**Lesson 1B:** Nearshore Eelgrass Ecosystems and the Importance of Community Science

Students gain an understanding of the nearshore zone and the importance of eelgrass in this ecosystem type. Students are introduced to the role of ANeMoNe and community science in monitoring the nearshore zone.

**NGSS Standards**

* **MS-LS2-2:** Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions of organisms across multiple ecosystems.
* **MS-LS2-3:** Develop a model to describe cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

**Materials**

* Pens/pencils
* Lesson 1B Slides
* Exit slip

**Lesson**

1. Begin this lesson by showing students a map of the nearshore ecosystems in Washington.
   1. Students should understand that the nearshore zone is a part of the ocean system as a whole, but constitutes a specific area. This will aid in their understanding of the distinct ecosystem attributes and functions of this area.
2. Show ANeMoNe video.
3. Outline the ecosystem functions that this area provides, making the connection to eelgrass, which was introduced in the previous lesson (1A).
   1. Introduce some of the services eelgrass provides. We will return to this in greater depth in the subsequent lesson (1C) when building food webs and making connections between species.
4. Transition to discussing the work ANeMoNe does and the link to the nearshore zone.
   1. Founded to expand understanding of ocean acidification in Washington state. **Note**: Ocean acidification will be discussed in detail in lessons 2A-C.
   2. Emphasize one of the main goals of the program and motivation for this module is their desire to **increase public engagement with ocean acidification through volunteers and education**.
5. Community science and how students can get involved in local scientific research
   1. Non-professional scientists who volunteer to conduct scientific research
   2. This is a way students can get involved in scientific research in their community
6. Show additional ANeMoNe pictures.
7. Have students fill out exit questions.