Topic #1: Risks

a. What does risk mean to you regarding your field site?

b. What possible risk(s) could exist and at what stages during your field work?

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**Physical risks:** diving, tools in the field, animals/organisms in the field (such as polar bears), weather, accidents, long hours/exhaustion, sexual harassment and racism

**Mental risks:** power dynamics of a group, cabin fever

- Risks: Physical safety - sickness, injury; associated risks of differing locations; interacting with non-PC fisherpeople and other outside individuals; international or remote field work;

- Working at night, and working alone were some of the risks we agreed may be harder to overcome than others. Planning and communication are key to mitigating field risks.

- Mental/emotional: newness of work/environment, isolated with a few for extended period, communication styles, expectations - what group should do, placing on others based on experiences, fair treatment

- Making sure team members are prepared for the fieldwork can set them up to successfully navigate both physical and emotional risk

- working in new (unknown) places; potentially with new teams, new hazards, etc.

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**Physical risks:** remote work, slick surfaces or rough terrain, heavy equipment.

**Interpersonal:** animosity toward gov agency employer, encountering armed individuals in isolated areas

**Power dynamics:**

- how to do this remotely/preemptively? differences in cohort size? How to deal with teams changing in the middle of field work

- Power dynamics - Having different levels of experience

- Physical Risk - far from hospitals, working in remote sites

- risk is not just physical but psychological and emotional

- As leaders we need to think and plan through the *eyes* of our minority students/colleagues

- managing risk assessment across team members at different stages (undergraduates vs graduates) and across different institutions in collaborative field work teams

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**Gender specific:** periods for women, sexual harassment

**Intersectionality:** contextual risk - it can change and is different for everyone

**Physical/mechanical risks:** ATVs, Vessels, Vehicles and Trailers. Social Risks - Gender, Race, Religion. Animal - bites, stings and attacks.

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**Risk can vary with what you look like. This can go “both ways” for places all over the world.**

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**working with diverse teams (different employers) can come with different rules/controls from an institutional rules but also our individual assessments of risks.**

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**also when working on new teams - building a survey to gauge the team members (esp if they are new).**
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a. What does risk mean to you in regard to your field site?

Physical risks: working alone, hiking, ship - moving platform, newness and learning how to be safe in a new environment, interacting with local communities/cultures (familiarity)

risky/ emotional risks of individuals, drug/local risks

Risks include: Sexual harassment, bathroom limitations (bladder health/challenging for women during menstruation), food/dietary restrictions, downtime (alcohol use, isolation)

social risks: people can feel excluded when unfamiliar (work experience, life experience) if effort isn't made to include them, community members adjacent to work areas with different philosophies may risk conflict

Harassment based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity from random folks encountered in public, landowners or land managers, etc.

b. What possible risk(s) could exist and at what stages during your field work?

Remembering to have physical maps, plans, etc. In this day and age of relying on phones for everything!

traveling with mostly BIPOC group in white-dominated towns and ensuing negative interactions & micro aggressions

Interactions with the public, who may or may not support either the research being done, or the diversity of the crew members involved. Especially when we are in small, isolated communities, this can be a concern.

Dive Safety: risks at every stage, planning, training, implementation

risks are constant, added burden of constant awareness as a vulnerable person in the field

Working alone as a woman on military base

The biggest risk in wildlife field work is people that you interact with rather than the animals.

Types of risk include physical, mental and social. Talking about risk regularly helps to identify and bring these risks to light.

Power dynamics in a team or working with locals

Other risks not tied to the physical environment include: travel to field sites in unfamiliar areas, discomfort of working alone, or working with team members of different backgrounds

Political differences - rural areas with local hostility toward state/government agencies

managing risk with communication - inreach
Topic #1: Risks

a. What does risk mean to you regarding your field site?

- There are physical risks, health risks, equipment risks, but identity risks like harassment, bullying, assault, etc. are not discussed as often, or in as formal of a structure as a operational risk assessment.

- Risks depend on who is in the field, e.g. my supervisor may not experience the same risks and so we need to talk about how this could be different.

- SCUBA remote work = safety is very important. Some sites can be days away from rescue.


- Also "threats" from external people passing by an open public fieldsite - "safety in numbers" when possible helps.

- Risk can be physical, cultural, mental, political, etc. Acknowledge personal bias.

b. What possible risk(s) could exist and at what stages during your field work?

- Politics of the local area may not align with the scientific research.

- Physical risks, remote working, mental health, assault, group dynamics, cultural differences

- Making sure you know which authorities to contact

- Uncomfortable or unsafe group dynamics - group leaders can set clear expectations for respect, and be available to receive feedback.

- Who to report to when in the field - which authorities to contact

- Environmental risks, trespassing, interpersonal dynamics with crew members, interactions with law enforcement and the general public.

- Live-aboard or living with people you work with - respect among everyone is necessary

- Isolated locations - might not be possible to get out quickly

- Physical risks really vary based on the specific field site - heat/dehydration issues, different types of rugged terrains, etc.

- International collaborations, cultural differences

- Operational risks in remote settings (sierra meadows, remote reserves)

- Physical risks (accidents) and interpersonal clashes

- Being open to other perspectives other than the lens through which you see the world. Being open minded makes you a good scientist in more than one.