Estuary Survival - Before you begin

Your name	
Common name of your animal	
Genus and species	
Size and other characteristics	

Whether you are a Dungeness crab larvae or a Coho salmon smolt, life is the estuary can be risky but necessary business if you are to grow to be an adult and someday contribute your genetic material to the future of your kind. The game of estuary survival happens each year, with each passing day and with the rising and falling of the tides. What factors lead to a success story for an individual within a population of fish or crabs?

The class will play a game where each student will take on the role of an individual within a population attempting to beat the odds and survive another day in the estuary. Before you begin to play, answer these questions for your particular individual (represented by the game token).

1. Many different environmental conditions or factors come together to determine the health of a population of crabs, fish, or any organism in the estuary. These include water quality characteristics like temperature, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and toxins. They may also include predation, habitat destruction, extreme weather events, and even climatic change. Describe the environmental factors that may influence the survival of your population of crabs or salmon.

2. What unique characteristics does your individual possess within the population? How are these characteristics advantageous?

3. How are these characteristics a disadvantage?

Round	Position	Habitat	Fate