Predators and Food Webs

I. Direct vs. Indirect Effects
II. Keystone predators
III. What controls food webs?

Direct vs. Indirect Effects

Direct effect - a change in the phenotype or abundance of a species mediated by an interaction with another species.

Indirect effect - a change in the phenotype or abundance of a species caused by a species it does not interact with directly.

Keystone Predators

A keystone species is one whose impact on its community or ecosystem is disproportionately large relative to its abundance.

Top down control - food webs are controlled by the negative impacts of predators on prey (demand driven).

Bottom up control - food webs are controlled by the availability of prey for predators (supply driven).

Why is the world green?


Where have all the fish gone?