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Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

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Focusing on local spatial dynamics reveals complex and variable relationships between fish and habitat

Fish exist in habitats defined by physical, chemical, and biological attributes. These attributes influence condition, reproductive success, survival, and behavior of individuals, with emergent effects at larger scales. Understanding how fish utilize the places they occupy and what makes those habitats desirable is a vital (and mandated!) aspect of conservation and fisheries management. By tracking the movements of individuals in the context of local habitat characteristics, in this case juvenile striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) in a natal Chesapeake Bay estuary and adult Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) at a number of locations within the Gulf of Maine, we focused our efforts on the spatial scale at which fish interact with local conditions. In both species, we identified variance in responses to shared environments, in part explained by the characteristics of individual fish, which had consequences for diet, condition, growth, and survival. Refining descriptions of habitats that are important to fish (*i.e.*, essential fish habitat, EFH), with more focus on the processes influencing spatial behaviors and the diversity of responses within species, would provide opportunities for improved management.

Host: Peter Auster

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, January 26, 2018

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

For cancelations and additional seminar information, please see <https://marinesciences.uconn.edu/seminar/seminar1183/>, email marinesciencesseminars@uconn.edu, or call 860-405-9152 or 860-405-9151