the wise: think carefully about the topic you want to write a paper on, as you will also be giving a presentation on the topic as well. The sky is the limit-as long as the topic is within the realm of oceanography and marine biology and has been news-worthy.

1. Citations (10 pts): Once I have approved your research topic (I will provide email confirmation), you should begin searching literature databases for at least 5 relevant journal articles from primary scientific literature\* (no books, no internet sites..**NO WIKIPEDIA!**) that will be referenced in your report. Do not worry, we will go over what a peer-reviewed paper is, how to find it, and how to read it in class. It is your responsibility to find 5 scientific papers, read them, and include information from them in your report. **You will also be required to submit a brief synopsis (3-4 sentences each) of each paper on Blackboard due 10/23. Including at least 5 journal article citations in your report willmake up 10 points of your overall report grade (in other words, each citation is worth 2 points each).** You are more than welcome to include more than these 5 citations in your report, and are encouraged to do so but it is not required.

\*Primary, peer-reviewed scientific literature means that these authors conducted their own experiments/surveys and presented their own work which was then critiqued by their peers prior to publication. Review papers do not count as part of the 5 journal articles, but you may certainly include them in your literature cited.

1. Research Paper (100pts): Your research papers should be 6 pages long written in Microsoft Word, not including the literature cited section or any figures (e.g., maps, photos, or diagrams) you choose to include. Text is required to be Times New Roman, double spaced, and 12pt font. Do not justify the lines on the pages or put extra spaces between paragraphs. You should have 1” margins. You will submit your paper in Blackboard through the Turnitin section. Papers should be broken up into the following sections:

**Part I (Into)** (1 page): This is the section where you introduce your topic and summarize the article that you have selected. What was the main message of the article? What was the take-home message of the article? Does the topic seem like it is currently relevant in the fields of oceanography and marine biology?

**Part II (Discussion)** (4 pages): This section should be divided into two parts. The first part (~2 pages) should cover the scientific research that you have found on your topic and will include your 5 citations. The second part (~2 page) should discuss what still should be done or investigated with regards to the topic.

**Part III (Conclusion)** (1 page): This section should summarize the article, briefly what the science behind the article says, and whether the science made “sense”. Finish the conclusion with what work still needs to be conducted in order to further that topic.

**Literature Cited** (~1 page): This is your reference section. Again, I would refer to the literature cited section in the articles that you select to help guide you with this section. An example of a proper citation below:

Vader, D.A., Kenobi, O.W., and D-2, R.2. 1977. Migration patterns of Ewoks (*Ewokiusadorabilis*) on the moon of Endor. Federation Journal of Science 11: 220-226.

\*A note on your research paper: Please do not write in the first person (i.e., “I think that…”). Please use the third person. “It is believed that”, “The authors state that”.