



54th Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting

March 1-4, 2026

Cavalier Beach Front Resort, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sponsors & Acknowledgments



Coastal Research Center

Table of Contents

SPONSORS.....	1
WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	3
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.....	4
WELCOME & CONFERENCE OVERVIEW.....	5
PLENARY & INVITED SPEAKERS.....	7
STUDENT & EARLY CAREER.....	11
SOCIAL EVENTS.....	12
MONDAY AT A GLANCE.....	14
MONDAY DETAILED SCHEDULE.....	15
TUESDAY AT A GLANCE.....	18
TUESDAY DETAILED SCHEDULE.....	19
TUESDAY POSTER SESSIONS.....	22
WEDNESDAY AT A GLANCE.....	30
WEDNESDAY DETAILED SCHEDULE.....	31
SPECIAL SESSIONS.....	33
FLOOR PLAN.....	35
VENUE INFORMATION.....	36
THINGS TO DO.....	37

Letter from the President

On behalf of the officers and organizing committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting. We are delighted to have you join us for several days of scientific exchange, collaboration, and community here in Virginia Beach.

The Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting has long served as a forum for sharing cutting-edge research on the organisms, processes, and interactions that shape benthic systems across marine and estuarine environments. This year's program reflects the remarkable breadth and depth of our field, spanning fundamental ecological theory, innovative methodologies, applied management questions, and emerging challenges facing benthic ecosystems in a rapidly changing world.

Equally important, this meeting is about people. With participants ranging from students and early-career scientists to established researchers and practitioners, the Benthic Ecology Meeting provides an inclusive and supportive environment for exchanging ideas, building collaborations, and fostering the next generation of marine ecologists. I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities to engage with colleagues during talks, poster sessions, breaks, and informal gatherings throughout the week.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the local organizing committee, session organizers, reviewers, volunteers, sponsors, and the procurement and finance staff at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences whose dedication and hard work made this meeting possible. Their efforts ensure a high-quality scientific program and a welcoming experience for all attendees.

I hope you find the meeting intellectually stimulating, professionally rewarding, and personally enjoyable. Whether this is your first Benthic Ecology Meeting or one of many, I trust that you will leave inspired by the science, strengthened by new connections, and energized for the work ahead. Welcome, and best wishes for a successful and memorable meeting.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Patrick, Ph.D.
President, Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting



Organizing Committee

Letter from the Local Organizing Committee

Welcome to Virginia Beach and to the Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting!

We are delighted to host this year's meeting and to welcome you to our local community. Our goal has been to create a meeting that is scientifically rigorous, collegial, and enjoyable, while also making it easy for you to navigate the venue and focus on the science and conversations that matter most.

Please use this program as a guide to the week's events, and do not hesitate to reach out to organizers or volunteers if you have questions. We hope you enjoy the meeting, reconnect with colleagues, and leave with new ideas and collaborations.

Organizing Committee

Conference Chair (BEMS President): Christopher J. Patrick

Program Committee: Jennifer Gilmore, Jessica Butler, Desiree Groff, Chris Groff, Camille Wilson, Aly Hall, Kyle Capistrant-Fossa, Dave Wilcox, Melissa Mills (website maintenance)

VCR Field Trip Committee: Bo Lusk, Max Castorani, Cora Ann Baird, Sophia Hoffman, Camille Wilson, Aly Hall, Mickie Edwards

Student Mentoring Committee: Jeff Shields & David Johnson

Student Judging Committee: Rochelle Seitz

Volunteer Committee: Jennifer Dalke, Bo Lusk, Desiree Groff

Special Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen!

Board Members 2024 - 2025

Chris Patrick - Virginia Institute of Marine Science	President
Jarrett Byrnes - University of Massachusetts Boston	President Elect
Sean Powers - University of South Alabama / Dauphin Island Sea Lab	Past-President
Zach Darnell - University of Southern Mississippi / Gulf Coast Research Lab	Secretary
Lee Smee - Dauphin Island Sea Lab / University of South Alabama	Treasurer
April Blakeslee - East Carolina University	At Large
Randi Cannon - Dauphin Island Sea Lab / University of South Alabama	Student Rep President

Welcome & Conference Overview

The Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting brings together researchers, students, and practitioners to share advances in the study of benthic ecosystems across marine and estuarine environments.

We strive to foster an inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment that encourages open scientific exchange and professional growth at all career stages.

Code of Conduct & Community Standards

The Benthic Ecology Meeting Society affirms everyone and rejects all forms of discrimination, harassment, and bigotry by anyone in our community on the basis of race, color, appearance, genetic information, disability status, sex, age, gender identity, national origin, veteran status, religion, citizenship, socioeconomic status, or any other demographic category. Our goal is to ensure everyone has an enjoyable meeting in an atmosphere of mutual respect, cooperation, and professionalism. The code of conduct below is required for everyone attending any Benthic Ecology Meeting. Registration for the Benthic Ecology Meeting is considered an agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Benthic Ecology Society is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants including attendees, speakers, volunteers, vendors, staff, and service providers. All participants are expected to:

- Treat others with respect and consideration
- Communicate openly, remembering to critique ideas and not individuals
- Avoid personal attacks toward others
- Respect posted rules and policies of the meeting venue
- Avoid harassment of any participant. Harassment includes but is not limited to unwanted verbal attention, unwanted touching, intimidation, stalking, shaming, or bullying. Harassment presented jokingly is still harassment and is not acceptable. Retaliation for reporting harassment is unacceptable as is reporting an incident in bad faith.
 - Discrimination or harassment based on gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, physical appearance, race, religion, national origin, or ethnicity will not be tolerated.

Consequences

- Anyone asked to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- BEM may ask anyone violating the Code of Conduct to leave the meeting. In this circumstance, registration refunds will not be offered. Offenders may be banned from future BEM meetings.

Reporting

- If you wish to report unacceptable behavior, please notify a member of the BEM BOARD or another designated representative
- Anyone witnessing behavior that represents an immediate threat to public safety should contact a security guard, call 911 or locate a house phone and ask security to make a report.

Honoring Past President Mark Butler

Mark J. Butler IV – a tireless steward of the Benthic Ecology Meeting

The Benthic Ecology Meeting can change your life.

I know it did mine.

I am a professor at the University of Florida because of the BEM and the people I met there. Mark believes similarly in the value and power of the BEM to deliver high-level science and shape the careers of budding new scientists, and seasoned veterans alike. He started his career at Old Dominion University in 1989 and spent 31 years there before being lured by the siren's song coming from Florida International University, where he ended it last year as the Walter and Rosalie Goldberg Professor of Tropical Ecology and Conservation. He has attended countless BEMs starting who knows when - I think they were still using papyrus for manuscripts at the time – missing only a handful over the past ~40 years. He also gave countless hours of his time and his coffers to make BEM ever better and secure its future. It was under his watch as President in 2012, when he hosted one of the best meetings of all time (and broke the bank) in Norfolk. During his tenure, BEM officially became the BEM Society – no small amount of effort, the Beneath the Waves Film Festival hit the IMAX, the host plaque was started, and the host t-shirt quilt was first stitched together and subsequently passed along. Always up for hosting a good party, once at FIU, Mark decided to host again in 2023, bringing the BEM to downtown Miami. This will be his last BEM, fittingly back in Virginia, but like so many aging quarterbacks who refuse to stay retired, let's hope he misses the game and stops in for a cameo now and again.

Thanks for all you have done for the Benthic Ecology Meeting, Mark. It's a better society for your involvement.

Don Behringer (Butler PhD student 2003)



Plenary & Invited Speakers



Jill Bieri

Director of The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve

As Director of The Nature Conservancy's Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve, Jill Bieri leads a staff of fifteen working to protect, restore and sustain the barrier islands, coastal lagoon and bayside ecosystems of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Jill holds a master's degree in marine science from the College of William and Mary's Virginia

Institute of Marine Science and 35 years of experience working on the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays. She has worked as a scientific researcher (seagrass ecology), an environmental educator, public grants writer and founder/director of a small environmental non-profit. Her interests include coastal and bay ecology, environmental education, and non-profit leadership. Jill is an avid long-distance runner and enjoys both living and working in the last expanse of coastal wilderness on the East Coast of the U.S.

Opening Remarks on Monday, March 2nd at 8:30 am

Welcome to the Virginia Coast Reserve: A Living Laboratory for Nature and People

Along the coast of Virginia sits one of the most conserved, studied and undisturbed stretches of coastal wilderness along the East Coast of the U.S. This system, known as the Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR) boasts extensive, undeveloped barrier islands, productive mudflats, vast protected tidal marshes and a 70-mile-long peninsula that separates the Atlantic Ocean from the Chesapeake Bay. These seaside habitats of the VCR as well as forest corridors, productive farmland and freshwater marshes provide food and refuge for important migratory species and are home to a rural culture that is inextricably tied to nature. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with state and federal partners, began investing in this unique stretch of coast over 55 years ago and today continues to build partnerships and community driven conservation that enhances a living laboratory- a place where globally impactful and successful scientific research is implemented. VCR is where we continue to learn about critical elements of the life cycles of migratory shorebird species, have demonstrated-at scale-success with marine habitat restoration and explore how nature-based solutions can provide long-term resilience to communities that are at risk of rising sea level and increased flooding. This glimpse into the VCR will be both a welcome and an opportunity to experience how conservation and science have been successfully woven together in this amazing place on the edge of the Virginia coast.

Plenary & Invited Speakers



Allison Colden

Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Allison Colden is the Maryland Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). She provides strategic vision and leadership for policy initiatives at the local and state level to achieve ambitious Bay restoration goals. She is among the leading advocates for sustainable fisheries policies to protect important Chesapeake Bay species such as rockfish, oysters, and blue crabs. Allison has led advocacy efforts state bills such as 2019 legislation that permanently

protected Maryland's five large-scale oyster restoration sanctuaries. For the past four years, Colden has overseen CBF's Maryland oyster restoration program, which adds tens of millions of oysters to the Bay each year to sanctuary reefs. She also serves as Maryland's representative to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and as an appointed member of Maryland's Oyster Advisory Commission, where she advances sustainability through regulation and cooperative fisheries management. Her work on fishery issues has given her a broad understanding of the water quality problems that affect the Bay as well as the need for clean water. Previously, as CBF's Maryland Senior Fisheries Scientist, she developed the Foundation's state and federal fisheries policy initiatives and provided technical expertise and consultation for the organization's oyster restoration program. Before joining CBF, Allison served as the Senior Manager of External Affairs for Restore America's Estuaries where she managed coalition strategy and initiatives in support of advancing coastal habitat restoration. She also served as a 2015 NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Legislative Fellow in the office of Congressman Mike Thompson. Allison holds a B.S. in Biology with a concentration in Ecological Conservation from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Plenary Speaker on Monday March 2nd at 9:00 am

Model or Work in Progress? Reflections on 40 Years of Chesapeake Bay Restoration

With a vast 64,000-square-mile watershed supporting more than 18 million people, the Chesapeake Bay's benthic habitats and communities have long reflected the cumulative pressures of human and natural history. Sediment cores trace ecological shifts back to early colonization, while events such as seagrass wasting disease, the introduction of oyster parasites MSX and Dermo, and Hurricane Agnes left lasting impacts on the Bay's habitats and ecosystems. Decades of restoration, catalyzed by the 1983 Bay Study, the formation of citizen groups, and successive Chesapeake Bay Agreements, laid the foundation for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, or "pollution diet," rooted in the needs of aquatic life and benthic habitats including oysters and submerged aquatic vegetation. While significant progress has been made to reduce excess nutrients and sediment reaching the Bay, ecosystem response has been hard to detect and slow to materialize. Climate impacts and continued watershed development also threaten to undermine progress.

Now at the starting line of a newly-revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, managers face a choice: maintain our focus on deep-water restoration or shift efforts to the recovery of shallow-water habitats? The choices we make now will shape the future of the Chesapeake Bay for decades to come.

Plenary & Invited Speakers



Emmett Duffy

Emeritus, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Emmett Duffy is Founding Director and Chief Scientist of the Smithsonian Institution's Marine Global Earth Observatory (MarineGEO), a global network of partners working together to understand ecosystems on the edge-coastal ecosystems under pressure. He was a professor of marine science at VIMS for the previous 18 years, and has been a leader for two decades in the science of marine biodiversity and ecology, serving on the steering committee of the Global Ocean Observing System's Biology and Ecosystems panel, as co-lead of the writing team for the U.S. National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy, and as a chapter co-lead for "United By Nature" (formerly known as the U.S. National Nature Assessment). He is an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow, a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America, recipient of Japan's inaugural Kobe Prize in Marine Biology in 2011, and author of "Ocean Ecology. Marine life in the age of humans" (2021, Princeton University Press). Duffy first began attending the Benthic Ecology Meetings in 1986, in Boston, and has attended many more since then!

