

Name _____ Date _____

Water Quality Degradation in the Ocean: Hypotheses

Part 1. Imagine you are a Department of Health scientist and marine biologist. You are responsible for investigating possible links between a recent Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and the following events: many sick or dying sea lions, strange bird behavior, and flu-like illnesses present in human beach-goers. Most of the sick beach-goers are surfers or regularly eat shellfish (mussels, scallops). The incidence of illness seemed to increase dramatically following a rain event. Develop and support a hypothesis that will help explain the cause or relationship between these events.

Hypothesis: _____

Reasoning: _____

Part 2. Imagine you are a Department of Health scientist and marine biologist. You are responsible for investigating possible links between a recent Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and the following events: a fish kill, the closure of your favorite wetland recreation area, and shellfish warnings. Develop and support a hypothesis that will help to explain the cause or relationship between these events.

Hypothesis: _____

Reasoning: _____

