**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. Areal extent of surface canopy kelp forests in Southeast Alaska during Summer 2017
2. **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this dataset was to map the areal extent of surface canopy kelp beds (bull kelp, *Nereocystis* *luetkeana* and giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*) in Southeast Alaska. These data were collected to ground-truth locations of surface canopy kelp beds obtained from drone and Landsat satellite imagery. For each kelp bed, a vessel was driven around the perimeter and GPS locations 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**: 8 July 2017
   2. **End date**: 19 July 2017
   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:** 55.8233 -133.6094
      2. **Southeast coordinates for box**: 55.1403, -132.9251
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 *pyrifera*

Species *luetkeana*

Genus *Macrocystis*

Genus *Nereocystis*

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

Kelp beds were mapped off the western coast of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska during July 2017. Only beds that were > 30 m in diameter (the size of one Landsat pixel) were sampled. A vessel drove around the perimeter of each bed, getting as close as possible to the edge considering depth constraints. A continuous GPS track that recorded time, latitude, and longitude at approximately 15 second intervals was taken for each bed. If it was not possible to obtain a GPS track, a single GPS location was taken to mark the bed. The density of each bed was qualitatively scored according to the amount of kelp visible at the surface: sparse (0-20% coverage), light (20-40% coverage), medium (40-60% coverage), medium-heavy (60-80% coverage), and heavy (80-100% coverage).

* 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 *Macrocystis* *pyrifera*, *Nereocystis* *luetkeana*, and/or both 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.