Plenary Speaker on Tuesday, March 3rd at 9 am

Let's do this, people

I became a benthic ecologist because I was obsessed with animals as a kid, and with the strange beauty of marine invertebrates after I first saw them. Probably this is true for many of you too. To make a living at it we have to understand what is already known, form hypotheses, collect and analyze data, and of course raise money to do all of those things. Since I've been talking about such scientific results at the Benthic Ecology Meetings for 40 years (explaining why I sometimes refer to BEM as the family reunion), I will go light on data this time. What I'd like to talk about instead is what worked for me on the road to becoming a professional scientist, what didn't, and what events and lessons stand out in memory that I hope might be useful to others, or at least mildly entertaining. Many of these involve this community of colleagues and friends, hence the title of this talk.

Plenary & Invited Speakers



Kristy Kroeker,
Professor, University of California Santa Cruz

Kristy Kroeker is a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Coastal Science and Policy Graduate Program at the University of California Santa Cruz. Her research examines the ecological effects of global change on marine ecosystems, from seagrass meadows to kelp forests. Her research program is grounded in the integration of ecology and applied perspectives and is strengthened by interdisciplinary

collaborations. Efforts to improve DEI are integrated across her research program, teaching, and service, but she has been deeply engaged in using field-based experiences and inclusive mentorship to improve retention of underrepresented students in marine sciences. Kroeker is a Packard Fellow in Science and Engineering, a Sloan Fellow in Ocean Sciences, and a UC Climate Action Champion. She sits on the Scientific Advisory Team of the California Ocean Protection Council.

Plenary Speaker on Wednesday, March 4th at 9 am

Community ecology for a changing ocean

Marine ecosystems are increasingly affected by global environmental changes, including warming temperatures, deoxygenation, and ocean acidification. Scientists recognize that these environmental changes are translated to communities via organismal physiology. However, the multi-faceted nature of environmental change requires a common currency for scaling up the wide range of physiological effects. In this talk, I will discuss how understanding shifts in the outcome of species interactions requires a sharpened focus on the energetic demands and trophic mismatches generated by environmental changes, as well as how key species interactions that are sensitive to environmental change can operate as ecological leverage points through which small changes in abiotic conditions can be amplified into large changes in marine ecosystems.

Tips for networking

This year we're hosting the Graduate School and Early Career Panel as a workshop to provide advice and tips on navigating next steps for early career scientists. This workshop will be held on Sunday, March 1, 11:00-12:00 pm in the Calloway Room (registration required). We're planning to have four professionals at different stages of their careers provide you with answers to your questions! Whether you're an undergraduate student, grad student, or postdoc, it can be hard to advance your career goals. The panel will provide advice and discussion on some key features in moving your career forward. We plan to discuss topics such as how to network with professionals, how to think about and leverage your motivations, how to get into graduate school, and how to find potential opportunities.

In addition to the panel, we have had a lot of interest in our Mentor-Mentee matching service. This year we've matched 23 mentors with 60 mentees! If you didn't sign up for this service, no problem, you can do this in an impromptu fashion. Virtually all of the faculty and professionals at the meeting can provide early career students and scientists with advice. Sometimes, it's a matter of knowing who to talk to, so the key is to engage faculty and professionals with questions about their research and what motivated their research. This is a great segue for continued discussion that can lead to long-term networks.

At BEM, you'll have plenty of opportunities to meet people, so take advantage of it! After all, meetings like this are designed specifically for networking!

Social Events

Sunday Welcome Social 6-8pm

Start the conference off right by catching up with old friends and making new connections. Light appetizers and a cash bar will be available.

Monday Evening Trivia 8pm

Brought to you by Waterlust. Team up with 1 to 6 people and test your knowledge at Tulu Seaside Bar and Grill.

Tuesday Affinity Group Meet-Up 12 - 1pm

Connect with others who self-identify within each affinity group (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, First Generation in Science, and/or Persons with Disabilities) during a lunch meetup (venue to be chosen by each group). Email if you would like links to GroupMe to join!

Tuesday Evening Poster Session 6-8pm

Explore the posters and chat with the authors in a fun social environment. Light appetizers and a cash bar will be available.

Wednesday Evening Close-out Social 7-10pm

Ticketed event occurring at Smartmouth Brewing Pilot House. Registrants who purchased tickets should have received their entry ticket with their name badge. Please have your ticket handy for entry, it also serves as a beverage voucher. A variety of pizzas including vegetarian and vegan options will be served. Music and entertainment by SnackBar Jones.

Presenter Guidelines

Oral Presenters

Presenters should arrive to their assigned presentation room 15 minutes prior to the start of the session to meet the moderator and obtain presentation instructions. All presentations must be uploaded before the session begins. You may upload your presentation at any of the following times:

- Friday, Feb 27: Electronic upload on Oxford Abstracts
- Sunday, March 1st: Manual upload (e.g. thumb drive) at the registration desk from 2pm to 6pm
- Monday, March 2nd through Wednesday, March 4th: Manual upload (e.g. thumb drive) in the session room during breaks.

Poster Presenters

Presenters should be available to stand by their posters and discuss their research during the poster session on Tuesday March 3rd from 6pm to 8pm. Posters must be hung at their assigned location by Tuesday March 3rd by 5pm at the latest, in preparation for the session. We encourage presenters to display their posters as early as registration opens on Sunday March 1st at 2pm to maximize exposure. All posters must be removed by 1pm on Wednesday March 4th. Any unclaimed posters will be temporarily held in Goodman. After 5pm, unclaimed posters will be recycled.

In the online poster gallery on Oxford Abstracts, you can preview posters and chat with the presenters. Feel free to check out this additional avenue to connect.

Monday March 2 Day At A Glance

Time	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
8:15-10:00	Opening Remarks and Morning Plenary with Jill Bieri and Allison Colden				
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break				
10:30-12:00	Special Session: Environmental Impact 1	Fisheries 1	Ecophysiology 1	Biodiversity	Oyster Reef Ecology 1
1:30-3:00	Special Session: Environmental Impact 2	Fisheries 2	Ecophysiology 2	Biological Invasions	Oyster Reef Ecology 2
3:00-3:30pm	Afternoon Break				
3:30-5:00pm	Anthropogenic Impacts 1	Coral Reef Ecology 1	Seagrass Ecology 1	Special Session: Spatial Patterns	Recruitment and Larval Ecology 1

Monday March 2 Sessions 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Special Session: Environmental Impact 1	Fisheries 1	Ecophysiology 1	Biodiversity	Oyster Reef Ecology 1
Moderator	Jeffrey Baguley, Elisa Baldrighi, Yazmin Gonzalez Elizarraraz, William Wallace	Benjamin Gutzler	Justin Baumann	Martin Thiel	Benjamin Belgrad
10:30 - 10:45	<u>William Wallace, Abhishek Naik, Alexa Rinaudo</u> What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger: Metallothionein Induction as a Coping Mechanism for Toxic Prey in Grass Shrimp	<u>Benjamin Gutzler, Ian Howard, Jason Goldstein</u> Dining among the monoculture: exploring the consequences of high lobster densities in the Gulf of Maine	<u>Anderson Mayfield, Cliff Ross, Samantha Shaw, Matthew Gilg</u> Proteins underlying acclimatization to thermal stress in the reef-building coral <i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	<u>Bengt Allen, Alexis Coddig, Luke Miller, et al.</u> Species Diversity and the Maintenance of Ecosystem Function in an Increasingly Variable World	<u>Alexandra Hooks, Matt Ogburn</u> A Large-Scale Collaborative Assessment of Oyster Reef Ecology Across Broad Geographic Scales
10:45 - 11:00	* <u>Ainsley Vanderhyde, Amy MacFadyen, Rachael Mueller</u> Assessing potential risks from WWII shipwrecks by filling knowledge gaps in NOAA's RULET database and simulating oil spill fate and transport	* <u>David Truhe, John Klinck, Eric Powell, Molly Spencer</u> Development of a model to understand the influence of birth date and temperature in determining population demographics of the ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	<u>Emily Luberto, Marina Villoch, Grace McDermott, et al.</u> Ocean warming experiments reveal <i>Colpophyllia natans</i> vulnerability and <i>Orbicella faveolata</i> resilience to heat stress as measured by growth and metabolism	<u>Noam Altman-Kurosaki, Leah Harper, Emmett Duffy</u> Biodiversity promotes the abundance and biomass of both conspicuous and cryptobenthic reef fishes across a degraded reef tract	* <u>Emma Coltman, Eric Powell, Danielle Kreeger, et al.</u> Understanding the variability in food profiles across eastern oyster reefs located in western Mississippi Sound: a field study
11:00 - 11:15	<u>Jill Bourque, Amanda Demopoulos, Laura Bedinger, et al.</u> Recovery and restoration of deep benthic sediment habitats injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill	* <u>Andrea Munoz, Jan McDowell, David Rudders</u> Using DNA Metabarcoding to Refine Our Understanding of the Diet and Feeding Ecology of the Atlantic Sea Scallop, <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	* <u>Sophie Leight, Amanda Jenkins, Reuven Frye, et al.</u> The Blue Mussel in a Warming World: Influence of Latitude and Location on <i>Mytilus edulis</i> Response to Thermal Stress	* <u>El Fernekees Hartshorn, Niels Hobbs</u> Kaleidoscopic camouflage: Exploring the isopod <i>Idotea balthica</i> color morphologies on algal communities in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island	* <u>Gabrielle Davis, Jessica Lunt, Benjamin Belgrad, et al.</u> Harder to Handle: Induced responses reshape predator-prey interactions on oyster reefs
11:15 - 11:30	<u>Jeffrey Baguley, Elisa Baldrighi, Hyun Woo Bang, et al.</u> Spatiotemporal patterns of deep-sea Harpacticoida community dynamics following the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> oil spill: how do things look 12 years later?	* <u>Naomi Falconnier, Lauren Zitzman, Robert Ossiboff, et al.</u> Nonlethal Gill Sampling Increases Assay Sensitivity of Panulirus argus Virus 1 Quantitative PCR	* <u>Amanda Jenkins, Amanda Power, Sophie Leight, et al.</u> Analysis of 5-Methylcytosine as an Indicator of Global Methylation in <i>Mytilus Edulis</i> in the Gulf of Maine	* <u>Henry Sun, Ella Andonov, Sabrina Rosset, et al.</u> A Global Core Coral Metabolome as a Baseline for Holobiont Physiology and Stress Biology	* <u>Aurora Gaona-Hernández, Jennifer Beseres Pollack, Christine Jensen, et al.</u> Salinity and Climate Variability Drive the Distribution of <i>Perkinsus marinus</i> in Eastern Oysters Across Texas Estuaries
11:30 - 11:45	<u>Elisa Baldrighi, Jestus Fast, Yazmin Gonzalez Elizarraraz, et al.</u> Different taxonomic levels of identification to assess the Deepwater Horizon impact and the meiofauna response.	* <u>Lucas Jennings, J. Antonio Baeza, Max Taylor, et al.</u> Effects of Egg Parasite Nemertean on Commercially Important Crustaceans in Florida with Notes on New Species	<u>Stephanie Hendricks, Ziyu Wang, Robert Bretzing-Tungate, et al.</u> Range expansion of <i>Cassiopea xamachana</i> driven by plasticity and adaptation to extreme temperatures	<u>Annika Markovich, Tim Swain</u> Why historic museum collections are critical resources for modern biodiversity: an example from <i>Parazoanthus</i>	* <u>Jessica Hilliker, Andrea Tarnecki, Benjamin Belgrad, et al.</u> The Impact of Induced Defenses on Oyster Disease Susceptibility
11:45 - 12:00	* <u>Andrea Landaverde, Dave Eggleston, Maria Rodgers</u> Assessing the impact of seasonality and site on PFAS prevalence on oyster reefs in Pamlico Sound, North Carolina	<u>Leah Zacher, Ben Daly, Erin Fedewa, Scott Goodman, et al.</u> The Great Scuttle: The Seasonal Journey of Red King Crabs in Bristol Bay	* <u>Alex Hoey, Marguerite Koch-Rose, Lauren Simonitis, et al.</u> Barriers to root gas exchange in three dominant tropical seagrasses	<u>Megan McCuller, James Carlton</u> Hidden Biodiversity in Natural History Museum Collections	* <u>Christa Russell, Abigail Halterman, Delbert L. Smee</u> Snailing It: Regional Variation in Salinity Tolerance of Oyster Drills

