
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Biology Department Seminar



Thursday, January 18, 2024 – 12:00 Noon

Where Are the Recruits? Lobster Larval Survival in the Gulf of Maine

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The Gulf of Maine American lobster fishery has been experiencing a massive boom during the past few decades. A combination of factors has caused brood stock abundance and egg production to soar, and yet there has been no corresponding increase in larval recruitment. This disconnect in the stock-recruit relationship represents a critical knowledge gap for this economically and ecologically significant species. Understanding the cause of the stock-recruit disconnect is a crucial goal for continued management of the lobster fishery, as recruitment dynamics play a significant role in population health. Evidence suggests the most likely cause of the disconnect is declining larval survival.

In this presentation I explore multiple hypotheses related to how larval survival may be changing within the Gulf of Maine; including the possibility of food-limitation and how maternal effects may influence larval success. I will also discuss the use of a space-for-time analysis in order to gain insight into possible future changes due to continued warming, and how utilizing mixed methodologies can enhance research.

HYBRID! **In Person:** Redfield Auditorium **Zoom:** <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/j/99050109723> Meeting ID: 990 5010 9723 **By phone:** Find your local number: <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/u/atOe45bGJ>