

## Marine Ecology Nekton Project

Choose a family of nekton. You are not limited to the ones listed below; however, there can be no topic repeats within the class. **Write a research paper of 800-1,000 words minimum, not including a works cited with at least four sources (APA format).** The paper will be submitted directly to Canvas and will be checked for plagiarism and AI use. **Any plagiarism score above 20% will result in a zero for the assignment** (around 5% is normal due to quotations, common phrases, etc.). Papers may be resubmitted up until the due date should you discover errors or a high plagiarism score. At a minimum, papers should address the following topics in addition to having a work cited page;

1. Taxonomy and Major Species of the Family
2. Locations Found and Environment Preferred
3. Significant Adaptations and Characteristics
4. Population Threats (to the specific family and/or to the ecosystem)
5. Conservation Efforts (to the specific family or to the ecosystem)

### FISH

Acanthuridae – surgeonfishes

Aulostomidae – trumpetfish

Blennidae – blennies

Carangidae – jacks

Chaetodontidae – butterflyfishes

Coryphaenidae – dolphinfishes

Diodontidae – porcupine fish

Gobiidae – gobies

Istiophoridae – billfishes

Lamnidae – white sharks

Mobulidae – manta ray

Ostraciidae – boxfish

Pomacentridae – damselfishes

Protoperidae – lungfishes

Rhincodontidae – whale sharks

Scorpaenidae – scorpionfish

Squalidae – dogfish sharks

Sphyrinidae – hammerhead sharks

Antennaridae – anglerfishes

Balistidae – triggerfishes

Bothidae – flounder

Carcharhinidae – requiem sharks

Coelacanthiformes - coelacanth

Dasyatidae – stingrays

Ginglymostomatidae – nurse sharks

Holocentridae – squirelfishes

Labridae – wrasses

Lutjanidae – snappers

Muraenidae – morey eels

Pomacanthidae – angelfishes

Pristidae – sawfishes

Rajidae – skates

Scaridae – parrotfishes

Serranidae – groupers

Sphyraenidae - barracuda

Syngnathidae - seahorses

### MAMMALS

Balaenidae – right/bowhead whales

Delphinidae – ocean dolphins

Monodontidae – narwhals, belugas

Phocidae – seals

Trichechidae – manatees

*Enhydra lutris* – sea otter

Balaenopteridae – rorqual whales

Dugongidae – dugongs, sea cows

Otariidae – sea lions

Phocoenidae – porpoises

Ziphiidae – beaked whales

*Ursus maritimus* – polar bear

### OTHERS

Cheloniidae – sea turtles

Loliginidae – pencil squids

Sepiida - cuttlefish

*Amblyrhynchus cristatus* – marine iguana

Hydrophiidae – sea snakes

Penaeidae – panaeid shrimp

Spheniscidae – penguins

*Crocodylus porosus* – saltwater crocodile