

## The Boston Blobe

"At the Edge of a Warming World"

## Reading Guide for Part II: Coastal Ecosystems and Migration of Birds



Chatham-09/24/19 - Jared Bennett, a 29-year old fisherman primarily catches dogfish and skate on his boat White Cap. A seagull sits on the bow of the boat in the early morning in at Chatham Fish Pier. He says it's hard to get deckhands these days. Photo by John Tlumacki/Globe Staff(metro)

## A. Review the following key vocabulary words for this section of the article:

ecology, habitat, migration, ornithologists, predators, salt marshes, sand bar, tidal waters, vegetation

- B. As you read, use details from the text to respond to the following questions:
- 1. What are salt marshes, and how do they form?
- 2. How do salt marshes support the coastal environment?
- 3. What does Brad Winn mean when he says that a whimbrel bird is, "...an ambassador of the larger system?"
- 4. How does Winn conduct his study on whimbrel birds?
- 5. What is a low marsh, and how does it differ from a high marsh?
- 6. Why is there less vegetation on the coast of the Cape, and why is that causing an increase in the population of purple marsh crab?
- 7. What does the author describe as the "destructive feedback loop"?
- 8. How has a warming climate changed the migration pattern for bluejay birds?

C. Write a 2-3 sentence summary of the section using key details.

These materials were created to support "At the Edge of a Warming World, published in *The Boston Globe* on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Find this and more educational resources at **www.pulitzercenter.org/changingcape**