Individual written submission for Marine Ecology & Conservation Assessment 1

North Berwick – Common Limpet (Scott Barclay and Ross Malone)

Word count: 903

The aim of this project was to write, film and produce an ecological, historical and educational short movie on our chosen species, the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*) within the intertidal zone of the North Berwick and East Lothian coastline. This aim was to be met by the following objectives:

- Introduction to North Berwick as a town and its location within Scotland and the wider island of Great Britian
- Introduction to the North Berwick shoreline, intertidal zone, islands, location on the Firth of Forth and different marine ecology that exists within the vicinity
- An introduction to the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*) and how to identify our chosen species via key visual characteristics
- A discussion on the habitat, biology, ecology and life cycle of the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*)
- A thorough analysis on how natural and human-induced marine processes can and do influence the distribution, ecology and adaptation of the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*)
- The production of a professional, engaging and educational short film, using an array of video, photographs and voice overs, aimed at both international and local students alike
- Ensuring high standard of ethics at all times for local residents, other visitors and marine wildlife, adhering to our mantra “take only memories and photographs, leave only footprints”

The vision for the short-film was for it to be an appropriate blend of being informative and educational yet engaging for a potentially younger and international student audience. When discussing the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*), its life cycle, adaption, ecology and marine pressures we tried to ensure the narrative was clear and concise and free of technical jargon so the film could be relatable to all users.

Part of our collective vision was the short-film to be visually appealing. This was important because going back to that potentially younger audience, who may consume short-form video content like TikTok, we tried to make sure scenes were limited to 30-45 seconds max to keep the user engaged. This is also why we incorporated some royalty free, free-to-use stock videos from pixabay, to mix it up, keep the users watching and listening. We tried adding subtitles to make it accessible for all, however the software simply could not generate them from Scots/Edinburgh-English.

The final part of our vision was to foster appreciation for something that is very common, but can be simply walked over and ignored, because the general public know nothing about the species or its importance to marine ecology. We hope the video can spark curiosity for watchers wherever they are in the world, to explore their local region and foster an appreciation and understanding of similar over-looked yet significantly important marine creatures.

There was no hierarchy within the group and it was fully democratic to ensure all members had equal say and this was done by ensuring all decision making was collaborative. The roles and responsibilities of the group were decided prior to filming/field day (Table 1), between participating members on their individual skillset and technological hardware at our disposal, such as mobile phone for recording, and computer systems for video editing. With both team members' mobile phones having similar specifications, it was decided that each member would have equal opportunities for filming, recording and photography and therefore equal opportunities for presenting.

Table 1 - Roles and responsibilities of the team

Role/Responsibility	**Member(s)**
Choosing species and site location	Joint
Brief background of the team members	Scott
Brief introduction to the project and location	Scott
Introduction to the species	Ross
Identification of species	Ross
Species adaptation	Ross
Influence of Marine Processes	Scott
Conclusion	Scott
"Outro"/ending	Joint
Physical video editing	Scott
Video editing settings/timings/transitions	Joint
Presenting/Audio voice overs	Joint

At this stage, it was established that I had access to high powered cloud computing systems that would help the video editing. In addition to this due to my IT background and having some experience of video and audio editing for previous assessments, that may help with navigating the OpenShot application. Therefore, it was jointly decided that I would take on the bulk of the technical aspect of the film editing but with other team members having an equal say on other aspects such as what content to use, transitions and timings amongst some other key settings.

Most of the decision making was done in the planning stage prior to the field trip, however some difficult decisions had to be made after recording our footage. Upon reviewing our videos, it was established that the 20mph westerly-winds on recording day was blowing directly into our microphones. This resulted in our audio during our presenting being almost completely distorted and obscured. On top of that, the different volumes and pitches blowing directly into the microphones simply made the audio unbearable to listen to.

So, with that in mind, and being mindful this was primarily for an international audience who despite being English speakers may have issues already understanding Scots slang and accents, it was decided to scrap the audio on the recorded footage. We managed to salvage the footage by muting it within OpenShot, re-recording our presenting in audio format only in a studio environment (aka the Rotunda) and dubbing this over the footage we had. This explains why there isn't many shots of the team presenting, which admittedly does slightly reduce the "personalness" of the film. The last difficult joint decision was reducing the overshot film to be within the agreed time limit by removing least necessary parts of project.