

Science Made Public

All talks held at the WHOI Ocean Science Exhibit Center Auditorium,
15 School Street, Woods Hole

JULY 10 AT 2:30 PM

Following the Gulf Stream

Glen Gawarkiewicz, Sr. Scientist, Physical Oceanography Department

Resembling a river in the ocean, the Gulf Stream transports warm water northward from the Gulf of Mexico before it turns east across the Atlantic. In the fall of 2011 local fishermen noticed unusually warm water and strong currents at the edge of the continental shelf south of New England. Learn what WHOI scientists found when they investigated this unusual shift in the Gulf Stream and hear more about its implications for ocean circulation in that region and some possible effects on marine life.



JULY 17 AT 2:30 PM

Forecasting New England “Red Tides”

Dennis McGillicuddy, Sr. Scientist, Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering Department

Each year, coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine are prone to blooms of the harmful algae, *Alexandrium fundyense*. The algae pose no direct threat to human beings, however the toxins they produce can accumulate in filter-feeding organisms such as mussels and clams—which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in humans who consume them. To insure the shellfish we consume is safe, harvesting areas are carefully monitored by state agencies. Learn more about the work scientists have done to develop a forecasting system to help the shellfish industry and environmental managers better plan for the annual bloom.



JULY 24 AT 2:30 PM

New Bedford Harbor: History, Pollution, and Adaptation

Larissa Williams, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology Department

Massachusetts' New Bedford Harbor has been polluted since the mid 1800s when human waste from a growing population was disposed of into the estuary. In the early 1900s, the city of New Bedford recruited electrical component manufacturers to the city, who in turn polluted the Acushnet River estuary and adjoining harbor with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). While most of the marine life in New Bedford Harbor died as a result of chronic exposure to PCBs, an estuarine minnow, *Fundulus heteroclitus*, has persisted and is now adapted to living in the contaminated site. Learn how researchers are using genetic techniques to better understand this minnow's resistance to PCBs.



JULY 31 AT 2:30 PM

A WHOI Mooring: It's Not Your Father's Boat Mooring

Rick Trask, Research Specialist, Physical Oceanography Department

Oceanographers frequently want to make measurements from a single location in the ocean for a year or more. But it is prohibitively expensive for a ship to remain in remote locations making measurements for such a long time. Instead they use mooring structures, often miles long and designed to withstand the wind, waves and corrosive ocean environment, that sit on the ocean floor unattended. Learn how WHOI engineers and technicians design and build these platforms and assemble them at sea for deployment. Get the inside story of how the tiniest of details can make the difference between success and failure.

