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**“There’s something fishy about oyster reef saltmarsh and seagrass habitats”- Part 2: Reef restoration**

**Data-driven management: To restore a patch or a fringing reef?**

Before you begin, briefly explain the difference between a fringing and patch oyster reef:

Open the document named “Oyster Data Raw”. Your task is to interpret these data. Use the data set to contrast the different types of oyster reefs (patch and fringing reefs) in the chart. The information below will provide some helpful hints.

* The tab labeled “Quadrat Data” is presenting the number of various types of organisms contained in a quadrat sample. If you are not familiar with a particular organism, look it up on the internet.
	+ Yellow organisms represent predators of the Eastern Oyster
	+ Blue organisms represent competitors for space of the Eastern Oyster
* The tab labeled “Oyster Reef Trap Data” is presenting the number of various types of fish collected in a trap. Look up the fish you have never seen before on the internet.

What information about the differences and/or similarities between patch and fringing reefs can you extract from the data set?

Compare the data sets for the two different reef types by establishing a list of factors (Do this in the chart provided). After you have determined the factors, rank the importance of each.

**Factor-Comparison Chart**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factors** | **Patch Reef** | **Fringing Reef** | **Importance** |
| Number of fish | ✓ |  |  |
| Fish diversity |  |  |  |
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If you had to choose one type of reef for a restoration project, which type of reef would you build, fringing or patch? Support your choice with data from your work, above.