**Final Paper**

Your final paper should focus on some aspect of our field trip to Monterey Bay that you found interesting. You can use any of the data that we collected during our cruise, plus any other data you choose to assemble on your own from existing databases. The idea is to use the data to answer some specific question about the Monterey Bay ecosystem that is of interest to you. You can decide what the question is but you need to follow a few simple rules. Your question should:

Be based on a topic we covered in Biological Oceanography

Require you to use at least 3 different data types (e.g., T, S, Chl *a*, nutrients)

Format

Your paper should include a:

1) Title

2) Introduction - where you both motivate and frame your chosen question.

3) Methods section - where you briefly describe your datasets and how they were collected.

4) Results section - where you describe the results related to your question. You can insert figures or tables into the text or just include them at the end (easier for you).

5) Discussion section - where you contextualize your study based on similar work that may have been done before and describe its larger implications. The Discussion section should also incorporate at least three different concepts that you learned in Biological Oceanography class. These should just flow naturally in the text (don’t make a special section for them) and be underlined.

6) Reference section showing source material you used to write your paper.

If you are unsure about formatting, just look at a standard oceanographic journal and use that as a guide (e.g. Journal of Geophysical Research – Oceans or Limnology and Oceanography).

There is no length limit – it should be as long as you need to tell your story. Having said that, it is hard to imagine that you could include all the required sections in less than 5 single spaced pages of 12 point text (without figures or tables). It is also hard to imagine that you would need more than twice that amount of space. But I will leave this to you to decide.

The paper is due by midnight on June 10 (the scheduled day of our final, if we were having one). Just e-mail it to me.