Monday March 2 Sessions 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Special Session: Environmental Impact 2	Fisheries 2	Ecophysiology 2	Biological Invasions	Oyster Reef Ecology 2
Moderator	Jeffrey Baguley, Elisa Baldrihi, Yazmin Gonzalez Elizarraraz, William Wallace	Eric Johnson	Gary Dickinson	Niels-Viggo S. Hobbs	Mariah Livernois
1:30 - 1:45	<u>Mark Butler</u> The Demise of the Florida Keys Marine Ecosystem	<u>Graham Wagner, Daniel Sasson, Jeff Brunson, et al.</u> Claws and effect: filling data gaps to understand population declines and inform management of Atlantic blue crab (<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>) in South Carolina, USA.	<u>Carla Narvaez</u> Effects of energetic stress on adhesive performance and resource allocation in the purple sea urchin <i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>	<u>*Purna Chakraborty, Paul Bologna</u> It's Getting Hot in Here: The Influence of Thermal Stress on Survival and Regeneration of Clinging Jellyfish Polyps	<u>*Coral Tolman, Krystal Renta, Jordan Hollarsmith</u> SILT HAPPENS: IMPACTS OF GLACIAL SILT ON PACIFIC OYSTER <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> CLEARANCE RATES AND FILTRATION EFFICIENCY
1:45 - 2:00	<u>Benjamin Belgrad, Ellery Lennon, Justin Voss, et al.</u> Development of a sponge restoration strategy for Florida Keys	<u>*Micayla Cochran, M. Zachary Darnell</u> From Capture to Release: Handling Practices and the Fate of Discarded Blue Crabs	<u>*Emma Johnson, Kelcie Chiquillo, Alex Mercado-Molina, et al.</u> Decoding the <i>Diadema antillarum</i> die-off: Interpreting physiological and molecular responses during pathogen infection	<u>Alyssa Lamberto, Paul Bologna</u> Recruitment of <i>Chrysaora chesapeakei</i> polyps on Floating dock versus Bulkhead Surfaces	<u>*Ethan Mocny, Eric Powell, Kristina Mojica, et al.</u> Effects of Seston Particle Size, Quantity, and Quality on Successful Oyster Larvae (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) Development
2:00 - 2:15	<u>Megan Conkling, Shirley Pomponi</u> From Cells to Ecosystems: Sponge Responses to Environmental Change	<u>Tomamichel Megan, Ella Indseth, Lindsey Smith, et al.</u> Temperature alters sublethal effects of <i>Hematodinium perezii</i> infection in juvenile blue crabs (<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>).	<u>*Morgan Jarrett, Mark J. Butler IV, Yannis Papastamatiou</u> Linking respiratory morphology to physiological performance in two decapod crustaceans with contrasting ecologies	<u>Cameron Chadronet, Niels Viggo Hobbs</u> Afoul or a Drag?: the invasive rhodophyte <i>Grateloupia turuturu</i> as epibiont on marine gastropods	<u>*Christopher Oxley, Max Castorani</u> Salinity drives the tidal niche and biogeography of eastern oysters in Texas, USA
2:15 - 2:30	<u>*Madeline Payne, Joel Fodrie, Rachel Gittman</u> Detecting critical slowing down in coastal ecosystems via disturbance-recovery experiments	<u>Shea Husband, Travis Thomas, David Steen, Claire McIntyre, et al.</u> Evaluating Bycatch Reduction Devices for Diamondback Terrapin (<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>) Exclusion and Blue Crab (<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>) Capture	<u>Gillian Smith, Taylor Queen, Jason Spadaro, et al.</u> Does Thermal Physiology of Caribbean King Crabs Differ Across the Florida Keys?	<u>*John Moran, Alexia Powell, Sophia Raposa, et al.</u> Motivating factors of <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> habitat selection: the effects of danger and reward	<u>*Jessie Rivera Lafreniere, John Carroll</u> The influence of localized water quality on Eastern oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) amidst changing environmental conditions
2:30 - 2:45	<u>Kyle Capistrant-Fossa, Jennifer Gilmore, David Wilcox, et al.</u> Escaping the vertical squeeze: Water quality management buffers foundation species against warming waters	<u>*Brooke-Lyn Power, Heather Hunt, Jeffery Clements</u> Evaluating the feasibility of using visible siphon holes as a method for soft-shell clam (<i>Mya arenaria</i>) population assessments	<u>*Taylor Queen, Gillian Smith, Jason Spadaro, Philip Gravinese</u> The Effects of Elevated Temperature on Larval King Crab Physiology and Vertical Swimming Behavior	<u>Blake Freas, Alec Duffy, Wendell Swann, Niels-Viggo Hobbs</u> Injury and distribution differences in a long-term survey of <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> and native crab distribution at two distinct sites in Narragansett Bay, RI.	<u>Keith Walters, Thomas Funk, Kathryn O'Shaughnessy, et al.</u> Salinity effects on allometric scaling of nekton recruiting to newly created intertidal oyster reefs
2:45 - 3:00	<u>Holly Sweat, Jess Glanz, Emma Chesley</u> Flow Matters: Hydrologic Management Impacts on Estuarine Infauna and Ecosystem Recovery	<u>Autumn Moya, Eric Powell, Daniel Hennen, John Klinck</u> Does Size Matter: A Direct Evaluation of the Influence of Warming Temperatures on the Applicability of Size Limits for the Atlantic Surfclam, <i>Spisula solidissima</i> , Fishery in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic	<u>Janice Voltzow</u> Induced flow in gastropods: Soft rules for hard places	<u>*Kade Stewart, Matt Pierce, Katie Hollister, Jeb Byers</u> Prey-Choice and Range-Expansion of a Non-Native Fiddler Crab	<u>*Luke Blanchard, Paul Bologna</u> Benthic Recruitment to HESCO Units in Barnegat Bay, NJ

Monday March 2 Sessions 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Anthropogenic Impacts 1	Coral Reef Ecology 1	Seagrass Ecology 1	Special Session: Spatial Patterns	Recruitment and Larval Ecology 1
Moderator	Xiaoshu Lin	Kelly Speare	Kyle Capistrant-Fossa	Gina Badlowski, W. Ryan James, Alia Jones, Rolando Santos	Marie Strader
3:30 - 3:45	<p><u>Laura Eierman</u>, Jacob Landis</p> <p>Chronic and acute plastic debris exposure alters expression of biomineralization, immune, and stress-related genes in the eastern oyster (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>)</p>	<p><u>Jennifer Dijkstra</u>, <u>Ian Combs</u>, Glenna Dyson</p> <p>Shifting Coral Communities: Using Structure-from-Motion to Link Environmental Variation, Reef Architecture, and Coral Density with Fish Assemblages</p>	<p><u>Bradley Peterson</u>, Joseph Tamborski</p> <p>Eelgrass restoration in the face of changing climate - groundwater refugia for eelgrass</p>	<p><u>W. Ryan James</u>, <u>Gina Badlowski</u>, <u>Rolando Santos</u>, et al.</p> <p>Trophic connectivity across reefscapes: The importance of shallow seagrass beds for coral reef fish</p>	<p><u>Danielle Macias</u>, <u>Aurora Giorgi</u>, <u>Joana Figueiredo</u>, et al.</p> <p>Friends or Foes? Crustose Coralline Algae and Coral Larval Settlement in Southeast Florida</p>
3:45 - 4:00	<p><u>*FNU Deesha</u>, <u>Christian Conroy</u>, <u>Alireza Senejani</u>, <u>Eddie Luzik</u></p> <p>Microplastic exposure and antioxidant gene expression in wild estuarine killifish (<i>Fundulus</i> spp.).</p>	<p><u>Graham Forrester</u>, <u>James T Murphy</u>, <u>Joshua Rodriguez</u></p> <p>Flexible responses to the degradation of high- and low-quality coral habitat mediate the population decline of a small reef fish</p>	<p><u>*Anthony Murphy-Neilson</u>, <u>Sarah Stagner</u>, <u>Bradley Peterson</u></p> <p>Heat and Health: Defining the Relationship Between Heat Stress and Seagrass Wasting Disease in Long Island's Eelgrass</p>	<p><u>*Gina A. Badlowski</u>, <u>Rolando O. Santos</u>, <u>W. Ryan James</u></p> <p>Influence of water quality of trophic function of seagrass ecosystems</p>	<p><u>Rachel Ionata</u>, <u>Liam Abrams</u>, <u>Joana Figueiredo</u></p> <p>Optimizing coral larval stocking density to increase production for reef restoration</p>
4:00 - 4:15	<p><u>*Faith Whare</u>, <u>Jess Hedgpath</u>, <u>Lauren M. Stefaniak</u></p> <p>Filtering the Future: Evaluating the Bioindicator Potential of <i>Styela plicata</i> for Microplastic Pollution</p>	<p><u>Wyatt Rudd</u>, <u>Jake Stutzman</u>, <u>Coral Tolman</u>, et al.</p> <p>Comparable Reef Fish Functional Diversity Suggests Limited Ecological Differentiation across the Roatán Marine Park Boundary</p>	<p><u>Sarah Stagner</u>, <u>Alyson Lowell</u>, <u>Bradley Peterson</u></p> <p>Differential seedling outcomes in response to different maternal stress conditions- exploring assisted evolution in <i>Zostera marina</i></p>	<p><u>*Jonah Morreale</u>, <u>Michael Wauson</u>, <u>Bradley Peterson</u></p> <p>Examining inter-site variability in seagrass-associated blue carbon stocks through spatial modeling on a regional scale</p>	<p><u>*Kristen Reed</u>, <u>Valerie Chamberland</u>, <u>Nicholas Jones</u>, et al.</p> <p>Optimization of settlement and grow-out of two Caribbean bouldering corals</p>
4:15 - 4:30	<p><u>Franklynn Hedge</u>, <u>L. Holly Sweat</u>, <u>Emma Chesley</u></p> <p>Digging Through Disturbance: Annelid Burrowing Depth as an Indicator of Lagoon Health in a Florida Watershed</p>	<p><u>Eleanor TenBrink</u>, <u>Keisha Bahr</u></p> <p>From Past to Present: How Environmental Histories Inform Coral Reef Response to Alkalinity Enhancement</p>	<p><u>*S. Carter Oleckna</u>, <u>Robert Lamb</u>, <u>Ethan Tucker</u>, et al.</p> <p>Depth and UV Exposure Correlate with Phenylalanine-derived Defense Production in <i>Thalassia testudinum</i></p>	<p><u>*Alexis Longmire</u>, <u>Joel Fodrie</u></p> <p>Do large-scale living shorelines effectively maintain seaward-landward connectivity for predatory fishes in nearshore landscapes?</p>	<p><u>John Girard</u>, <u>Matias Gómez-Corrales</u>, <u>Peter Etnoyer</u>, et al.</p> <p>Mesophotic Coral Recruitment to Settlement Tiles on the Mississippi-Alabama Shelf</p>
4:30 - 4:45	<p><u>Madelyn Hair</u>, <u>Joshua Manning</u>, <u>Michael Gil</u></p> <p>Plastic pollution impacts reef fish visitation and foraging behavior</p>	<p><u>*Nicole Kobasa</u>, <u>Emma Pontes</u>, <u>Ana M. Palacio-Castro</u>, et al.</p> <p>Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Effects on Growth Rates of the Atlantic coral, <i>Orbicella faveolata</i></p>	<p><u>Veronica Lopez</u>, <u>Tristan Clute</u>, <u>Griffin Alexander</u></p> <p>Evaluating Seagrass Recovery Using Benthic and Water Quality Data in Biscayne Bay, Florida</p>	<p><u>Edwin Cruz-Rivera</u>, <u>Madison A. Colmenares</u></p> <p>Embayment morphometry and incidence of Sargassum golden tides</p>	<p><u>*Shirah Strock</u>, <u>Robert Miller</u>, <u>Max Castorani</u></p> <p>Canopy and understory control over recruitment and competition: a multiyear kelp forest experiment</p>
4:45 - 5:00	<p><u>Robert Lamb</u>, <u>Franz Smith</u>, <u>Favio Rivera</u>, <u>Jon Witman</u></p> <p>Reduction in dive tourism caused by the COVID-19 pandemic reveals diver effects on fish behavior</p>	<p><u>*Marina Garmendia Zepeda</u>, <u>Jezahe! Miranda Zacarias</u>, et al.</p> <p>Temporal Changes in Density and Population Structure of <i>Acropora palmata</i> in the Veracruz Reef System National Park</p>	<p><u>Janelle DelCastillo</u></p> <p>Assessing decadal changes in eelgrass communities from Barnegat Bay, NJ</p>	<p><u>Daniel Holstein</u>, <u>Benjamin Farmer</u>, <u>Gaby Carpenter</u>, et al.</p> <p>The Drift Is Catching: Currents, Communities, and Coral Epizootics</p>	

Tuesday March 3 Day At A Glance

Time	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
9:00-10:00	Morning Plenary: Emmett Duffy				
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break				
10:30-12:00	Anthropogenic Impacts 2	Coral Reef Ecology 2	Seagrass Ecology 2	Population Ecology 1	Recruitment and Larval Ecology2
12:00-1:30	Affinity Groups: Lunch Meet-up				
1:30-3:00	Trophic Relationships 1	Coral Reef Ecology 3	Climate Change 1	Population Ecology 2	Restorations Ecology 1
3:00-3:30pm	Afternoon Break				
3:30-5:00pm	Trophic Relationships 1	Coral Reef Ecology 4	Climate Change 2	Population Ecology 3	Restorations Ecology 2
6:00-8:00pm	Poster Sessions				

