
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Biology Department Seminar



Thursday, October 24, 2024 – 12:00 Noon

Investigating Settlement Responses of Coral Larvae to Replayed Reef Soundscapes

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Coral reef ecosystems are in crisis and stakeholders are increasingly looking for tools and interventions with potential to speed reef growth and recovery. An increasing body of work has established that enriching marine soundscapes can drive increases in settlement of reef fishes and invertebrates, but investigations of coral sensory responses to sound are limited. This presentation will detail studies conducted in the U.S. Virgin Islands using two species of brooding coral, *Porites astreoides* and *Favia fragum*. Coral larvae were collected during summer spawning events, exposed in situ to replayed recorded soundscapes of a diverse coral reef habitat, and assessed for settlement after 24-72 hours. Larvae of both species settled at higher rates under an enriched sound environment compared to controls, suggesting that enrichment of the local acoustic environment may be an effective intervention to speed natural reef recovery processes.

HYBRID! **In Person:** Redfield Auditorium **Zoom:** <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/j/97000865816> Meeting ID: 970 0086 5816 **By phone:** Find your local number: <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/u/adlvMow3LQ>