

## Relationships in the Intertidal


A Field Trip to the Molly Ahlgren Aquarium at the Sitka Sound Science Center in Sitka, Alaska

Join us at <https://zoom.us/j/99451633118?pwd=aFJPU1loRWgwRWpSVVNmZ3hZc2NMQTog> on

Thursday, January 14 at 3 PM.

Studying the relationships of living things in the environment has been important to indigenous people from the very beginning. More recently, the study of relationships in a natural community has been called “ecology”. Today, we will look at some interactions in the intertidal. All of us are familiar with feeding interactions, like predator-prey. But some living things have very unique relationships that contribute to their survival. These types of interactions are generally called **symbiosis**. Whether the living organisms in a symbiosis are benefited or harmed determines what they are called specifically: **parasitism**, **commensalism**, or **mutualism**.

Directions: Study the example below and then use the chart on the back of the page to record your own observations during the virtual field trip.

Organisms in the Relationship	Explain the relationship	Who Benefits?	Who is Harmed?	Who is unaffected?	Type of Relationship	Why is the relationship important to the community?
Example:  Yaay (Humpback Whale) and S'ook (Barnacles)	Barnacles attach to the flukes of whales.	Barnacles – filter feeders. Attaching to a whale means they always have nutrient rich water flow	No-one	The whale – barnacles do not harm the whale.  Do they make them itchy?	Symbiosis - Commensalism	The drifter community is critical in the ocean's food webs. Barnacles settling onto many surfaces increases diversity and abundance.

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