Tuesday March 3 Sessions 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Anthropogenic Impacts 2	Coral Reef Ecology 2	Seagrass Ecology 2	Population Ecology 1	Recruitment and Larval Ecology 2
Moderator	Alyson Hall	Alexandra Good	Bradley Peterson	Robert Lamb	Andrew Kough
10:30 - 10:45	Martin Posey, Troy Alphin, Allison Lapinsky, Zach Coyne Temporal Dynamics and Drivers in a River Dominated Estuary	Ernesto Weil, Nikolaos Schizas, Yanelle Silva, Catalina Morales, et al. Impact of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) on susceptible, foundational coral species in La Parguera Natural Reserve, south-west coast of Puerto Rico	*Michael Wauson, Jonah Morreale, Bradley Peterson Evaluating benthic community input on blue carbon stocks through Long Island's South Shore and Peconic Estuary	Christopher Wells Taking the long view: Four decades of surveys reveal shifting species-specific recruitment dynamics in Caribbean octocoral forests	*Kelly Witters, Paul Bologna Use of back-bay beaches as reproductive sites for the horseshoe crab, <i>Limulus polyphemus</i>
10:45 - 11:00	*Cassandra H. Cerasia, Coline Caillon, Olivia Nieves, et al. Effects of Multiple Coastal Stressors on Juvenile Eastern Oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>)	*Joyce Gomez Samot, Alex Veglia, Juan Cruz Motta, et al. Microbiome dynamics in healthy and SCTLD diseased colonies of foundational coral species in La Parguera, Puerto Rico	Charlotte Jennings, Pippa Moore, Heather Sugden Manipulative experiments amplify the negative effects of opportunistic macroalgal blooms on seagrass performance	Matz Indergard, Kaitlyn Sullivan, Mary Alice Coffroth, et al. Exploring patterns of codiversification in Caribbean octocoral symbioses	Eric Johnson, Kimberly Bonvechio, Kaylee Tallon, et al. Recruitment of American eels (<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>) to northeast Florida: Insights from a 26-year fishery-independent survey
11:00 - 11:15	Elizabeth Urban-Gedamke, Austin Fox, Jeff Eble, et al. Life Beneath the Blades: Infaunal Clues to Seagrass Recovery	Alexandra Good, Sonora Meiling, Benjamin Farmer, et al. Multispecies modeling of stony coral tissue loss disease using prevalence-based epidemiological approaches	Lillian Zhou, Allison Noble, Riley Garcia, Elizabeth Whitman The effect of simulated grazing on the community structure in seagrass ecosystems	*Myles Wagner, Mikayla Clark, et al. Upside-down but going up: Population structure and adaptation of range expanded <i>Cassiopea</i> populations	*Hannah Craft, Vianne Kossmann, Claire McIntyre, Theresa Bert The influence of environmental cues on larval stone crab behavior and dispersal
11:15 - 11:30	Meghan Jones, James Powell, Edwin Cruz-Rivera Gas emissions from accumulated algae involved in Caribbean "golden tides"	*Anushka Rajagopalan, Benjamin Farmer, et al. Connectivity network analysis of U.S. Virgin Islands reefs: Implications for disease spread and reef resilience	Allison E. Noble, Elizabeth Stoner, et al. Environmental context limits seagrass recovery after simulated grazing event	*Rylee Allen, Paul Bologna Mnemiopsis Population Dynamics in Barnegat Bay, NJ	*Dwan Jackson, Zachary Gold, Sean McAllister, et al. Detection and Relative Quantification of Dungeness Crab (<i>Metacarcinus Magister</i>) in environmental DNA (eDNA) samples using Quantitative PCR (qPCR)
11:30 - 11:45	*Derek Jackson, Brendan Runde, Kate Wilke, Andrew Lipsky Movement ecology of channeled whelk <i>Busycotypus canaliculatus</i> during the development of an offshore wind lease site	Benjamin Farmer, Gaby Carpenter, Miguel Canals, et al. Mapping coral metacommunities to aid understanding of a severe epizootic disease	*Ayden Thomas, Jennifer Hill, Cassandra Glaspie Blue Crabs in Freshwater? Comparing the Nursery Value of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat Under Changing Salinity Regimes in Louisiana	*Riley Stoppa, M. Conor McManus, et al. Investigating sea star demographics of the Northeast U.S. Shelf from optical survey data.	*Kate Gomez-Rangel Investigating fertilization rate of hybrid eastern oysters
11:45 - 12:00	*Alyson Hall, Christopher Patrick The Role of Hard Clam Leases on Seagrass Meadow Functioning in Virginia's Coastal Bays	Nicholas Jones, Sydney Dutton, et al. Identifying and experimentally validating environmental drivers of coral disease	Michael Cornish, Max Castorani Climate variability, not ecosystem state, drives long-term productivity in seagrass-dwelling clams	Paul Bologna Who needs Sex? Clonal pathways in Clinging Jellyfish	Rom Lipcius, Jian Shen, Leah Shaw Integration of Biophysical Models and Network Connectivity in Oyster Restoration

Tuesday March 3 Session 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

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Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Trophic Relationships 1	Coral Reef Ecology 3	Climate Change 1	Population Ecology 2	Restoration Ecology 1
Moderator	Edwin Cruz-Rivera	Carlos Prada	Howard Lasker	Jonathan Puritz	Maria Rosa
1:30 - 1:45	*Jennifer Angel, Ryan Rezek, Mathew Kimball, Dan Abel Stable Isotope Insights into the Trophic Ecology of Juvenile Sandbar Sharks in Winyah Bay, SC	Cody Clements, Mark Hay Coral biodiversity suppresses predation and sediment-associated disease	Howard R Lasker, Peter J Edmunds, Jeff Miller, et al. Effects of the 2023/2024 heatwave on octocorals on St John: it's complicated	Jeffrey Levinton, Pascal Title Fiddler Crab Biogeography, Analyzed Using Phylogenetic Methods	*Sean Powers Restoration of late Pleistocene oyster shell ridges as a tool to enhance coastal fisheries.
1:45 - 2:00	*Clara Oxford, Sidney Axtell, Nathan Furey Diets of Atlantic Cod in Coastal New Hampshire Waters	*Camilla Nivison, Christa May, Mari Ella Bourbonnais, et al. Coral mortality in a mass bleaching event influenced by proximity to diseased tissue and reef topography	*Gabrielle Newton, Gloria Massamba N'Siala Life-History trait variation and its role in coping with thermal uncertainty in marine invertebrates	*Stephanie Bilodeau Specialization in marine vs. freshwater amphipods: meta-analysis reveals differences between realms	*Amanda Pysher, Jessica Lunt, Randi Cannon, et al. Oyster Feeding Frenzy: An Analysis of Feeding Efficiencies
2:00 - 2:15	*Carlos Joaquim Alves Almeida, Robert Lamb, Donald Behringer The Effects of the Saltmarsh to Mangrove Ecotone on Blue Crab Behavior and Recruitment along the Florida Nature Coast	*Julie Fernandez, Sara Swaminathan, Julie Meyer, et al. Response of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> and <i>Orbicella annularis</i> coral microbiomes to ocean warming and deoxygenation	Gloria Massamba N'Siala, Gabrielle Newton Exploring the evolutionary potential of phenotypic plasticity under fluctuating thermal regimes: a case study with the marine annelid <i>Ophryotrocha labronica</i>	Eileen Hofmann, Mauricio Diaz, John Klinck, et al. Implications of Age-Based Mortality for Atlantic surfclam <i>Spisula solidissima</i> Population Dynamics	*Zachary Czoer, Natalie Boydston, Cameron Brinton, et al. Oyster Reef Restoration Impacts on Salt Marsh Resiliency in Coastal Georgia
2:15 - 2:30	*Christina Souza, HoWan Chan, Kory Evans, Jordan Casey Trophic and Functional partitioning among Caribbean Reef Mesopredators	*Lily Kratz, Calista Hundley, Lisa Carne, Justin Baumann Exploring microbiome communities of two Belize coral species 5 years after reciprocal transplant	Pamela M. Brannock, Annika M. Aronson, et al. Reexamination of <i>Mytilus</i> sp. distribution around Hokkaido, Japan 17-years later	Ross Choate, Paul Bologna Assessing Bay Scallop Reproduction and Population Structure	Iris Segura-García Genomic Insights into Manatee Grass (<i>Syringodium filiforme</i>): Supporting Seagrass Resilience with Evolutionary Informed Restoration
2:30 - 2:45	*Liam Batchelder, Matthew Kimball, Robert Dunn Estuarine nekton community and trophic dynamics are shaped by abiotic conditions across multiple spatial scales	Sophie Wong, Raymond Banister, Serena Hackerott, et al. Fluorescent proteins in corals interact with symbiont photophysiology and holobiont bleaching response	Tamara R. Kramer, Eric N. Powell, Roger L. Mann, John M. Klinck Modeling changes in Atlantic surfclam (<i>Spisula solidissima</i>) size frequencies	Ernesto Weil, Miguel Figuerola, Catalina Morales, Nilda Jimenes Local functional extinction of the pillar coral <i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> and other scleractinians in reefs of the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico.	Mariah Livernois, Briar Ownby-Connolly, Lexi Watson, et al. Exploring biodegradable materials for intertidal oyster restoration and management
2:45 - 3:00	*Alia Jones, Jennifer Rehage, Rolando Santos Corujo, et al. Regional variations in trophic niche and resource use provide context for decline in recreational fishery	*Isabella Orrantia, Chris Grant, Marina Villoch, et al. Feeling the heat! Symbiont photochemical phenotypic response to thermal stress and its effect on growth of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> .	*Natalie Sprague, Eileen Hofmann, John Klinck, et al. Reconstructing Bottom Water Temperature Distributions on the Mid-Atlantic Continental Shelf	Jarrett Byrnes, Amy Smith, Jennifer Dijkstra, et al. Variation in Long-Term Declines in Kelp Abundance Across the Northwest Atlantic	LaTina Steele, Sarah Crosby, Nicole Spiller, A. Randall Hughes Assessing Assisted Gene Flow for Salt Marsh Restoration Success in a Warming World

