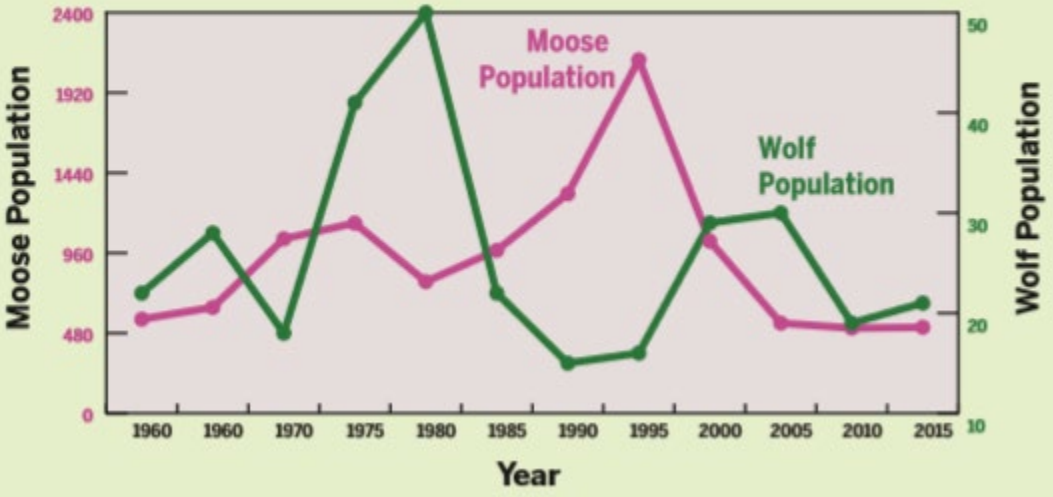
Predicting Predator/Prey Interactions Activity Sheet
(Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale National Park**)**

Wolves and Moose on Isle Royale

One of the longest studies of predator-prey interactions is that of the wolves and moose on Isle Royale, Michigan. Isle Royale is an isolated island in Lake Superior. Wolves are the only large predators on the island. Moose eat plants. Isle Royale and smaller nearby islands are part of Isle Royale National Park.

Figure 3.
Wolf and Moose Populations in Isle Royale National Park 1960-2015



Source: Disruptions in Ecosystems, Explain: Biotic and Abiotic Factors in Ecosystems, Activity 1.4

Discuss Figure 3, “Graph of Wolf and Moose Populations in Isle Royale National Park, 1960-2015,” with your group, and then with your class:

1. What happens to the number of prey when the number of predators increases? _____

2. What happens to the number of prey when the number of predators decreases? _____

3. Does there appear to be a relationship between the populations of the predators and the prey? _____

4. What other factors could affect these predator and prey populations? _____

Figure 3 shows real data about a specific population of wolves and moose. Ecologists have used such information to create a graph showing the general pattern of interaction between predator and prey populations.

EXTEND- Discuss how you would graph the data from the graph above on wolf and moose populations into the bottom graph of the worksheet from earlier today. Record this predator-prey pattern on Handout 1.4-1 in the bottom graph.