



# PROJECT OCEANOLOGY

## Facebook Live: Eelgrass Beds



The

*Eelgrass Ecosystem, by Dana Gaines*

1. Eelgrass is what scientists call a “keystone” species. Use your own words to define “keystone species.” (Hint: In architecture, the keystone is the final stone built into an arch. It holds all the other pieces in place and allows the structure to bear weight.)
2. Healthy eelgrass beds can alter the *physical* and *chemical* characteristics of the environment. Describe one way the roots or leaves may change the underwater landscape, and one way eelgrass’ photosynthesis may change water quality.
3. Name one of the human impacts on eelgrass mentioned in the video. How could humans prevent damage to eelgrass beds?