Tuesday March 3 Sessions 3:30 am - 5:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Trophic Relationships 2	Coral Reef Ecology 4	Climate Change 2	Population Ecology 3	Restoration Ecology 2
Moderator	Marc Hensel	Joana Figueiredo	Guilherme Longo	Megan Tomamichel	Ellery Lennon
3:30 - 3:45	<p><u>*Makayla Excell, Joshua Lord</u></p> <p>Ecosystem Drama: Differences in Fighting and Mobbing between Species of Grass Shrimp</p>	<p><u>Erik Sotka</u></p> <p>Hybridization dynamics within Caribbean <i>Acropora</i> and <i>Orbicella</i> species complexes</p>	<p><u>Guilherme Longo</u></p> <p>Climate change impacts on corals, herbivory, and competition in the Southwestern Atlantic</p>	<p><u>James Pringle, John Wares</u></p> <p>Beyond Isolation-By-Distance: A simple model of the spatial distribution of genetic diversity which includes realistic ocean circulation</p>	<p><u>*Camille Wilson, Christopher J. Patrick</u></p> <p>Early Epifaunal Community Colonization During Seed-based Eelgrass (<i>Zostera marina</i>) Restoration</p>
3:45 - 4:00	<p><u>*Lena Faber, Liam Gutierrez, Mike Gil</u></p> <p>Behavioral responses of reef herbivores to press versus pulse nutrient enrichment</p>	<p><u>Matias Gomez-Corrales, Valerie F. Chamberland, Kristen L. Marhaver, et al.</u></p> <p>Asynchronous spawning in a common brain coral reveals cryptic lineages without gametic reproductive isolation</p>	<p><u>Philip Gravinese, Hannah Craft, Emma Miranda, Rebecca Meberg, et al.</u></p> <p>Future ocean conditions put stone crab larvae in a spin</p>	<p><u>Jonathan Puritz, Amaelia Zyck</u></p> <p>Looking across life histories: coastal stressors shape the genomic diversity of marine populations</p>	<p><u>*Katharine Schlachter, Marc Hensel, Laura Reynolds</u></p> <p>The context dependency of facilitation: potential pitfalls of seagrass-bivalve co-restoration</p>
4:00 - 4:15	<p><u>*Matt J. Pierce, Katherine Hollister, Rachel Hicks, Aleya Loughran-Pierce</u></p> <p>Disentangling physical factors that control creekbank prey survival</p>	<p><u>Aidan Healy, Hope Wilson, Joana Figueiredo, David Gilliam</u></p> <p>From Establishment to Gamete Collection: Coral Spawning Hubs in Southeast Florida</p>	<p><u>Andrew Philburn, Kate Lloyd, Jan Pechenik, Sarah Davies, Colleen Bove</u></p> <p>Transcriptomic resilience of a marine gastropod under winter warming</p>	<p><u>Jolie R Ganzell, Abigail Steinwachs, Dave Carlon</u></p> <p>A genomic quest for color QTL in the <i>Asterias forbesi-rubens</i> sea star complex</p>	<p><u>*Daniel Lopez, Jarrett Byrnes, Katherine Dafforn, Joe Christo</u></p> <p>First year assessment of Living Seawalls show promising increase in biodiversity in the Boston Harbor</p>
4:15 - 4:30	<p><u>*Andres Pinos-Sanchez, Jess Hopf, Leif Rasmuson, et al.</u></p> <p>Kelp, Urchins, Otters, and Crabs: Modeling Ecosystem Responses to Management in Oregon Nearshore Reefs</p>	<p><u>Carlos Prada, Paul M. Yoshioka</u></p> <p>Differential survivorship of gorgonian recruits shape species composition of adult communities</p>	<p><u>Daniel Sadler, Joaquin Nunez, Stephen Keller, Melissa Pespeni</u></p> <p>Seascape genomics of the purple sea urchin – a crucial player in the Pacific coast ecosystem.</p>	<p><u>*Alyssa Baker, J. Antonio Baeza</u></p> <p>Repetitive Element Dynamics in the Genomes of Spiny Lobsters (Achelata; Palinuridae; <i>Panulirus</i> spp.)</p>	<p><u>*Brittney Mitchell, Beatriz Orihuela, Gary Dickinson, et al.</u></p> <p>Hidden in 3D: X-Ray Reconstructions Reveal Cryptic Costs of a Biodegradable 3D-Printed Polymer on Barnacle Shell Structure</p>
4:30 - 4:45	<p><u>Kelly E. Speare, Thomas C. Adam, Rebecca Vega Thurber, et al.</u></p> <p>Reducing consumer pressure increases community dissimilarity leading to coral- or algal-dominance on a coral reef</p>	<p><u>Tyese Dennis, John Alfirevich, Nicholas Jones, David Gilliam</u></p> <p>Species-specific patterns of massive coral microfragmentation success: a three-year study on Florida's Coral Reef.</p>	<p><u>Jessica Lunt, Randi Cannon, Lee Smee</u></p> <p>The pH-isiology of Oyster Feeding</p>	<p><u>*C. Anderson Smith, Kelly Petersen, John Wares</u></p> <p>High-throughput sequencing reveals hierarchical population structure across the range of a keystone salt marsh mussel (<i>Geukensia demissa</i>)</p>	<p><u>*Tiffany Brubach, Morgan Hightshoe, David Gilliam</u></p> <p>Maximizing survivorship by reducing predation pressures on sexually propagated juvenile stony corals</p>
4:45 - 5:00		<p><u>*Ava Besecker, Margarita Brandt, Nicolas Davalos, et al.</u></p> <p>Coral growth and symbiont dynamics inform climate-resilient restoration strategies</p>	<p><u>Sara M. Melo-Merino, A. Justin Nowakowski, Sean R. Connolly, et al.</u></p> <p>Ocean warming reshapes coral habitat suitability and reef functioning across the Caribbean</p>	<p><u>J. Antonio Baeza, Angélica Colin, Maryam Dehghanian, et al.</u></p> <p>Complete Mitochondrial Genomes Recovered from Environmental Metagenomics Samples Can Facilitate Non-Intrusive Population Genetic/Genomics Studies in the South American Sea Lion <i>Otaria byronia</i></p>	<p><u>Chelsea McLaughlin, Sharla Sugierski, Kristene Parsons, et al.</u></p> <p>Investigating the Effect of Nursery Location on Coral Outplant Survival</p>

Seaside Prefunction, Big Band Prefunction, Goodman Room

* indicates posters to be considered for student competition

Anthropogenic Impacts

Corin Hoppe | Goodman Room #84

A Two-way Street: Barnacle Shell Growth Affects, and is Affected by, Substrate Properties

Coauthors: Brittney Mitchell, Gary Dickinson, Beatriz Orihuela, Daniel Rittschof

*Reyes Umanzor Jr | Goodman Room #87

*An Analysis of Bacterial Localization within the Gut Microbiome of *Mytilus edulis* using Scanning Electron Microscopy following Antibiotic Exposure*

Coauthors: Abhishek Naik, Bridget A. Holohan, J. Evan Ward

*Zoe Kendall | Goodman Room #86

Developing hands-on lessons to increase the public's knowledge of and impact their perceptions towards local seafloor ecology

Coauthors: Chris Conroy, Ivar Babb

*Olivia Nieves | Goodman Room #81

*Diel-cycling acidification and hypoxia influences susceptibility of *Crassostrea virginica* to *Roseovarius* Oyster Disease*

Coauthors: Coline Caillon, Cassandra Cerasia, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Jonathan Puritz

*Brenna O'Brien | Goodman Room #78

*Effect of Microplastic Exposure on Physiological Stress Responses of *Astrangia poculata**

Coauthors: Maria Rosa

*Gabriel O. Austin | Goodman Room #82

*Effects of *Aureococcus anophagefferens* on development of the ascidian *Styela plicata**

Coauthors: Lauren M. Stefaniak

*Anna Kale | Goodman Room #83

*Effects of Insecticides on Metabolic Properties of the *Cassiopea xamachana* Microbiome*

Coauthors: Patrina Puchasutthi, Kaitlyn Braun, Kaitlyn Lee, Angalyn Strouse, Allison Kerwin

*Andria Conliffe | Goodman Room #77

*Effects of salinity on red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) propagule growth and survival*

Coauthors: Charissa Taylor, Silvia Macia

*Yazmin Gonzalez Elizarraraz | Goodman Room #88

Oil Spill Pollution Impact on Nematode Communities Inhabiting the Deep-Sea Sediments in the Gulf of America.

Coauthors: Elisa Baldrighi, Jeffrey Baguley

*Kaitlyn Braun | Goodman Room #79

*The Effects of Insecticides on Strobilation Timing and Success in *Cassiopea xamachana**

Coauthors: Anna Kale, Kaitlyn Lee, Patrina Puchasutthi, Allison Kerwin

*Rebekah Huneke | Goodman Room #85

The Isolation and Identification of Bacteria for use in Bioremediation of a Neonicotinoid Pesticide

Coauthors: Lisa Brown, Stephen Greiman, Risa Cohen

*Ashley Adams | Goodman Room #80

*The Mitochondrial genome of *Cyanoliseus Patagonus* (Burrowing Parrot)*

Coauthors: Alyssa Baker, J. Antonio Baeza

Aquaculture

Stephen Hesterberg | Big Band Prefunction #60
Ecological function of Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGs) Compared to Natural Substrates in the heavily Urbanized Tampa Bay Estuary, U.S.A.

Coauthors: Olivia Blondheim, Margaret Brisbin

*Dicarlo Davis | Big Band Prefunction #57
Effects of diet on growth rate in lab-raised Cerith sand snails

Coauthors: Michael Robinson

*Maggie M. Dillon | Big Band Prefunction #58
Impacts of farming practices on energetic physiology and survival of eastern oysters (Crassostrea virginica) over winter

Coauthors: Linas Kenter, Kaila Frazer, Selina Cheng, Brittany M. Jellison

*Autumn Sellars | Big Band Prefunction #54
Impacts of Sea Lettuce and pH on Eastern Oysters in a Polyculture Setting in Coastal Georgia

Coauthors: John Carroll

*Meghan Smith | Big Band Prefunction #53
Limiting mosquito breeding in greenhouse grown Spartina alterniflora

Coauthors: Michele Cutwa, Michele Guidone

*Amanda Power | Big Band Prefunction #56
Population Genetics of Mytilus edulis in Maine: is Local Adaptation Occurring?

Coauthors: Amanda Jenkins, Sophie Leight, Reuven Frye, Justin Baumann

*Nathaniel Felicetti | Big Band Prefunction #52
Seasonal Effects of Aerial Exposure Regimes on Bioerosion of Oyster Shells by Cliona celata and Cliona lobata.

Coauthors: Ami Wilbur, Amber Stubler

Sarah Hutchins | Big Band Prefunction #59
Selective Breeding of Heat-Resilient Northern Hard Clams (Mercenaria mercenaria) for the Florida Aquaculture Industry

Coauthors: Gabrielle Nelson, Mallory Sea, Stephen Hesterberg

*Ruth Havener | Big Band Prefunction #55
Using sea urchins to mitigate biofouling in oyster aquaculture

Coauthors: Juliet Wong

Benthic Monitoring

*Rafael Del Valle | Big Band Prefunction #63
Automated Detection of Octocoral Polyps Using Computer Vision for Enhanced Laboratory Monitoring

Julia Frees | Big Band Prefunction #61
Camera traps detect fiddler crab (Uca spp.) subtidal activity in a Connecticut salt marsh

Coauthors: Devaughn Fraser, David Hudson

Hayley Boyle | Big Band Prefunction #62
Deploying Small Field Cameras to Monitor Fish Populations in Mangrove Habitats

Coauthors: Jessie Wiles, Michael Robinson

*Mathis Bernard | Big Band Prefunction #64
Under Ice: From Protection to Abrasion - Effects on Macroalgae and Mussel Beds

Coauthors: Christian Nozais, Pascal Bernatchez, Mathieu Cusson

Biodiversity

*Evelyn Cruz-Duran | Goodman Room #110

*Analysis of the mitochondrial genome of *Psilopsiagon aurifrons**

Coauthors: Alyssa Baker, Sadia Kamal, J. Antonio Baeza

*Austin Hancock | Goodman Room #111

*Analyzing DNA Preservation Techniques Using Fiddler Crabs, *Uca* sp.*

Coauthors: Lauren M Stefaniak

*Cierra Shimp | Goodman Room #112

Breadth and specificity of Ascidian cytochrome oxidase I PCR primers

Coauthors: Lauren M. Stefaniak

*Kayla White | Goodman Room #113

Development of an Autonomous Environmental DNA (eDNA) Sampling System for In Situ Filtration and Preservation

Coauthors: Kamal Ali, Brent Thoma, Ali Abu-El Humos

Biological Invasions

*Alec Duffy | Big Band Prefunction #75

*Differences in *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* population dynamics between Rhode Island's sheltered and exposed rocky intertidal ecosystems.*

Coauthors: Blake Freas, Wendell Swann, Niels-Viggo S. Hobbs

*Miranda Dominguez Capiro | Big Band Prefunction #73

*Recent range expansion of the invasive green mussel, *Perna viridis*, has involved additional introductions to the Western Hemisphere*

Coauthors: Ryan Connell, Rooshka Mathurin, Savio H. Calazans, Isabelle Peterlevitz, La Daana Kanhai, Zaheer Hosein, Matthew Gilg

Caroline Holtz | Big Band Prefunction #74

**Sphaeroma terebrans* presence in and impact on Southwest Florida's mangrove ecosystem*

*

Seagrass Ecology

Michael Wheeler | Seaside Prefunction #5

*Assessing viability of *Halodule wrightii* seeds in FL, USA*

Coauthors: Bradley Furman, Jessie Jarvis

*Sasha Jansujwicz | Seaside Prefunction #7

*Examining the Link Between Viability Tests and Germination Rates of *Zostera marina* for Use in Seed Based Restoration Methods*

Coauthors: Maria Rosa

*Jezebel Powers | Seaside Prefunction #10

Exploring the effects of Sargassum inundations on sediment organic carbon in tropical seagrass meadows

Coauthors: Justin Campbell, Kathleen Ortiz

*Gianna Newton | Seaside Prefunction #6

Impact of Living Shorelines on Seagrass Restoration Success

Coauthors: Y Stacy Zhang, Charles Brooks

*Sierra Parker | Seaside Prefunction #8

Investigating Probiotics as a Tool for Improved Eelgrass Establishment

Coauthors: Christopher Patrick

*Nora Keely | Seaside Prefunction #9

*Juvenile recruitment of *Spot* to a restored seagrass meadow in South Bay, VA*

Coauthors: Jennifer Gilmore, Chris Patrick

Alfredo Quezada | Seaside Prefunction #11

Modeling Water Column Oxygen Dynamics to Examine Seagrass Resilience in Florida Bay

Coauthors: Christopher Madden, Marguerite Koch, Danielle Talley, Zachary Fratto

Community Ecology

Challis Weiss | Seaside Prefunction #32

Algal Symbiont Community Shifts in Galápagos Corals Before and After the 2023-24 El Niño

Coauthors: Jasmine Rosario, Ava Besecker, Margarita Brandt, Nicolas Davalos, Cheryl Logan

*Reneisha Sweet | Seaside Prefunction #28

Assessing Correlations Between Community Complexity and Juvenile Caribbean Spiny Lobster Abundance Using eDNA Metabarcoding

Coauthors: Brent Thoma

Laura Bedinger | Seaside Prefunction #29

Benthic community ecology at active and inactive hydrothermal vents within Escanaba Trough

Coauthors: Amanda Demopoulos, Jill Bourque, Hope Ianiri, Amy Gartman

Joshua Lord | Seaside Prefunction #26

Building Scientists Through Experience: Comparing Student Outcomes from Travel Courses, Field Research, and Conference Presentations

Coauthors: Natasha Woods

Lily Shriner | Seaside Prefunction #27

Coexistence over the growing season affects seagrass traits but does not enhance biomass in a mixed species meadow

Coauthors: Alexandra Bijak, Cara Omohundro, Christopher Patrick

Kathryn Puharic | Seaside Prefunction #22

Does Group Boldness Predict Mobbing Frequency in Grass Shrimp?

