

2023 Geodynamics Seminar

Cold-Water Coral Ecosystem Diversity: Understanding Interactions with Habitat, Environmental Factors, and the Fidelity of Corals and Faunal Symbionts for Conservation and Management



Dr. Timothy Shank

Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution

Thursday, April 20, 2023
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

CLARK 507, QUISSETT CAMPUS

Understanding the patterns of biodiversity, biogeography, evolution, and ecological interactions in deep-water coral ecosystems has reached a critical level with anthropogenic activities, including fisheries, mining, acidification, ocean warming, oil and gas exploration, and plastic pollution that threaten deep-sea coral ecosystems. I will introduce deep-water corals, their specific relationships with epifaunal symbionts, their distribution and diversity with depth and environmental factors, and discuss the growing threats to these vulnerable marine ecosystems.