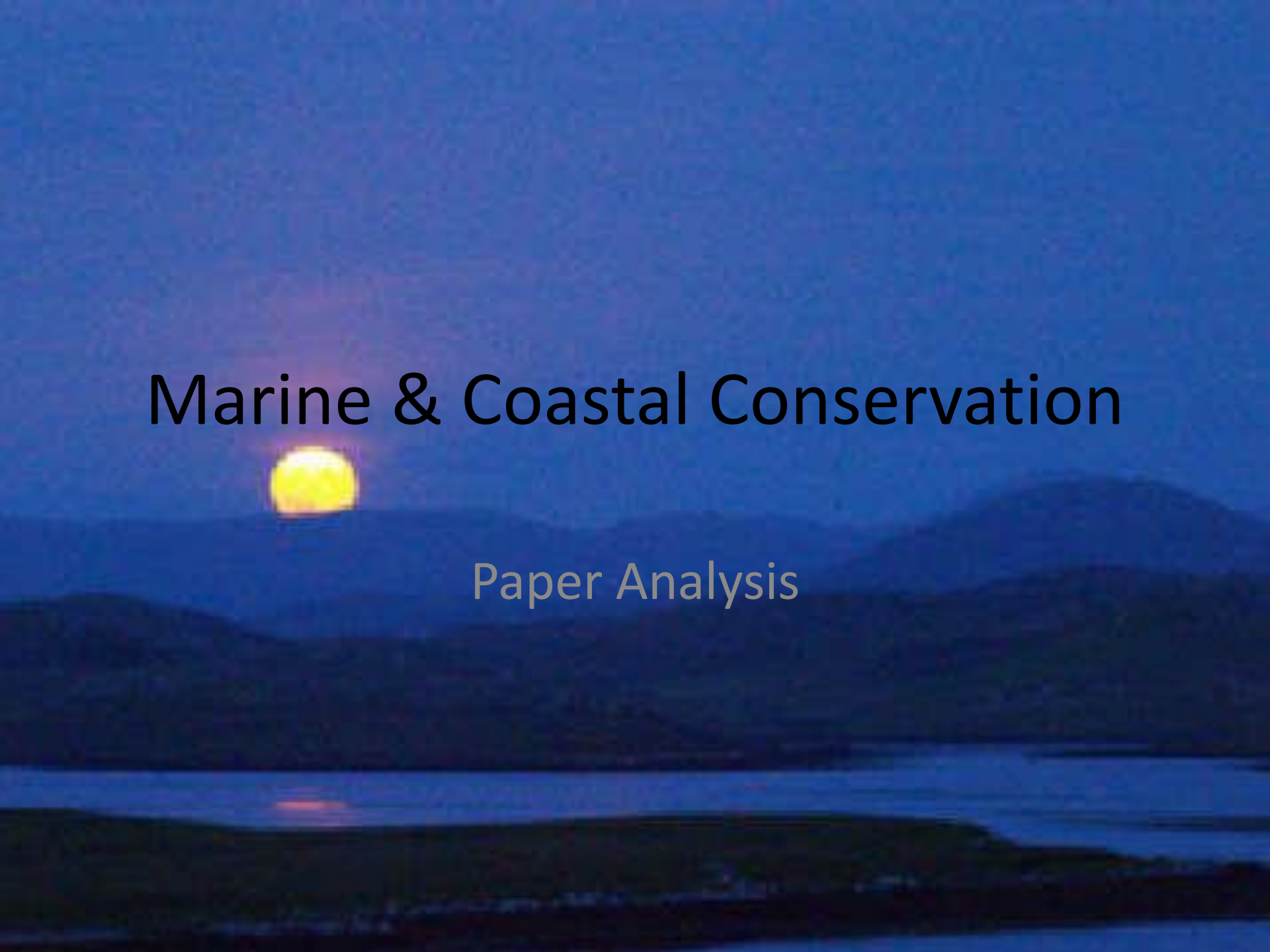


Marine & Coastal Conservation

Paper Analysis



Papers for Consideration

Task: Paper evaluation

MARINE:

Gruffydd Rees – Taiwanese large-scale tuna longline fleets in the Indian Ocean

Daryl Lawrence – Marine litter on Mediterranean shores: Analysis of composition, spatial distribution and sources in north-western Adriatic beaches

COASTAL:

Sally Hughes – Designing coastal management strategies for populations with distinct needs

Dylan Harris – Exploring the science-policy interface for integrated coastal management in New Zealand



Critical evaluation – what does this really mean?



‘Critical thinking may be defined as a form of intelligent criticism which helps people to reach independent and justifiable conclusions about their experiences’

(Moran, A.P. (1997) *Managing Your Own Learning at University*. University College, Dublin.)

Critical Appraisal?

- Identifying flaws/errors
- Careful evaluation and judgement – comparisons
- Judging its truth or merit
- Investigating component parts and how these make up the whole?

Critical vs Descriptive

- states what happened
- weights one piece of information against another
- gives the story so far
- structures information in order of importance
- says how to do something
- notes the methods used
- identifies whether something is appropriate or suitable
- explains how something works
- identifies why the timing is of importance
- says when something occurred
- argues a case according to the evidence
- shows the relevance of links between pieces of information
- identifies the significance
- states links between items
- draws conclusions
- lists in any order
- gives information
- indicates why something will work (best)

Descriptive	Analytical
states what happened	identifies the significance
gives the story so far	weighs up one piece of information against another
says how to do something	argues a case according to the evidence
notes the methods used	identifies whether something is appropriate or suitable
explains how something works	indicates why something will work (best)
says when something occurred	identifies why the timing is of importance
lists in any order	structures information in order of importance
states links between items	shows the relevance of links between pieces of information
gives information	draws conclusions

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the issue?
- What conclusion does the author reach about the issue?
- What are the author's reasons for believing as s/he does?"
 - *Be alert to bad reasoning (i.e. pity, fear, misuse of statistics etc.) that can fool you.*
- Has the author used facts or opinions?
 - *Facts can be proven.*
 - *Opinions cannot be proven and may or may not be based on sound reasoning*
- Has the author used neutral words or emotional words?
 - *Critical readers look beyond the language to see if the reasons are clear.*

Paper analysis

- What are the authors' assumptions?
- Is the argument consistent and logical?
- How does it compare to other research in the same field?
- Are there alternative perspectives from other sources?
- How do the authors substantiate their argument?

Preparing your assignment

- Identify the focus of the paper
- Find the proof to substantiate your argument with reference to other research
- Present different perspectives - comparative strengths and weaknesses
- Structure your argument so that it flows logically.



Assignment Presentation

- Presentation 9th December 2016 – 20 mins plus 5 mins questions; A4 summary handout for class
- Analyse your paper – what is the paper about? Try and obtain some of the key references listed in the paper. What is the rationale for the study? Pay particular attention to the methodology. Is it a standardised technique? Does it differ from other research? If it does what is the justification for this? What do the results tell us? Are the conclusions appropriate? Is the aim met?
- Look beyond the remit of your chosen study. What is the broader picture in international or global terms?

Examination

- Exam in May 2017
- 2 hours
- Clean copy of your chosen paper in the exam
- Consider the paper's implications for marine/coastal conservation:
 - Summarise the paper's key findings
 - Contextualise these within the scope of conservation
 - What implications do the paper's findings have on marine and coastal management/policy?