Coauthors: Joshua Lord

Lydia Jones | Seaside Prefunction #21

Epibenthic Communities in the Eastern Kitikmeot Region of the Canadian Arctic

Coauthors: Bodil Bluhm, Barbara Porter, Sarah Sedlock, Bill Williams, Kristina Brown

*JT Murphy | Seaside Prefunction #31

Experimental Evidence for Density Dependent Habitat Selection in a Coral Reef Fish

Coauthors: Graham Forrester, Josh Rodriguez

Mia Espinal | Seaside Prefunction #24

*Increase in storm frequency impact on *Morella cerifera* growth and survival*

Coauthors: Julie Zinnert, Natasha Woods

Reuven Frye | Seaside Prefunction #34

Intertidal Ecosystem Variation Along a Latitudinal Gradient Across the Gulf of Maine

Coauthors: Sophie Leight, Amanda Power, Amanda Jenkins, Justin Baumann

*Emma Nani | Seaside Prefunction #33

Linking Reef Rugosity to Cryptobenthic Fish Body Size Using High Resolution Photogrammetry

Coauthors: Jared Oviatt

*Elianna Fox | Seaside Prefunction #30

Physical and biotic constraints on mud fiddler crab distribution and ecosystem engineering function

Coauthors: Noel Wiggins, Shelby Ziegler

Emily Nyce | Seaside Prefunction #23

*Post-storm rainfall timing alters canopy development in *morella cerifera* seedlings*

Coauthors: Julie Zinnert, Natasha Woods

*Laurie-Anna Bienaime | Seaside Prefunction #25

Simulated storm stress drives differential root responses in shrubs and grasses

Coauthors: Brianna Whalen, Bria Bartholomew, Julie C. Zinnert, Natasha N. Woods

*

Coral Reef Ecology

*Nicolette Carluccio | Goodman Room #93

*Application of environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques to assess *Diadema antillarum*? abundance on Belizean coral reefs*

Coauthors: Catherine Crowley, Makiah Poli, Lauren Hagner, Laura Eierman

*Kevin Kane | Seaside Prefunction #19

*Assessing Feeding Rates of the Anemone *Exaiptasia Pallida* and applications in Cadmium Trophic Transfer Studies*

Coauthors: William Wallace

Calista Hundley | Goodman Room #100

Assessing long-term acclimatization potential of two Belize coral species under reciprocal transplant.

Coauthors: Lisa Carne, Colleen Bove, Justin Baumann

Sofia El-Rass | Seaside Prefunction #20

Assessing the Flight Initiation Distance of Reef Fish in Philippine Marine Protected Areas

Scott Jones | Goodman Room #97

Carrie Bow Cay Field Station: Celebrating 54 years of excellence in collaborative field research

*Zach Zagon | Goodman Room #94

Characterizing bacterial aggregates across U.S. coral reefs: unraveling implications for restoration and conservation efforts

Coauthors: Maria Rodgers

*Alondra B. Casas | Goodman Room #99

*Characterizing Genotypic Diversity of Translocated *Pocillopora* spp. corals in the Galápagos National Park*

Coauthors: Ava Besecker, Jenifer Suarez-Moncada, Cheryl Logan

*Nicholas Jefferson | Goodman Room #96

Comparison of colorimetric pixel intensity versus photosynthetic efficiency metrics to evaluate coral responses to acute heat stress

Coauthors: Ponchanok Weeriyannun, Jason Toy, Katherine Parker, Nichole Leach, Daniel Barshis

Xavier Woodruff-Madeira | Seaside Prefunction #12

*Comparison of *Palythoa tuberculosa*-dominated and hardcoral-dominated benthic communities in Okinawa, Japan*

Coauthors: Mackenzie Stoeltje, David Die, James Reimer

*Adiana Bayó | Seaside Prefunction #13

Functional diversity of herbivorous fish assemblages across (coral and urchin) restoration sites in Puerto Rico

Coauthors: Juan Jose Cruz Motta, Maria Jose Brito

*Megan Scully | Seaside Prefunction #14

Hard coral colonization and growth on an artificial reef at 9 m depth in Southwest Florida.

Coauthors: Melissa May, James Douglass

Sarah Loprinzo | Goodman Room #98

*Identifying Acute Thermal Resistance in *Acropora uogi* Corals: Color-Based Metrics Support Genet Selection for Restoration*

Coauthors: Dr. Serena Hackerott, Dr. Mark Warner

*Olivia Mollo | Seaside Prefunction #17

Juvenile coral bottlenecks in turf-dominated restoration reefs in the Florida Keys

Coauthors: Cate Cochran, Hannah Fetzer, Tory Chase

*Tomas Ruiz | Seaside Prefunction #16

Now you see them: Sediment-cleared plots reveal underestimated cryptic bio-eroding sponge abundance across Florida's Coral Reef

Coauthors: Sophie Zuckman, Tory Chase

*Sophie Zuckman | Seaside Prefunction #18

Reef Structural Complexity and Benthic Community Structure in the Florida Keys and Puerto Rico: Methods, Comparisons, and Implications for Restoration

Coauthors: Tory Chase

Alex Pitre | Seaside Prefunction #15

Status and Resilience of Coral Reef Ecosystems in the Koh Rong Marine National Park

Coauthors: Claire Ogg, Vibol Ouk

Coral Reef Ecology cont.

*Jasmine Rosario | Goodman Room #95
Symbiont Community Dynamics in Coral Outplants: Comparing Attachment Methods for restoration in a Galápagos Coral Nursery
Coauthors: Challis Weiss, Ava Besecker, Margarita Brandt, Nicolás Dávalos, Cheryl Logan

*Julianne McHenry | Goodman Room #101
The Observed Distribution of Deep-Sea Scleractinians on the Northwestern Hawaiian - Emperor Seamount Chain
Coauthors: Virginia Biede, Madeline Schmidt, Erin Roark, Kathryn Shamberger, Siobhan Kassem, Tacey Hicks, Amy Baco-Taylor

Fisheries

Lexy Burns | Big Band Prefunction #50
*A detailed analysis of the mitochondrial genome in two imperiled species of groupers from the USA: *Mycteroperca bonaci* and *Mycteroperca microlepis**
Coauthors: Sadia Kamal, J. Antonio Baeza

*Angel Lian | Big Band Prefunction #49
*Genomic resources for imperiled sharks: The mitochondrial genome of the Gulper Shark *Centrophorus granulosus* (Squaliformes: Squalidae)*
Coauthors: Ellie Smith, JA Baeza

*Kyla Padgett | Big Band Prefunction #51
*The mitochondrial genome of the imperiled goliath grouper *Epinephelus itajara*: selective pressures in protein coding genes, secondary structure of tRNA genes, and phylogenetic placement.*
Coauthors: Juan Antonio Baeza

Ecophysiology

*Hailee Nigro | Big Band Prefunction #67
Claws & Effect: Temperature-dependent Growth in Blue crabs
Coauthors: Zachary Darnell

Sophie Walton | Big Band Prefunction #70
*Energetic consequences of inducible defenses to invasive green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) predation in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)*
Coauthors: Brittany Jellison, Amy Johnson, David Carlson

Yesiana Herrera | Big Band Prefunction #69
I offered a limb, they took two: Limb loss induced locomotor strategies in the arboreal Mangrove Tree Crab
Coauthors: Jynell George, Janne Pfeiffenberger

*Brianna Nicholson | Big Band Prefunction #65
*Long-term trends in ribbed mussel (*Geukensia demissa*) demographics in Georgia salt marshes*
Coauthors: Steven Pennings, John Carroll

*Ernest Charles | Big Band Prefunction #72
Muddled and Muddy! The effects of mechanical bioturbation on gas exchange levels in Delaware salt marsh sediment
Coauthors: Aaron Carlisle, Nicholas Ray

*Lily Zopelis | Big Band Prefunction #68
*The Effects of Depth and Light Availability on the Morphology and Gene Expression of *Saccharina latissima**
Coauthors: Sean Grace

*Jillian Barrows | Big Band Prefunction #71
The Effects of the SSRI Fluoxetine on Mobbing Behavior

*Alina Tran | Big Band Prefunction #66
*Upper thermal regimes and quiescence in the temperate coral *Astrangia poculata**
Coauthors: Sean Grace

Macroecology & Biogeography

*Mallory Dillon | Goodman Room #116

A Taxonomic and Biogeographic Assessment of the Virginia Wesleyan University Marine Mollusk

Teaching Collection

Coauthors: Zachary Topor

*Garrett Maggio | Goodman Room #114

Investigating the Population Genetic Structure of Mudsnail-Specific Trematodes as Bioindicators of Definitive Host Biogeography

Coauthors: April Blakeslee

*Faith Chepchirchir | Big Band Prefunction #76

Patterns in Emergent and Epifauna Distribution in the Central Basin

Coauthors: Chris Conroy, Catherine Matassa, Roman Zajac, Ivar Babb, Peter Auster, Kate Randolph

Pedro Solis | Goodman Room #115

Preliminary Survey of Taxonomic and Biogeographic Uncertainty in Mississippi Pennides Crayfish

Coauthors: Brent Thoma, Calvin Rezac

Oyster Reef Ecology

Emily Anderson | Seaside Prefunction #1

Restoring subtidal oysters: what young and old restored reefs tell us about possible reef futures.

Coauthors: Ryan Chabotte, Emilia McGeady, Matthew Ogburn

*Elaina Legere | Seaside Prefunction #2

Sublethal effects of multiple stressors on the physiology and function of diploid and triploid Eastern oysters

Coauthors: Shelby Ziegler

*John McCormack | Seaside Prefunction #3

Surveying Crassostrea virginica recruitment among natural and bioreceptive substrates as part of a Reef Ball™ based living shoreline.

Coauthors: Dr. Maria Rosa

*Lexi Watson | Seaside Prefunction #4

Wood stakes as substrate for intertidal oyster enhancement and reef restoration: A case study from the Southeastern U.S.

Coauthors: Mariah Livernois, Joshua Robinson, Gorka Sancho

Trophic Relationships

Matthew Braun | Seaside Prefunction #35

Consistency of Behavior Syndromes in Grass Shrimp

Coauthors: Makayla Excell, Prince Sopko, Glorianny Mosquea Luciano, Joshua Lord

*McKinley E. Hales | Seaside Prefunction #38

Differential habitat preferences in predator and prey species of the coastal salt marsh

Coauthors: Katie Hollister, Matt J. Pierce, James E. Byers

Blaine Griffen | Seaside Prefunction #37

Predators don't eat averages: why prey aggregation and spacing matter

Coauthors: Bailey Marlow

Eliot Hall | Seaside Prefunction #39

Quantifying Mercenaria mercenaria Siphon Nipping in Southeastern Estuaries

Coauthors: Jeb Byers

*Melanie Gomez | Seaside Prefunction #36

Top-down vs bottom-up control on competitive dynamics amongst benthic communities

Coauthors: Franz Smith, Jon Witman, Robert Lamb

Climate Change

Holly Kelley | Goodman Room #89

Are flat tree oysters (Isognomon alatus) increasing north of their usual range?

Coauthors: James Douglass, Nikolas Hauser, Megan Scully, Melissa May

Annabelle Dyer | Goodman Room #90

Environmental drivers of eastern oyster (Crassostrea virginica) performance in North Carolina oyster farms

Coauthors: Ryan Meshanko, Renee Dunford, Amelia McDonald, Diandr e Richie, Scarlett Schwimmer, Reid Wygal, Jane Curry, Andrew Barfield, Elizabeth Albright, Nicolas Cassar, Ty Roach, Joshua Osterberg, Ami Wilbur, Zackary Johnson, Grant Murray, Thomas Schultz, Juliet Wong

Carly Hannah | Goodman Room #91

Investigating the effects of ocean warming on early life stages of the Caribbean spiny lobster, Panulirus argus, in the Florida Keys

Coauthors: Casey Butler

Recruitment and Larval Ecology

*Cassio DalMas | Big Band Prefunction #46

Decadal Declines in American Eel (Anguilla rostrata) Recruitment Highlight Conservation Concerns in a Northeast Florida Estuary

Coauthors: Elijah Divine, Naomi Fieg, Kaylee Tallon, Eric Johnson

John Carroll | Seaside Prefunction #43

Don't be so crabby: Crab borrows shape recruitment patterns in Georgia marshes

Coauthors: Aurora Gaona Herndandez, William Annis

*Angelo Cantu Cantu | Big Band Prefunction #48

Evaluating the phenological changes in recruitment for American glass eels (Anguilla rostrata) in Northeast Florida.

