*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. Crab assemblages in Eelgrass beds in Southeast Alaska
2. **ABSTRACT**
   1. Crab populations within intertidal eelgrass (Zostera marina) beds were assessed during summertime 2017 (May-August). Data were collected on western Prince of Wales Alaska, at 21 sites. At each site, the coordinates, dates and times that the pots were set and pulled, crab species, and crab size were recorded. Crabs were sampled by setting three replicate strings of baited crab pots for 24-hrs, each with three different pot styles. Fish were sometimes captured, as well, and are reported in this dataset. The purpose of these data was to characterize the crab assemblage within eelgrass communities so that analysis of trophic interactions could be assessed along a gradient of sea otter occupation for an NSF-funded project: Apex Predators, Ecosystems, and Community Sustainability (APECS, http://apecs-ak.org/). Other datasets to support this work are also archived with KNB.
3. **DATES**
   1. **Begin date**: 29 April 2017
   2. **End date**: 22 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 the adjacent archipelago.
   2. Bounding box coordinates
      1. **Northwest coordinates for box:** 56.4206 N, -134.4531 E
      2. **Southeast coordinates for box**: 54.5281 N, -132.0942 E

OR

* + 1. **Single point coordinates**: 55.2081 N, -132.826 W

1. **TAXA**
   1. General taxonomic coverage:
      1. All organisms were classified using the Linnean taxonomic system, and were largely clustered into larger taxonomic groupings instead of identifying to species (e.g. Family or Class).
   2. Taxonomic classification(s):

Rank Value

Species Cancer productus

Species Leptocottus armatus

Species Metacarcinus gracilis

Species Metacarcinus magister

Species Telmessus cheiragonus

1. **METHODS & SAMPLING**
   1. Methods
      1. **Step 1:** Crabs were sampled by setting three strings of crab pots consisting of three crab pots each at each site for 24-hrs at approximately -3 m (MLLW). Strings were set in eelgrass (Zostera marina) habitat. Each string consisted of (1) one box 61 x 61 x 33 cm pot with 10 x 10 cm wire mesh and openings of 20 cm, (2) one round 71 cm diameter by 33 cm height pot with 2.5 x 2.5 cm fabric mesh and 7.5 cm openings, and (3) one Fukui pot measuring 60 x 45 x 20 cm with 1 x 1 cm fabric mesh and 20 cm openings. These pots were connected with approximately 3 meters of a lead line between each pot and marked at the surface with a single buoy. All pots were baited with approximately 0.5 liters of chopped, frozen herring. When the pots were collected, all crabs were immediately identified to species, their carapace width measured to the nearest millimeter, and their sex identified.
      2. **Step 2:** Fish were also collected, particularly staghorn sculpins (Leptocottus armatus). All fish species were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible and their sizes (for length) recorded.
   2. Sampling
      1. **Sampling area and frequency**: We replicated the methods in 21 sites, each site was visited once for these sampling methods. These data were collected to compliment eelgrass community data (see other “APECS\_alaska” datasets). Sites were chosen based on the presence of intertidal access to meadows of the seagrass, Zostera marina, and whether the meadow was continuous enough to run a 100-m transect across it (parallel to shore).
      2. **Description**: Please refer to the above methods.