



Sentinel Species Research Project

Sea Lion Feeding Frenzy

Introduction:

Sentinel species are plants and animals that can be used to detect risks to humans by providing advanced warning of a danger to our health or the environment. Sea lions are considered sentinel species because they have long life spans and feed high up the food chain, making them particularly sensitive to bioaccumulation and biomagnification. In addition, their fatty blubber is very effective at storing these contaminants. Many human populations share a similar diet to sea lions. We can use the One Health paradigm to connect sea lion health with human health as well as help identify concerns for environmental management and wildlife conservation.

Directions:

- 1) Research a different sentinel species. Your teacher may assign you one or you may search online for examples.
- 2) Create a poster either on paper or online such as Google Slides to share your information. Include the following information:
 - a) Name of the sentinel species
 - b) A short description of the organism
 - c) A picture of the organism
 - d) Why it is considered a sentinel species (What does it tell us about human health or environmental danger?)