

**Special AOPE/Biology Department Seminar**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

**12:00 noon**

**Redfield Auditorium**

Zoom: <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/j/97634745714>

## The Nexus of Oceans and Human Health



**Dr. John J. Stegeman**

**Senior Scientist, Biology Department, WHOI**

Director, Woods Hole Center for Oceans and Human Health  
(2004-2024)

This talk will outline the beginning and scope of the meta-discipline of Oceans and Human Health (OHH), which includes risks and benefits from the sea. The talk will center on the history and activities within the Woods Hole Center for Oceans and Human Health. Pressure from the scientific community led to an unprecedented agreement between the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, part of the NIH, to jointly fund a new program to establish Centers for Oceans and Human Health. The Woods Hole COHH was one of four centers established in 2004 and has been successful in repeated funding competition for the past 20 years, and now has renewed funding for the next five years. The focus of the Woods Hole COHH has been primarily on understanding and predicting harmful algal blooms, the mechanisms of toxin effect on nervous system development, as well as communication with a broad range of stakeholders. These activities are embedded in a broader array of research in the village, at WHOI and MBL, that collectively address the scope of OHH as envisioned. The topic addressed is pertinent to current strategic planning.