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Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

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The role of behavior in metamorphosis: lessons from lobsters and crabs

Metamorphosis is a time of many transitions. Dramatic changes in morphology and habitat are well-known, but the behavioral transitions that must accompany these other changes are often poorly understood. I studied the behavioral transition from swimming, exploratory behavior to benthic, cryptic behavior during metamorphosis of the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, and the onset of decorating behavior in early juveniles of the graceful decorator crab, *Oregonia gracilis*. I found that lobsters transition gradually from swimming, exploratory behavior to benthic, cryptic behavior during the postlarval stage, an intermediate stage between the larval and juvenile stages. When lobster postlarvae had no access to appropriate shelter, they prolonged swimming behavior and delayed the molt to the first juvenile stage, behaviors that should result in increased dispersal. In contrast, in decorator crabs the onset of decorating behavior was tightly coupled with a morphological change that occurs during the molt from megalops to the first juvenile stage. Some behavioral transitions appear variable and may be accelerated or delayed in response to environmental variation, while other behavioral transitions are closely linked to the other more obvious transitions that take place during metamorphosis.

Host: James Edson

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, September 15, 2017

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

For cancelations and additional seminar information, please see <http://marinesciences.uconn.edu/seminar/seminar1178/>, email marinesciencesseminars@uconn.edu, or call 860-405-9152 or 860-405-9151