**This template was created to facilitate effective management and archival of your datasets. Please fill out all sections in this document, one document for EACH independent dataset that you are curating. Tiff will directly enter this information and the accompanying files (see next section) on the KNB archival website. Each dataset package should go into its own folder, under your name, on the APECS Google Drive, which is the location that we will now use to store all of APECS’ cleaned master files (opposed to GitHub).**

**Please send Tiff the following files:**

1. The clean, final master file for that dataset. (required)
2. Descriptive metadata that compliments the master file. (required)
3. A copy of THIS word document, with ALL of the information filled out below. (required)
4. Rawest data that are QC/QA’ed; e.g. before simple calculations in R. (recommended)
5. The R script file that was used to clean the rawest data; KNB likes having this and the rawest data file submitted in case future users need to strip it all back. (required if #5 is provided)
6. Other supporting documents that are necessary for future users of the dataset; e.g. diagram of experimental design. (optional)

*The following prompts are directly derived from KNB. As you fill in each section, please consider that all future users will rely on the information you provide to support the data – please be clear and descriptive.*

1. **TITLE**
   1. Morphometrics of bull kelp forests in Southeast Alaska during Summer 2018
2. **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this dataset was to collect length, weight, and diameter measurements of bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) for use in determination of biomass. This is based on previous work demonstrating that bull kelp biomass can be predicted by sub-bulb diameter (Stekoll et al. 2006). These data were collected in conjunction with drone imagery to ground-truth biomass estimates obtained from Landsat satellite imagery. For each sampled plant, date, GPS location of the bed, stipe length and weight, blade length and weight, bulb and sub-bulb diameter, and level of erosion were recorded. These data were collected as part of a larger, interdisciplinary project (Apex Predators, Ecosystems, and Community Sustainability or APECS; http://apecs-ak.org/) aimed to assess the impacts of sea otter recolonization on the natural and human ecosystems of Prince of Wales Island, Southeast Alaska. Other datasets related to APECS are archived with KNB.

1. **DATES**
   1. **Begin date**: 20 July 2018
   2. **End date**: 23 July 2018
   3. **Publication date**: n/a
   4. **Alternate identifiers**: APECS\_alaska
2. **LOCATION**
   1. **Description**: The western coastline of Prince of Wales Island (Alaska, USA) and the adjacent archipelago.
   2. Bounding box coordinates
      1. **Northwest coordinates for box:** 55.7956, -133.3943
      2. **Southeast coordinates for box**: 55.2584, -133.0936
3. **TAXA**
   1. General taxonomic coverage:
      1. All organisms were classified using the Linnean taxonomic system and identified to species.
   2. Taxonomic classification(s):

Rank Value

Species *luetkeana*

Genus *Nereocystis*

1. **METHODS & SAMPLING**
   1. Methods

Morphometric data were collected off the western coast of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska during July 2018 at four randomly-selected sites (beds). Only beds that were > 30 m in diameter (the size of one Landsat pixel) were sampled. One GPS location was recorded for each bed. Plants sampled within each bed were randomly selected and harvested by hand from a vessel. For each plant, stipe length was measured to the nearest centimeter. For most plants, the entire stipe was not harvested. Thus, stipe length was defined as the straight-line distance from the top of the bulb to either the holdfast or the end of the stipe portion that was harvested. Blade length was measured from the top of the bulb to the end of the longest blade. Bulb diameter was measured at the widest outside point of the bulb to the nearest 0.1 cm. Sub-bulb diameter was measured as stipe diameter at the base of the bulb to the nearest 0.1 cm. Fresh blade and stipe weight were measured separately with a hanging scale to the nearest 0.1 kg. Level of plant erosion was qualitatively scored as none, light, moderate, or heavy based on the number of missing blades, wear and degradation on the blades, and presence of epibionts and/or epiphytes.

* 1. Sampling
     1. **Sampling area and frequency**: Sites were located off the western coast of Prince of Wales Island, AK (coordinates are included in the data file).

Each bed was composed of *Nereocystis* *luetkeana* and was sampled once. Sites were chosen based on size (> 30 m diameter) and ease of vessel access.

* + 1. **Description**: Please refer to the above methods.