*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. Clam communities in southeast Alaska (clam density and size) along a gradient of human and sea otter predation
2. **ABSTRACT**
   1. Intertidal clam community data were collected during summer 2015-2017 (May-August). Data were collected on western Prince of Wales Alaska and western Kupreanff Island, at 54 sites near the rural predominately-indigenous communities of Kake, and Hydaburg, Alaska. At each site, the coordinates, sampling date, and categorical descriptions of human and sea otter predation of clams were assigned using local and traditional knowledge. At each site, one 100 m x 1m transect was laid horizontally along a shoreline, and 10 quadrats laid out at random locations along the transect to collect live clam data (density, size, and species observed). At each site, one 50m x 1 m transect was laid horizontally along a shoreline and overlapped live clam survey area. Clam shells (litter) were collected along the 50m x 1m transect and were also measured, identified to species, and cause of death identified. Pits created by predators were also counted along this transect. Data types from 100m x 1m transects (live clam surveys) include: clam size and density, clam identification to lowest taxonomic order, and primary and secondary substrate characterization. Data types from 50m x 1m transects (shell litter surveys) include: clam shell size, clam shell cause of death, and total predator pit count at each site. The purpose of these data was to characterize clam communities so that analysis of trophic interactions could be assessed along a gradient of sea otter and human harvest of clams for an NSF-funded project: Apex Predators, Ecosystems, and Community Sustainability (APECS, http://apecs-ak.org/).
3. **DATES**
   1. **Begin date**: 01 May 2015
   2. **End date**: 01 August 2017
   3. **Publication date**: n/a
   4. **Alternate identifiers**: APECS\_alaska
4. **LOCATION**
   1. **Description**: The western coastline of Prince of Wales Island (Alaska, USA) and western coastline of Kupreanof Island (Alaska, USA).
   2. Bounding box coordinates
      1. **Northwest coordinates for box:** 55.8639, -133.4981
      2. **Southeast coordinates for box**: 55.1652, -132.8556
5. **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*

Genus *Macrocystis*

1. **METHODS & SAMPLING**
   1. Methods
   2. Sampling clam communities for size, density, and describing predation pressure on clam communities
      1. Along each site (n=54) a 100m x 1m transect was placed at the 0m MLLW mark parallel to shore during summer 2015-2017. Ten 0.25m^3 quadrats were randomly placed on the ocean side of the transect and along transect meter numbers that have been randomly predetermined using a random number generator. Each quadrat was excavated, contents placed in five-gallon buckets and sifted through sifters with 10mm mesh screening. All live clams were collected, measured, and identified to species. Clams were measured along the axis of the greatest width to the nearest millimeter. Live clam survey sites were selected based on habitat suitability for butter clams (Saxidomus gigantea).
      2. Butter clams are a ubiquitous species ranging from Alaska to central California, USA and are an ideal candidate for studies that compare clam communities across various spatial scales. Thus, sites were selected that represented preferred butter clam habitat (i.e. gravel and sand substrates). Additionally at each site where the sample size of butter clams was equal to or greater than 30, a shell litter survey was conducted along a 50m x 1m transect that overlapped with live clam survey area, where clam shells laying on the surface were collected, measured, and cause of death determined. All clams (live and shells) were identified to the lowest taxonomic order. We typically sampled one site per day.
   3. Sampling
      1. **Sampling area and frequency**: We believe that no further information, beyond what is described above and in the metadata, is necessary.
      2. **Description**: Please refer to the above methods.