

Group E Salinity

Background:

- Osmoregulation is an important physiological process in maintaining optimal salt and water balance between the organism and the environment. Aquatic animals subjected to fluctuations in salinities, such as estuarine, brackish, and intertidal zones, are constantly under stress. Records drawn from National Oceanographic Data Center between 1955 to 2004 showed changes in the oceans salinity spanning from 60 degree north to 60 degree South. These shifts were consistent with anthropogenic effects influencing the long term change in the hydrological cycle. As such, the added magnitude of stress imposed on these animals may be greatly amplified by climate change thereby may compromise their ability to osmoregulate.

Question:

How would changes in salinity affect the mortality of an intertidal and estuarine vertebrate?

Members:

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