

Ecology of Top Predators in Marine Systems (C004332)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 125 h

Contact hrs

39.0h

Course offerings in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

O'Connor, Ian

Berrow, Simon

Murphy, Sinead

GALWAY02 lecturer-in-charge

GALWAY02 co-lecturer

GALWAY02 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

[International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Seabirds, marine mammals, mark recapture, distance, survey techniques

Position of the course

Contents

This module will provide learners with detailed knowledge of the biology and ecology of top predators in marine systems, in particular: factors affecting their abundance and distribution, role of top predators in marine ecosystems, ecological consequences of top predator declines, role of top predators in monitoring and management of marine ecosystems, interaction between marine megafauna and fisheries.

Syllabus to include:

- Factors affecting top predator abundance and distribution
- Role of top predators in marine ecosystems
- Interactions between marine megafauna and fisheries
- Ecological consequences of top predator declines
- Top predators as marine sentinels

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Discuss the physical, chemical and biological factors that influence the spatial and temporal distribution of marine top predators.
- 2 Describe the role of top predators in marine systems and the consequences of their removal.
- 3 Critically evaluate the potential for top predators in monitoring and managing the marine environment.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Fieldwork

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, case studies, fieldwork are combined to deliver the syllabus. Students will benefit from a syllabus informed and delivered by research active staff with GMIT's Marine and Freshwater Research Centre.

Learning materials and price

none

References

Journals and other module material will be placed on moodle by the module co-ordinator.

Course content-related study coaching

Students experiencing difficulties should engage with course staff, or academic support units within GMIT

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period****Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

100 % continuous assessment by way of assignments

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous Assessment or Assignment for 100 % assessing learning outcomes 1,2,3