Journal

November 18, 2001

Today was my first trip to the tide pools. I don�t have a research topic yet, but I think I want to do a population study of some creature in the tide pools. I went to Pillar Point with my dad, but the water level was so high that I wasn�t able to see anything at all. No life whatsoever. But, some friendly guy on the beach said that it�s full of all kinds of animals and creatures when the tide is lower, and that we might have better luck and the marine reserve. We got back in the car and drove down the road to the Moss Landing Marine Reserve and saw a little bit more there. There were some anemones and from looking at the sign next to the beach I found that they are Great Green Sea Anemones or anthopleura xanthogammica. I also saw one sea star. I�m planning to come back later this week when the tide should be lower.

November 23, 2001

This was my second visit to the tide pools, but this time I couldn�t make it to Pillar Point. There were too many people there and there was nowhere to park the car at all. I went with both my mom and my dad this time, and my mom got all excited because she really likes tide pools. Unfortunately, when we got to Moss Landing, there was a storm coming in so the tide was just as high as it had been earlier in the week and the water was much choppier. We splashed around in the water for a while, and then talked to a park ranger who was nearby. He told us that anemones can live for a long time and that they have recorded that anemones have lived up to 200 years in an aquarium. I think he either made it up or was wrong; I�ll have to look it up myself. We came home, and I still haven�t seen the tide pools at low tide.

January 27, 2002

This was my third trip to the tide pools, and my first time actually seeing things! It was really cool. There were organisms all over the place! There was no parking over at Pillar Point again today since it�s a Saturday and a nice day as well, so I only got to go to Moss Landing. I looked primarily at the anemones and took lots of pictures, but I also saw lots of purple sea urchins for the first time. I also saw the difference between anemones in the sunlight and those in the shade. The ones in the sun were bright green, and the ones in the shade were much lighter. I also saw how anemones that are in the sun and above the water cover themselves in sea shell and pebbles to protect themselves from the sun. It was a great trip, and I�m planning on doing a population study of the great green sea anemone.

February 26, 2002

I left school early today, and I my dad left work and we drove to Half Moon Bay. Since it was a weekday, there was parking by Pillar Point, so we got our equipment together and got to work. Some college kids asked us what we were doing. They thought that we were archeologists. A lot of good college did them. Anyways, I got some data today and I covered 380 sq. feet. There were only about 40 anemones in the whole area! I was a little bit surprised. I�m not quite sure how I�m going to compare anemones in the shade to those in the light. I�ll have to make another trip and define two different areas, one as shady and one as sunny.

March 26, 2002

This was my last possible trip to the tide pools, so I really hope that I didn�t screw it up. I left school after fourth period and went with my dad to Pillar Point. We went to the same place we went last month and even tied the string to the same rock. This time I was more exact though, and measured the sizes of the anemones. Also, instead of looking at one large area, I looked at two smaller ones. I was really surprised with how it came out. There were many, many more anemones in the shady place up against the wall. When I look more closely at my data I�ll have to figure out why.