

Video Transcript - Selecting the Spot and Placing a Biocube

Chris Meyer: Our challenge was to try and find a place that we could put this cube, that we can make observations, and then we can capture all the animals in that space. We have to put this somewhere, right? We have to find a spot where we're going to put this in a little chunk of space. What we try and do is try to find a place where we have the most variety [00:00:30] (to) capture within a cube. And, it has to either travel through here or be in here for us to count it.

Seabird McKeon: May I hand you the cube?

Speaker 3: Sure. The cube, right here.

Speaker 4: Yeah.

Speaker 3: So that you get some water and some mud.

Speaker 4: That's not bad.

Speaker 3: Sure. And there's a lot of little bugs.

Speaker 5: Wait a minute, are we imagining it's all the way in or including the air?

Chris Meyer: What we tend to look for, is places where things shift or change, or on the edge. We might want to have it [00:01:00] (tipped on the corner) and maybe the water like this deep (part way up). Maybe kind of tilt it a little bit and you get a bunch of little plants. Maybe it's on the edge or something a little bit, so we get water, get a little land.

Seabird McKeon: Wow. What do people think about that site?

Speaker 3: Yeah.

Speaker 5: Perfect.

Speaker 5: That's pretty deep.

Seabird McKeon: Why does that work?

Speaker 5: It has plants, water, and air.

Seabird McKeon: It has plants, and water, and air.

Chris Meyer: And that's our task. It's a guess. Like you said, it's a hypothesis. We don't know. And we're obviously going to miss things. We're not going to get everything in this entire ecosystem. But that's the same [00:01:30] in life. You know, as we

are scientists and naturalists, we still have about 60 to 80 percent of diversity on life that we haven't described yet. So don't feel bad about missing things. But, what's important is that we have a standardized approach so we can make those comparisons. Because we want to understand how things are changing through time. We want to understand how different species are interacting with each other, so we can kind of make a model about who's eating whom, and play games with that. It's kind of a fun unit to think about as we [00:02:00] move forward.

Liittschwager: Selecting the spot/Placing the cube.

Liittschwager: Choose diversity. Choose a spot with several different species of small plants. Look for habitat type edges and/or intersections. Texture - is it three dimensional with places for lots of creatures to live? Is it safe and accessible? You want to be able to [00:02:30] spend time observing what lives in and moves through your cube. And, choose a location where you have permission to do all of the work, including collecting creatures.