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Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

Samuel Gurr

NOAA NEFSC Milford Laboratory

Learning from experience: Environmental priming to improve bivalve seed

Organismal environmental resistance depends on integration of predictable environmental cues into acclimatory phenotypes. Although larvae of marine metazoans are highly susceptible to changes in the surrounding environment, early life presents an ideal window for developmental acclimatization due to the importance of early information in setting the stage for subsequent phenotypic outcomes. In light of this, it is essential to understand how intermittent or repeated environmental signals, such as the challenges posed from climate change, are transduced during these critical developmental stages. This is the biological framework for Gurr's dissertation research; where experiments were completed within a bivalve hatchery to examine the efficacy of environmental 'priming' as an inducible means of producing resilient juvenile seed. To this end, physiological and cellular-molecular traits of pre-exposed and naïve cohorts identified mechanisms underpinning resilience (i.e. gene frontloading and fine-tuning). Sam is currently a National Research Council Postdoctoral associate at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Milford Lab) in Milford Connecticut, where he examines cellular and genomic mechanisms affecting the adaptive capacity of Bay scallops.

Host: Zosia Baumann

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, February 24, 2023

Place: Lowell Weicker Building, Seminar Room 103 (or WebEx)

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