Coauthors: Milo Caton, Emily Gaunt, Dakota Vallee, Eric Johnson

Andrew Camper | Seaside Prefunction #41

Grass Shrimp Predation on North American Blue Crab (Callinectes sapidus) Megalopae in North Carolina Estuaries

Coauthors: Martin Posey, George Easterly

Ellery Lennon | Seaside Prefunction #40

Larval settlement preferences of two sponge species and the restoration implications in Florida Bay

Coauthors: Lindsay Spiers, Justin Voss, Holly White, William Sharp

Greer Babbe | Goodman Room #92

Linking Infaunal Reproductive Strategies to Estuarine Disturbance Across a 20-Year Dataset

Coauthors: L. Holly Sweat

*Maxwell Geller | Seaside Prefunction #42

Linking Spawning Aggregations and Nursery Habitats in a Range-Expanding Population of Common Snook (Centropomus undecimalis).

Coauthors: Micheal Allen, Alexis Trotter, Philip W. Stevens, Robert W. Lamb

*Adam Mann | Big Band Prefunction #47

Moonlit Waters: Environmental drivers of American eel (Anguilla rostrata) recruitment in northeast Florida

Coauthors: Alexis Bravo, Miriam Castro, Tristan Witter-Lowry, Kaylee Tallon, Eric Johnson

*Abigail Lemmon | Big Band Prefunction #45

The cumulative effects of temperature and anthropogenic noise on the settlement of larval blue mussels (Mytilus edulis)

Coauthors: Michelle Fournet, Jannine Chamorro, Tom Munger, Michael Coogan, Brittany Jellison

Restoration Ecology

Mallory Sea | Goodman Room #109

"All Clams On Deck": Co-Restoration of Seagrass and Hard Clams in Five Estuaries across Southwest Florida, USA

Coauthors: Sarah Davis, Sarah Cole, Sarah Hutchins, James Douglass, Melissa May, Bradley Furman, Felix Jose, Eric Milbrandt, Ashley Smyth, Stephen Hesterberg

Milena Marrugo | Goodman Room #103

Assessing fish use of restored coral benthic habitats using automated time-lapse cameras

Coauthors: David Hudson, Diana Tarazona, Luis González, Maria Camila Sánchez, Esteban Jaramillo, Brendan T. De Grim

Jaclyne Fatone | Goodman Room #105

Benthic Invertebrate Communities across Restored Breton Island

Coauthors: Jill Bourque

Zachary Topor | Goodman Room #104

Creating a collaborative oyster monitoring program in the Virginia Tidewater; Needs-based and Student-led

Coauthors: Erin Beaudry, Haley Cummins, Kendall Abercrombie

*Alaina Shepardson | Goodman Room #107

Influence of Habitat Type and Location on Shell Strength of Bay Scallops in Long Island, New York Estuaries

Coauthors: John Carroll

*Emily Harkin | Seaside Prefunction #44

Nekton recruitment into created saltmarsh habitats along the northern South Carolina coastline

Coauthors: Mara Manning, Abigail Lininger, Serena Hutchens, Keith Walters

*Jamie Sussman | Goodman Room #106

Predation Patterns in a Developing Living Shoreline: Evidence from Crab-Snail Interactions

Morgan Hightshoe | Goodman Room #102

Recent Acropora cervicornis coral bleaching trends in a southeast Florida offshore nursery

Coauthors: Luisa Torres Arango, David Gilliam

Xiaoshu Lin | Goodman Room #108

Understanding eelgrass seed-based restoration success through comparing germination experiments in the lab and in the field

Coauthors: Maria Rosa, Bill Lucey, Dave Hudson

Wednesday March 4 Day At A Glance

Time	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
9:00 - 10:00	Morning Plenary: Kristy Kroeker				
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break				
10:30 - 12:00	Benthic Monitoring 1	Coral Reef Ecology 5	Climate Change 3	Community Ecology 1	Special Session: Stability Across Scales
1:30 - 3:00 *1:30 - 3:15	Benthic Monitoring 2	Chemical Ecology*	Engagement and Communication	Community Ecology 2	Special Session: Photogramm- etry*
3:30 - 4:30 pm	BEM Business Meeting				
7:00 - 10:00pm	End-of-Conference Banquet				

Wednesday March 4 Sessions 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Benthic Monitoring 1	Coral Reef Ecology 5	Climate Change 3	Community Ecology 1	Special Session: Stability Across Scales
Moderator	Martin Posey	Nicholas Jones	Marguerite Koch	Christopher Groff	Max Castorani
10:30 - 10:45	Jessica Zehnpfennig, Berit Kramer, L. Holly Sweat, et al. Evaluating Sediment eDNA Sampling and Extraction Methods for Estuarine Systems	*Aleksandra Crossman, Victor Bonito, Serena Hackerott, et al. Microhabitats within Fijian back-reef lagoons influence photochemical response and growth of <i>Acropora humilis</i> transplants	Rochelle Seitz, Filipe Martinho, Coimbra Brown, et al. Impacts of global change on the structure and function of coastal nursery habitats	Joshua Manning, Madelyn Hair, Ella Henry, Michael Gil From individual decisions to ecosystem function: investigating interactions between reef fishes and their environment	W. Ryan James, Marianna Coppola, Gina Badlowski, et al. Spatiotemporal patterns of seagrass seascape state and stability across multiple scales in Biscayne Bay
10:45 - 11:00	*S. Chenoah DuBree, Amy Baco, Danny Tang, Jeroen Ingels Baseline Study of Meiofauna as Biological Indicators of Effluent Discharge from Orange County Sanitation District, CA, USA	Donald Behringer, Aaron Pilnick, Joshua Patterson, et al. Demographic and environmental factors associated with the 2022 outbreak of DaSc and subsequent recovery in the long-spined sea urchin <i>Diadema antillarum</i>	*Miranda Mays, Shea Husband, Marc Hensel Quantifying Climate Change Driven Shifts in Vegetative Cover on Nearshore Islands Along Florida's Gulf Coast	*Ella G. Henry, Mike A. Gil Exploring social information as a driver of individual and group-level behavior in Garden Eel colonies	Jennifer Gilmore, Christopher Patrick Decadal Temporal Dynamics of Epifaunal Communities in a Restored Eelgrass Meadow
11:00 - 11:15	Erika Iyengar, Karen Tuerk Assessing the health of an urban stream: Collaboration between a college and city government	*Mylou Matur, Kelsie Kuniyoshi, Justin Chan, et al. Examining the spatial variability and macroalgal affinities of dinoflagellates affiliated with ciguatera poisoning on O'ahu, Hawai'i	Torrance Hanley, Marisa Fajardo, LaTina Steele, et al. Comparing the effects of elevated temperatures on flowering of a foundation species in natural versus restored marshes	Jeffrey Shields, Megan Tomamichel, Caitlin Murphy, Juliana Rosso Parasites of <i>Minuca minax</i> from Mobjack Bay, VA, and their potential for inducing host behavioral changes	*Alexandria Walus, Marc Hensel Decades of climate change drives shifts in forage fish community structure on Florida's Gulf Coast
11:15 - 11:30	*Jada Brown, Holly Sweat, Michael McCoy Using long-term monitoring of community dynamics to identify taxonomic sensitivity to disturbances for improved ecosystem management	*Andrew Hirahara, Peter Edmunds BENTHIC CYANOBACTERIA MATS, EXPLORING A POTENTIAL LOCAL STRESSOR ON CORAL REEFS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH PACIFIC	Katherine Henning, Debra Murie, Robert Lamb Tropicalization and thermal refugia: influence of estuarine aquifer seeps and springs on fish community structure along Florida's Nature Coast	*Meghan Nadzam, Joseph P Morton, Rachel K Gittman, et al. Seagrass saviors? The possibility of parasitic trematodes indirectly affecting seagrass ecosystem structure and functioning through snail host manipulation	*Caitlin Zimmer, Oliver Shipley, Yong Chen, Seth Newsome Historical prevalence of cross-habitat coupling by anadromous marine fish
11:30 - 11:45	Rodolfo Arambulo, James Douglass, Brianna Valdes Quantifying the ecological succession of epibiota on differently facing surfaces of an artificial reef on the southwest Florida shelf	Tory Chase, Fiona Kelley, Micaiah Ocalvey, et al. Dampened, depauperate, yet déjà vu: Extending global patterns of algal turf sediments to Puerto Rico	Philip Souza Jr., Wonhyun Lee, Derek Bolser, et al. Acoustic Niche Partitioning Accelerates Modeled Climate-Driven Spawning Habitat Loss	*Mickie Edwards, Matthew Smith, Christopher Patrick Mixed company in the meadow: drone insights into how ray assemblages use and reshape seagrass habitats	Michelle Mair, Richard Ruzicka, David Gilliam Twelve years of spatiotemporal population change of the common sea fan, <i>Gorgonia ventalina</i> , on Florida's Coral Reef
11:45 - 12:00	*Amany Begum, Guilherme Corte Assessing Global Monitoring Gaps in Beach Nourishment to Support Resilient Sandy Beach Management	Joseph Pawlik What will tropical reef ecosystems look like in the future?	*Molly Spencer, John Klinck, Roger Mann, Nina Whitney, et al. Influence of late-Holocene climate events on the Mid-Atlantic Bight coastal benthos: a recording by the ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>)	Janie Wulff Collaboration among sponge species rebuffs aggressive competitors and habitat-wreckers	Delbert Lee Smee, Benjamin Belgrad, Evan Pettis, et al. Sensory Ecology of Disturbance: Turbidity Regulates Predation, Biodiversity, and Affects Stability and Resilience of Oyster Reef Communities

Wednesday March 4 Sessions 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm

Underline indicates presenting author. Asterisk (*) indicates participation in the student competition

