



## PROJECT OCEANOLOGY



### Seal Data Discussion Worksheet

*Listen to your classmates, and fill in the worksheet below with answers to the research questions. Be as specific as possible.*

1. How has the seal population in Fishers Island Sound changed over time?

Increase

Decrease

Stay Constant

Suggest one factor that might explain the pattern you observed:

2. Which month(s) do students at Project O see the most seals? Suggest a possible reason.

Month:

Reason:

3. As water temperature increases, what happens to the number of seals observed?

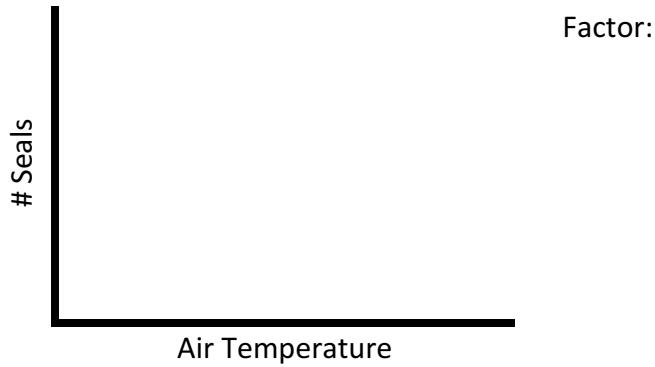
Increase

Decrease

Stay Constant

Suggest one factor that might explain the pattern you observed:

4. On the graph below, draw a line that represents the relationship between air temperature and the number of seals observed. Suggest one factor that might affect the shape of the line you drew.



5. As wind speed increases, what happens to the number of seals observed?

Increase                       Decrease                       Stay Constant

Suggest one factor that might explain the pattern you observed:

6. You are planning a seal watch! What time of tide would you plan to go:

High Tide                       Low Tide

Why?

7. Do seals care whether or not it is raining? Suggest one way that rain might affect a seal:

## Discussion Questions

*Consider your class dataset as a whole as you answer the following questions:*

1. Describe the optimal conditions for a seal watch. Consider time of year, time of tide, air temperature, water temperature, wind speed, beaufort scale, and weather:
2. Seals can choose between being in the water and being out of the water (hauled out). We are much more likely to see them when they are hauled out. Under the conditions you described above in #1, why would a seal be more likely to haul out?
3. How are seals affected by human activities?
4. If you came back to Project Oceanology in 20 years and went on another seal watch, do you think you would see more seals, or fewer seals? Explain your answer.