Group Evaluation

**Members participating:**

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**Organism Evaluating:**

Killer Whale

**Selection questions:**

Organism properly presented: Needs improvement

Description of organism and life cycle and phenology: Excellent

R-K Selection: Excellent

Conservation Status: Excellent

Food web complete and interactions accurate: Very good

Predictions of impacts to organism to global climate change: Excellent

Use of in text citations and reference list: Good

Easy to follow, clearly written: Very good

Overall organization: Very good

Grade: 9

What did you like the most?

I like how the report considered not only the current conservation status of the Killer Whale, but also when the rating was made. The authors made an insightful observation of how the killer whale’s status requires review, because of the threat of local extirpation.

I also like the use of extensive citations in their report / information in the report.

Suggestions for improvement:

While the report does mention a “strategy” for preventing the extirpation of the organism, I suggest that the writers elaborate on what this strategy in Canada is in more concrete terms. They could also provide some concrete examples of such measures, such as location, time period, and primary efforts.

They could also include a picture of the organism.

Most Interesting part of report:

The report mentioned how population collapses in lower species can cause aggregation of human impacts, including pollutants inside predators to be transferred to the killer whale. This was very interesting to me as I never considered how pollutants could be transferred to the whale, since I thought that the animals consumed by the whale would be excreted and not built up. I would like to learn more about this process, but this is not strictly required in the report.

Compare and contrast the conservation concerns between the organism you reported on and the one you are evaluating here.

The Killer whale is a more K-selected species than the painted turtle, which has r-selected and k-selected species. This is because the painted turtle produces more offspring, at 7-12 eggs per clutch, while the killer whale produces only one calf. In fact, the turtle is typically incubated in 80 days, while the killer whale’s gestational period is 17 months, which is far longer.