

UConn

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

Sean Colin

Roger Williams University

Stealth and resilience: Predatory strategies that enable the small, delicate ctenophore, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, to dominate the plankton

The ctenophore *Mnemiopsis leidyi* is a small gelatinous zooplankter commonly found in coastal waters all along the Atlantic Ocean. Endemic to the western Atlantic, this planktonic organism is a highly efficient predator that is capable of removing almost entire populations of its prey (including copepods) from the water column. We have studied how *M. leidyi* manipulates and scans its surrounding water to encounter and capture prey with great efficiency. Interestingly, it uses a 'slow and steady' approach whereby it moves fluid at very slow speeds past its sensory and capture surfaces to encounter large amounts of prey. I will describe how this translates to very high predation rates and how it is capable of maintaining this seemingly delicate approach in often turbulent coastal waters. I will also give an overview of how the approaches developed for studying *M. leidyi* are being used to examine the trophic role of the diverse oceanic epipelagic ctenophore community.

Host: Hans Dam

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, February 14, 2020

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

If you are an individual with a disability and need accommodations, please contact 860-405-9152, 860-405-9087, or marinesciencesseminars@uconn.edu.

For cancelations and additional seminar information, please see <https://marinesciences.uconn.edu/seminar/seminar1203/>.