1 paragraph on what you learned from the entire speaker series (5 points)

The speakers series introduced a range of representatives from the marine science community who all contributed unique advice collected along their career paths. Each speaker differed in their occupations in science such as: field-workers, lab researchers, science illustrators, and theoretical data scientists. With the array of perspectives came along an array of advice. Tips varied from specific pieces of information relevant within the field of Biology/academia, but also included advice that could be generally applied into one's personal life. One commonality in the speakers' main tips was the necessity of communication and relationships. This included good science communication, reaching out to others in your field of interest, or building relationships with the communities that your science impacts. Furthermore, an underlying theme that was conveyed was the benefits of diversifying out from your main field. This message manifested itself from the pieces of advice to include other passions into your career such as informal science communication, illustrating, coding, and/or statistics. Overall, the advice that was given was quite insightful as despite the different perspective they may have due to their career routes, most of the advice had similar themes. Thus, emphasizing the importance of those particular pieces of advice that overlapped as they can be applied to one's life, regardless of setting or occupation.

Describe 3-4 of the many vital pieces of information that were given to you to succeed as ecologists (6 points)

From Dr. Callwood's presentation I was taught the importance of relationships with communities. Dr. Callwood spoke upon the inherent distrust between the general public and researchers. As ecologists, our work affects the people in these communities and is thus essential to build relationships with the community and be mindful of the social contexts that may intermix with our work. Her lecture taught me that to be an impactful and an effective scientist one must develop relationships with the people in the communities that are a part of our research as they inherently play a main role. If the policies that we create do not align with traditional cultural or social context, then they most likely will not be followed or will bring stronger distrust towards researchers.

Additionally, another vital piece of information was the act of creating connections with people in your field of interest, and to do so before even searching for a job. Dr. Godwin suggested reaching out to faculty or grad students who study in the fields of your particular interest and initiate that connection. In doing so, he recommends asking about their work, volunteering, and sitting in on lab meetings which may then lead to possible job opportunities. By gaining any of those experiences it aids in testing out the waters on if this is the field for you and also helps one network in the field as well.

Lastly, another vital tip from Dr. Godwin I took away is the advantages of learning basic programming and modern statistics. Though ecology can be a good portion of field work, it also takes knowledge in statistics to be able to properly analyze your data and test for significance with the right tests. He also mentioned that although it is not a requirement, it is a crucial aspect for individuals pursuing grad school or a PhD program.

Describe how you used the information from the lectures during the course, and/or how you will use it in the future (4 points)

From the multiple pieces of advice, the most impactful ones that I hope to implement are to explore complementary skills, attempt various occupations between degrees, and the necessity of good communication. To start, specifically mentioned in Dr. Godwin's and Emma Atkinson's presentations, I have taken away the importance of learning to be a good scientist outside and at a computer. I had personally been contemplating furthering my skills further in computer science, and found the advice

from them the reassurance of the time-investment. Thus, I hope to further develop my skills in R outside of the classroom either by auditing some classes in coding or by self-teaching myself from online sources. Additionally, though it was not mentioned as a main tip, the importance of knowing when you need a break from academia to explore job opportunities was a resonating message. Emma Atkinson had explained her career path and the step away from her starting her next degree immediately and instead experienced different jobs in her field of interest. I appreciated this as I think it's important to know your ever changing interests and test out various jobs before starting the commitment into a masters or a PhD program. Lastly, another topic heavily emphasized in most of the presentations that I will be hoping to use and continuously improve is communication. Spoken upon by almost all the speakers was the need for good communication. Science communication is a topic of passion for me as I head towards the direction of teaching. From these presentations, I take away all the different aspects of science communication such as community outreach, the significance of making connections, and the need for accessible science. I hope to be able to implement this advice into my own life and to the science I produce by understanding the communities that my future work will impact and to also continue to make good relationships with the scientists that I meet. With the hopes to teach others one day down the line, I want to be able to make the science I explain to the next generation accessible and easy to understand. The speaker's series reiterated the importance of understanding the perspectives of who your work will impact and the need to build relationships to do so. Thus, to better understand how to communicate more clearly to others, I am hoping to gain experience in a teaching role. With this, I hope to help me gain a better perspective on what the general public is receptive to and what is considered helpful when being taught new subjects.