**Don’t overlook me just because I’m slimy**

*What our efforts gathering long-term seaweed phenological data can teach us about incentive structures in ecology.*

What the study is/why we did it (present as case study)

Other available data in the area is not published, so only hear of it through word of mouth/it’s not in the same format as ours

Impeeds predictions about climate change and can’t attribute changes in population structure to extreme weather events

Particular problem for non charismatic species.

* Size of research community for some species much bigger than others. Bigger research communities have baseline data from the number of sites they study overall.
* Pull out iNat records of seaweed vs other species/ on e-bird. Yes, data has to be sifted through, but it’s there.

Barriers to actually doing/continuing the project

* Not our main thesis, so need to budget time
* Hard to find consistent helpers (labmates/volunteers)
* No money
* Once students who started it leave, how to continue (PI) and how to make sure the data stay “alive” (LDP principles/usefulness of libraries)

Solutions

* Grants specifically to hire students that part of their job is doing long-term studies
* Incentivise these data collection types with partnerships with NGOs if applicable by valuing these data on grant applications?