**Lesson 1C:** Species Connections in Eelgrass Ecosystem

Students can describe basic interactions among species in eelgrass ecosystems and hypothesize how these interactions may change with altered oceanic conditions.

**NGSS Standards**

* **MS-LS-2**: Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions of organisms across multiple ecosystems.
* **MS-LS-4**: Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.

**Materials**

* Pens/pencils
* Lesson 1C worksheet
  + Activity 1: Species list brainstorm
  + Activity 2: Food web
* Species cards
* Exit slip

**Lesson**

1. Begin with a review of what we learned about eelgrass in lesson 1A.
2. Next discuss the type of habitat eelgrass provides.
3. **Activity part 1:**
   1. In groups students will answer questions in the lesson 1C worksheet about where eelgrass ecosystems are located and the habitat they can provide. Using this information, they will hypothesize about what species are likely to be found there.
   2. Groups will share their answers with the class as the teacher compiles a class list of species.
4. Teacher will hand out packs of species cards to each group and give a brief description of all species. These cards will show key species found in the eelgrass ecosystem.
5. **Activity part 2:**
   1. Hand out species cards to each group.
   2. Briefly introduce the species on the cards. Using two of the cards, show an example of which species eats which species to start the students thinking about these types of interactions.
   3. Students should work together to sort out interactions among various species to create a food web showing the flow of energy.
6. Discuss food webs as a class, finish by having students fill in exit questions.