Life Chapter 54—Population Ecology -- Questions and Comments
Conservation Biology
Spring 2009

1. Know the definition of a population and its symbol, *N*, and the meaning of various subscripts of *N*. Know the difference between population, population structure and population density.
2. We will cover estimation of populations using mark/recapture in class but be sure you understand the book and particular the section on sampling. Note that I will use different symbols for a mark/recapture equation.
3. Understand what survivorship is but you need not know how to work a life table. The figure showing survivorship curves is a bit different than the one I will show you in class (the book gives real, not idealized examples) but you should find looking at both very instructive.
4. Be sure that you can read the age distribution curves. We will not cover these in class but you should understand that age distribution has important effects on population growth.
5. The section on iteroparity, semelparity and population growth will be covered in detail in class. Please read them along with the notes for background; they are very important in conservation biology. Understanding the concepts, understanding but not solving the equations and reading the graphs is what you should concentrate on.
6. Know and understand the section on what makes some species common and others rare.
7. Read the last two sections (54.4 and .5) – these are very related to conservation biology. We will go into more depth on the material in these sections bit later in the course.

Boxed recap questions to know: 54.1 q1, 5 4.2 & 54.3.