



# Honors Marine Ecology 2025-2026



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Teacher Contact Information</b></p> <p><b>Teacher Name:</b> B. Carl Rush</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:brush@wcpss.net">brush@wcpss.net</a></p> <p><b>Twitter/X:</b> <a href="https://twitter.com/sciencrush">@sciencrush</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accessing the Course</b></p> <p><b>Link to WakeID Portal:</b> <a href="http://wakeid2.wcpss.net">http://wakeid2.wcpss.net</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.sciencrush.net">www.sciencrush.net</a></p>				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Description</b></p> <p>Marine Ecology focuses on the interrelationships among marine organisms and the physical, chemical, geological, and biological factors in their environment. The importance of the marine environment will be stressed along with coastal processes in NC. The recommended prerequisites for Honors Marine Ecology are Biology and either Earth Science or AP Environmental Science. Students will also be expected to have common algebraic math skills.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Standards</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">WCPSS Honors Marine Ecology State Standards</a></p>					
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Progression</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Quarter 1 (or 3) – 40% of Final Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-Chemical &amp; Physical Oceanography</li> <li>2-Prehistoric Oceans</li> <li>3-Plankton</li> <li>4-Benthos &amp; Meiofauna</li> <li>5-Oceanic Nekton Part One: Fishes</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Quarter 2 (or 4) – 40% of Final Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-Oceanic Nekton Part Two: Tetrapods</li> <li>7-The Deep Sea</li> <li>8-Tropical Communities &amp; Symbiotic Relationships</li> <li>9-Intertidal Ecology, Estuaries &amp; Salt Marshes</li> <li>10-Human Impact on the Sea</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; border: none;"> <p>CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM – 20% of Final Grade</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><u>Quarter 1 (or 3) – 40% of Final Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-Chemical &amp; Physical Oceanography</li> <li>2-Prehistoric Oceans</li> <li>3-Plankton</li> <li>4-Benthos &amp; Meiofauna</li> <li>5-Oceanic Nekton Part One: Fishes</li> </ul>	<p><u>Quarter 2 (or 4) – 40% of Final Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-Oceanic Nekton Part Two: Tetrapods</li> <li>7-The Deep Sea</li> <li>8-Tropical Communities &amp; Symbiotic Relationships</li> <li>9-Intertidal Ecology, Estuaries &amp; Salt Marshes</li> <li>10-Human Impact on the Sea</li> </ul>	<p>CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM – 20% of Final Grade</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Grade Weights</u> Major Assessments: 60% - Tests &amp; Projects Minor Assessments: 40% - Labs &amp; Classwork</li> <li>- <u>Late Work</u> is accepted with 5 point deduction for each day until end of unit, with a 20 point cap on deduction.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Materials</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Notebook (3-ring binder preferred) notebook paper / graph paper / pencils wetland boots (optional)</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Experiences &amp; Dissection</b></p> <p>Marine Ecology has a field component, and students are required to participate in field experiences during class. Dissection is one of many instructional methods that may be used in laboratory science courses. Students may request alternatives to dissection from the teacher. Alternatives may be completed for full credit.</p>					
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Emails will generally be responded to within two hours between 6 AM and 9 PM, seven days a week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Infinite Campus</b></p> <p>Grades are updated in Infinite Campus frequently. Both students and parents should check grades weekly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cell Phone Policy</b></p> <p>Students must store cell phones in the front caddy throughout the entirety of the class period. Earbuds are prohibited.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SMART Lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The APES room (316) is open during lunch every day for extra help</li> <li>- Each student should attend 4 SMART lunches per quarter to obtain a 100 minor grade.</li> <li>- Priority Day for Science is Wednesday</li> </ul>				

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