1. **What you learned from the entire speaker series**

The bulk of the information that I retained concerned fisheries and the various stakeholders involved, along with the complexities surrounding the fisheries process. From Emma and Sean's presentations, I retained that, if your work is centered around marine population dynamics and predictions, you will absolutely need to learn to do statistical modelling. This also resonated with our paper presentation group since we analyzed Sean's article on sea lice and the methods section was too complex for us to comprehend.

From Sean and Karlisa's presentations, I retained that the politics surrounding fisheries play a huge role in determining what actions will actually be taken to protect a certain species or environment. The implementation of policies depends vastly on the stakeholders such as the owners of fish farms or owners of lobster condos and lobster fishers, and the policy's success will be greatly impacted by the ability of the stakeholders to respect and implement the policies in place. I overall really enjoyed the speaker series because it gave different perspectives on how science should be applied and the different avenues for a career in ecology.

2. **Three vital pieces of information were given to you to succeed as ecologists**

1. From Shannon, the main piece of information I retained was that good science is rooted in observation and that you can never have too many reference photos. I found this to be true for learning and retaining information about a certain species or environment: it is always best to look for distinguishing characteristics with your own eyes or from photos you took than reading a description off of the internet!

2. From Shannon and Karlisa, I retained that it is important to be creative, either in the ways that you apply your science and research, or in the way that you pave your career path. You can mix your passions, such as science and illustration, and something good will come out eventually. You can also create your own personalized job by having multiple side-contracts that will eventually lead you to your dream job. This is in the same vein as Emma's advice to embrace curiosity and uncertainty because it will eventually lead somewhere; nothing is in vain!

3. From all the lecturers, I retained that good science is rooted in communication. This applies to communication with collaborators, supervisors, stakeholders etc. Science never happens in a vacuum and collaborations ease the work process.

3. **What information from the lectures were you able to use during the course?**

From Shannon's talk, I remembered to use lots of reference photos for all the assignments and field trips that we did. We were able to use all those photos for our species ID and field sampling assignments. If we had forgotten to write down a specific piece of information, we were often able to extrapolate it from the photos we took while on site.

Communication was a key factor in the semester since most of the assignments required extensive group work. For the species ID assignment, it was much more effective and easier to

collaborate with people from other groups in the field and ask them about characteristics of the species they worked on during the field sampling assignment than to inaccurately guess what species you were looking at. This was also true for communication concerning assignments in R and GitHub; it was best to eventually ask for help with coding when something wasn't working and you could not figure things out on your own. In the future, I will certainly consider collaborating more and reaching out to supervisors and professors when I am interested in the specific work they are doing.