Room	Seaside D	Seaside E	Seaside A	Seaside B	Seaside C
Session	Benthic Monitoring 2	Chemical Ecology	Engagement and Communication	Community Ecology 2	Special Session: Photogrammetry
Moderator	Lauren Stefaniak	Marc Weissburg	Kimberly Heiman	Joshua Lord	Hannah-Marie Lamle, Nicolas Rivas, Rolando Santos
1:30 - 1:45	*Kianna Pattengale, Guilherme Corte Urbanization outweighs morphodynamics in shaping macrobenthic biodiversity on tropical island sandy beaches	Marc Weissburg, Delbert Lee Smee, Benjamin Belgrad, et al. The Principles of Fear	Kimberly Heiman Arguing the Need for Storytelling in Science Communication	*Lexi Wilkes, Jennifer Dijkstra, Colette Feehan, et al. Assessing Species Turnover and Distributional Patterns in Northwest Atlantic Kelps	Matthew Smith, Mickie Edwards, David Wilcox, Chris Patrick Drone Mapping in Seagrass: Methodology for quantifying spatiotemporal change within seagrass meadows
1:45 - 2:00	*Neetu Dhand, Christian Conroy, Catherine Matassa, et al. Offshore Movement and Habitat Use of Atlantic Horseshoe Crabs (<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>) in Relation to Submarine Sand Waves Featured in Long Island Sound.	Casey Butler, Cheyenne Springbett, Alastair Harborne Fear factor: Spiny lobsters elicit trait-mediated avoidance in corallivorous invertebrates	Ellen Rowe, Melissa Southworth, Roger Mann Using GIS to Visualize Decades of Change in Chesapeake Bay Oysters	Angelina Zuelow, Sarah Henkel Fluctuating Intertidal Kelp Canopy and the Impacts on Understory Communities in the NE Pacific	*Masen Eck, Paul Bologna Temporal Evaluation of Seagrass Restoration Success
2:00 - 2:15	Ronen Liberman Resilience and Vulnerability: Demographic Insights into Octocoral Dynamics Across Florida's Coral Reefs	*Kelly Lesnik, Ben Belgrad, Julia Kubanek, et al. The answer is in the pee: Progress in experimental urine extraction for use in predator-prey interaction bioassays on oyster reefs	Sabine Rech, Josefa Araya, Jostein Baeza, et al. Ocean Travelers & Citizen Science: A large-scale collaboration between volunteers and scientists to identify marine species dispersed on floating litter	*Marina Storey, Duncan Jackson, Sean Craig HOLD THE SALT! IS THERE SPATIAL BULL KELP REFUGIA FROM PURPLE SEA URCHINS AT FRESHWATER INPUTS ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST?	Mike Gil, Madelyn Hair, Joshua Manning, Ella Henry "Digital twin"-ing coral reefs: Quantifying how individual decision-making by fishes gives rise to ecological outcomes
2:15 - 2:30	Phil Souza, Andrew Kough, et al. The sights and sounds of seagrass salad: Passive tools estimate green sea turtle grazing.	*Sophia Esposito, Jennifer Hill Decoding Danger: Investigating How Blue Crab Urine Chemistry and Diet Affect Periwinkle Snail Climbing Behavior	Robert Semmler, Tuck Hines, Greg Ruiz Gaps in Environmental Report Card Systems for Coastal and Estuarine Health	Jesus Campos, Makayla Excell, et al. Behavioral Geography: Effect of Boldness and Location on Mobbing in Grass Shrimp	*Jared Oviatt, Emma Nani, Matthew McLean Are the smallest reef fishes associated with the smallest components of reef complexity?
2:30 - 2:45	*Madelyn Ritter Estuarine Clam Species Distribution and Correlation to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Succession.	*Christian Richter, Megan Laufer, Joseph Pawlik Do sea squirts dine on DOM like some sponges?	Taylor Tucker The Role of Community Science in Coral Reef Benthic Monitoring	*Kaylie Canerday, Jennifer Hill Shadows and Scents: Additive and Contradictory Responses of Periwinkle Snails to Avian Visual and Chemical Predator Cues	Nicolas Rivas, W. Ryan James, et al. A complex herbivory story on the reef: Diadema density and habitat geomorphic metrics influence on coral population dynamics
2:45 - 3:00	Laura Crane, Benjamin Gutzler, Jeremy Miller, et al. Trying to keep warm: Locating thermal refugia for range expanding blue crabs in the Gulf of Maine	*Kyler Sloan-Verkler, Courtney Clevenger, Zane Ritter, et al. Laboratory incubation studies of the uptake of labile DOM molecules by Caribbean sponges	Ninoshka López-Xalín, Guilherme Corte, Elisa Aguilera, et al. Beach Surveyor Project: Co-creating Sandy Beach Knowledge with Students Across the Americas	Margie Rayne Impact of Salinity and Predator Exposure on Shrimp Mobbing Behavior	*Hannah-Marie Lamle, Alain Duran, Rolando Santos Reef structural complexity as a predictor of long sediment-laden algal turf distributions in South Florida
3:00 - 3:15		Gary Dickinson, Daniela Agne, Sara Kuwar, Joseph Baker Using AI Tools and Molecular Modeling to ask Eco-mechanical Questions: An Assessment of the Barnacle Shell Protein <i>bsf</i>			*Gaby Carpenter, Benjamin Farmer, Michael Studivan, et al. Leveraging large-area imaging in high resolution epizootic dynamics on coral reefs

Environmental impact on benthic communities: effect(s), response and recovery time **Monday March 2 | Seaside D | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

Moderators: Elisa Baldrighi, Yazmin Gonzalez Elizarraraz, Jeffrey G. Baguley (University of Nevada, Reno) and William Wallace (College of Staten Island/CUNY)

Environmental impact on the benthic compartment has various forms: pollutants, organic loads, anoxia and physical disturbance. The benthic communities can register any environmental changes, they respond to the impact, and they are reliable bioindicators for the environmental quality status. For this session all studies, spanning from shallow waters to the deep sea and exploring how environmental impact(s) affect benthic communities and their recovery, including responses in diversity, functionality, food web dynamics, and interaction between different benthic components are welcome. Submissions focused on bioindicators, modeling, development of new indices for environmental quality assessment over space and time and mitigation strategies, using molecular and morphological approaches, field and experimental studies are encouraged.

Keywords: Impact assessment, bioindicators, diversity, functionality, spatial-temporal scale(s)

Spatial Pattern to Ecological Process: Seascape Controls on Ecosystem Functioning **Monday March 2 | Seaside B | 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

Moderators: Gina A. Badlowski, Alia Jones, W. Ryan James, Rolando O. Santos (Florida International University)

Seascape properties fundamentally regulate ecosystem processes that sustain marine productivity, nutrient cycling, and resilience. A powerful approach to understanding these relationships is examining how spatial configuration, connectivity, and heterogeneity of marine habitats drive ecosystem metabolism, biogeochemical fluxes, and functional diversity. To advance our understanding of how seascape structure governs ecosystem functioning, our session will focus on current research linking habitat composition and configuration to ecosystem functions including primary production, nutrient dynamics, carbon sequestration, and energy transfer in coastal and marine systems experiencing rapid environmental change.

Keywords: Seascape properties, habitat connectivity, ecosystem services, marine spatial ecology, habitat heterogeneity

Stability across scales in marine and estuarine ecosystems

Wednesday March 4 | Seaside C | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Moderator: Max Castorani (University of Virginia)

Marine and estuarine ecosystems vary through time and space, yet the stability of their populations, communities, and ecosystem functions underpins fisheries management, restoration planning, and conservation success. This session explores the causes and consequences of ecological stability across spatial, temporal, and taxonomic scales in benthic systems. The session encourages submissions of empirical, experimental, or theoretical studies that examine how variability, synchrony, and biodiversity shape stability from local habitats to regional meta-ecosystems.

Keywords: stability, variability, synchrony, biodiversity, ecosystem function

Using photogrammetry as a tool to monitor benthic ecosystems

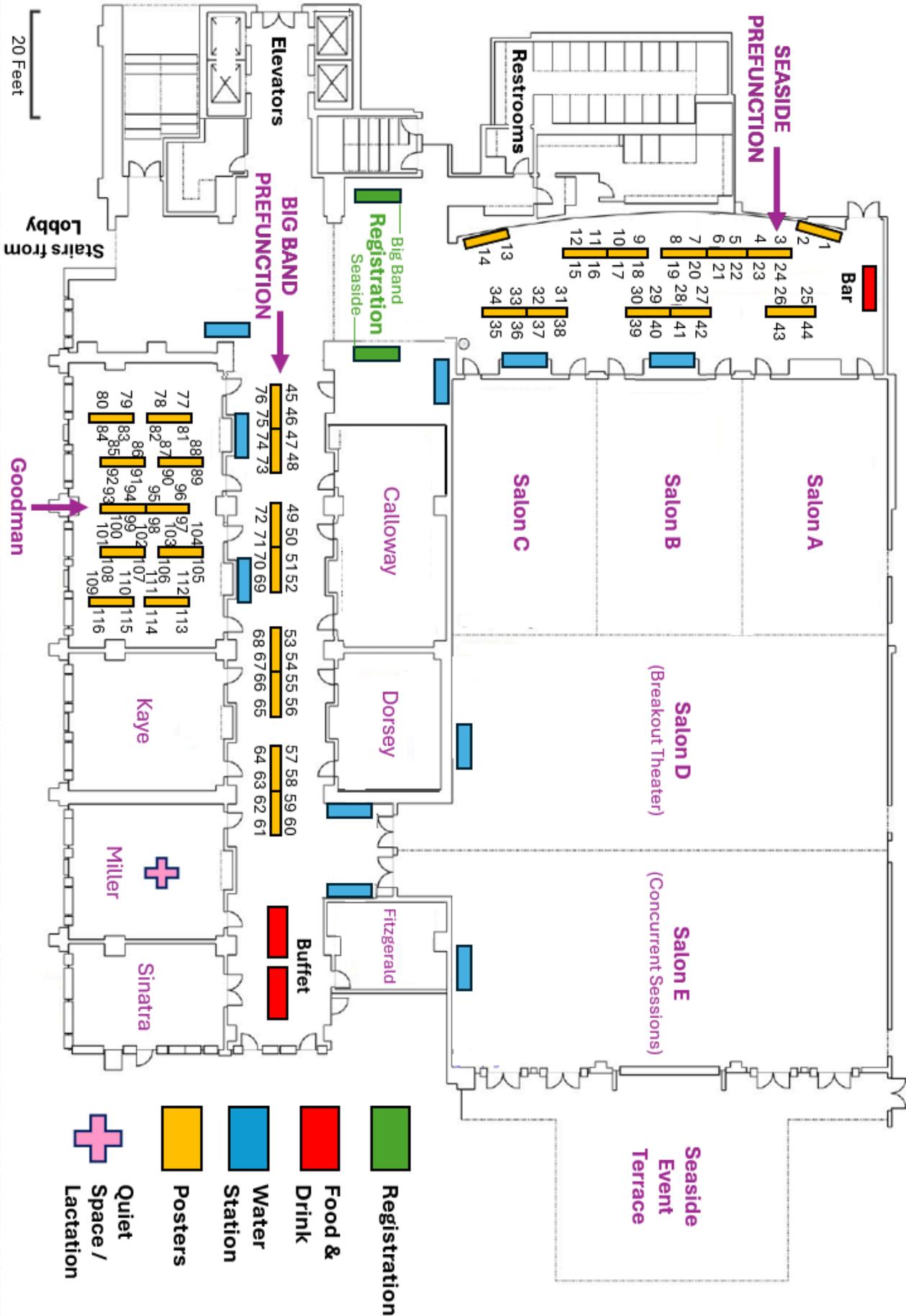
Wednesday March 4 | Seaside C | 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm

Moderators: Hannah-Marie Lamle, Rolando O. Santos, Nicolas Rivas (Florida International University)

Advances in structure-from-motion photogrammetry has been a revolutionary tool that allows researchers to generate detailed 3-dimensional models and large area ortho-images that allow for unprecedented insights into spatial and temporal patterns of benthic communities and ecological processes. This technology has been applied to underwater ecosystems with great success for many applications, such as habitat mapping, restoration monitoring, modelling demographic trends, and analyzing community structure and function. This session emphasizes how these tools are transforming our ability to quantify ecological processes and assess coastal ecosystem changes across scales.

Keywords: Photogrammetry, benthic ecology, monitoring, spatial scales, habitat complexity

Ballroom Level (2nd Floor) Map



Venue Information

Wi-Fi & Technical Information

- Guest Wifi: Guest last name and room number
 - instructions are provided at check in.
- Public Wifi: 2nd floor meeting space:
 - Marriott Bonvoy_Conference no password required.
- AV support contact: Doug Wydra

Emergency & Accessibility Information

Emergency contacts:

- You may call the hotel directly at 757-937-4200 (ext 4247)
- For emergencies dial 911

Accessibility services:

Quiet room / lactation space: Miller Room

Things to Do in Virginia Beach

Outdoor & Waterfront

- Walk the Oceanfront Boardwalk – Iconic 3-mile oceanfront promenade with views, public art, and easy access to shops and cafes.
- Visit the Virginia Beach Oceanfront – Even if cool in March, beach walks and breezy views are refreshing.
- Naval Aviation Monument Park – Free outdoor exhibit space with sweeping views of the Atlantic.
- Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center – Great indoor option focused on coastal ecosystems.
- Explore Local Parks & Trails – Nearby parks and nature areas are enjoyable for short hikes and birdwatching.

Recommended Dining & Drinks

Breakfast & Brunch

- Pocahontas Pancake House – Classic boardwalk breakfast and pancakes; local favorite near the oceanfront.
- Doc Taylor's Restaurant – Casual and highly rated breakfast spot with hearty plates.
- Milk & Honey Southern Inspired Kitchen – Great breakfast/brunch with a modern twist.
- VLOVE COFFEE HOUSE – Excellent local coffee and light breakfast fare.
- Another Broken Egg Cafe – Popular breakfast/brunch chain with coastal vibes.

Lunch & Casual Eats

- Boardwalk & Oceanfront Picks:
 - Chix on the Beach – Classic oceanfront seafood and burgers with a view.
 - Jumpin' Shrimp – Easy seafood spot perfect for a quick lunch on the boardwalk.
 - Lager Heads – Lively American fare and craft beers with ocean views.
- Near the Cavalier:
 - Arbuckle's Bar & Grill – Casual American bar fare right in the Cavalier complex.
 - Tulu Seaside Bar & Grill – Waterfront dining and healthy seafood plates (inside Marriott Oceanfront).
 - Surf Club Ocean Grille – Boardwalk casual with ocean views.

Dinner & Evening

- Fine or Notable Dining:
 - Becca Restaurant & Garden – Elevated garden-to-table dining at The Cavalier Hotel.
 - Orion's Roof – Upscale seafood and sushi with panoramic views.
 - The Atlantic – Oceanfront seafood and craft cocktails with a vibrant vibe.
 - Eat: An American Bistro – Stylish seasonal fare a bit farther inland.
- Relaxed Dinner Options:
 - Calypso Bar & Grill – Classic seafood with great boardwalk views.
 - Catch 31 – Raw bar and coastal favorites near the oceanfront.