*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. Fish assemblages in seagrass beds in Southeast Alaska
2. **ABSTRACT**
   1. Fish populations within intertidal eelgrass (Zostera marina) beds were assessed during summertime 2017 (May-August) via beach seining methods. Data were collected on western Prince of Wales Alaska, at 21 sites. At each site, the coordinates, dates and times of the beach seines, fish species, and fish size were recorded. Fish were sampled once at each site. Invertebrates associated with the eelgrass bed were sometimes captured, as well, and are reported in this dataset. The purpose of these data was to characterize the fish 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

Genus Gasterosteus

Genus Enhydra

Genus Ammodytes

Genus Anoplarchus

Genus Apodichthys

Genus Artedius

Genus Aulorhynchus

Genus Citharichthys

Genus Clupea

Genus Cottidae

Genus Cymatagaster

Genus Enophrys

Genus Gadus

Genus Zostera

Genus Hemilepidotus

Family Hexagrammidae

Genus Hexagrammos

Genus Lepidopsetta

Genus Leptocottus

Genus Lumpenus

Genus Metacarcinus

Genus Myoxocephalus

Genus Nautichthys

Genus Oligocottus

Genus Oncorhynchus

Genus Ophidon

Genus Pallasina

Genus Parophrys

Genus Pholis

Genus Platichthys

Family Pleuronectidae

Genus Sabastes

Genus Syngnathus

1. **METHODS & SAMPLING**
   1. Methods
      1. **Step 1:** Fish abundance and species composition was quantified following methods described in Johnson et al. 2012 (see reference below). Fishes were captured using a 37 m variable-mesh beach seine. Outer panels were 10 m each constructed of 32 mm mesh, intermediate panels were 4 m each constructed of 6 mm mesh, and the bunt was 9 m constructed of 3.2 mm mesh. The seine tapered from 5 m wide at the center to 1 m wide at the ends and conformed to the shape of the beach slope when set. At each site, the seine was set using a round haul method by holding one end on the beach, backing around in a small boat with the other end to the beach (approximately 18 m from the start) and pulling the net on shore by hand. The catch was sorted into 5-gallon buckets filled with seawater and aerated using aquarium bubblers. All fish were identified to species and counted. For a subsample of each species (n = 30), fish fork length was measured to the nearest millimeter. Some invertebrates were also collected as bycatch and are recorded in this dataset.
      2. Johnson, S. W., A. D. Neff, J. F. Thedinga, M. R. Lindeberg, and J. M. Maselko. 2012. Atlas of Nearshore Fishes of Alaskaâ¯: A Synthesis of Marine Surveys from 1998 to 2011. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC-239, 261 p.:261.
   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.