

## **Monterey Bay Aquarium Field Trip (50 pts)**

We are lucky to have three major marine aquaria operations within driving distance of CSUN, namely the Long Aquarium of the Pacific, Monterey Bay Aquarium and Sea World San Diego. Although the primary focus of these aquaria is to provide entertainment, as well as, education to the general public, they also provide great opportunities for marine education for university-level students by presenting live marine organisms in a setting in which they can be easily observed (sounds familiar...).

In order to maximize your educational experience, you may visit at least one of these three aquaria during the course of the semester and to write an account of this visit and the **ORGANISMS** (not the shows!) you observed. This report will account for a maximum of 50 pts towards your field grade on the course.

**Directions:** Begin by reviewing the physical characteristics for planktonic versus nektonic organisms and invertebrate and vertebrate organisms. Note the characteristics of each (how do you know an organism is planktonic or nektonic, etc.). provide examples (the common names) of the representative organisms. Lastly present a complete taxonomy of 2 invertebrate pelagic organisms and 1 vertebrate pelagic organism observed at the aquarium. Digital photos may be included, but are optional.

Be sure to observe the following to aid in your understanding of pelagic organisms:

**Jellies: Living Art (especially), Sharks, the Outer Bay (especially), and Sea Otters**

As with the fish market survey account, your Field Trip Account must include the following:

- 1) Key characteristics for planktonic organisms;
- 2) Key characteristics for nektonic organisms;
- 3) Key characteristics for observed invertebrate organisms;
- 4) Key characteristics for observed vertebrate organisms;
- 5) Complete taxonomy for 2 invertebrate pelagic organisms
- 6) Complete taxonomy for 2 vertebrate pelagic organism, and lastly;
- 7) Summary of exhibits visited, diversity of organisms observed, scope of the diversity observed at the aquarium, as well as any information about souvenirs purchased/sampled during your trip.

The assignment is to be **typed** using double-spacing and is to be **stapled** neatly in the upper left-hand corner - **NO FOLDERS**.

**This assignment is DUE March 05, 2008  
HAVE FUN, LEARN A LOT, & GOOD LUCK !!!!!!!!!!!!!**