

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Field Trip Exercise

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve has good examples of rocky intertidal and tide pool habitats that are populated by invertebrates and small fish, but also used by birds and marine mammals.

The reserve staff has been monitoring the abundance of invertebrates in these habitats for a number of years to try to determine the effects of human visitation on these animals.

1. List all the animals that you observe while carefully walking around the Marine Preserve. Classify each animal by Phylum, and all Cnidaria and Mollusca to the level of class.
2. In your estimation which animal is the most abundant animal in the Reserve (covers the greatest area of the rocky substrate)?
3. In the tide pools, areas between rocks that hold water even at low tide, are particular animals or kinds of animals more abundant?
4. Do you find animals in the tide pools that are not found on the rock surfaces exposed to the air at low tide?
5. Are their behavioral differences between anemones in tide pools and anemones on rock surfaces exposed to the air at low tide?

Extra Credit – For you photographers

Take close-up digital pictures of invertebrates to turn in to be used on the class web page (one extra point per good, in focus, high resolution picture per animal class with the animal identified preferably to species – limit 15 images).

Turn in Exercise by May 4.