

Science Made Public

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

* unless otherwise noted



AUGUST 7 AT 2:30PM

Bowhead Billboard Chart Toppers

Carter Esch, Biology Department

Bowhead whales “sing” to attract mates, but different variations of the song go in and out of fashion. Their song changes throughout the season and is never identical from year to year. Learn how scientists are studying how changes are introduced to the song and how whales adopt these changes and end up singing the same tune.



AUGUST 14 AT 2:30PM

Finding New Zealand's Pink and White Terraces

Amy Kukulya, Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering Department

Often called the “Eighth Wonder of the World,” New Zealand’s Pink and White Terraces were beautiful natural formations created by a large geothermal system. The Terraces were buried in sediment and covered over by Lake Rotomahana after the devastating and deadly eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886. Learn how researchers, using autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to map the bottom of the lake, found the lower portions of the Pink Terraces on the lake floor.



AUGUST 21 AT 2:30PM, REDFIELD AUDITORIUM

Consequences for the Ocean of the Fukushima

Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Ken Buesseler, Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry Department

The March 2011 triple disaster earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent radiation releases at Japan’s Fukushima Dai-ichi were unprecedented events for the ocean and for society. The earthquake was the fourth largest ever recorded; the tsunami resulted in over 20,000 dead or missing and destroyed entire towns; and the radiation releases created the largest accidental release of man-made radionuclides to the oceans in history—a release that continues to this day. Learn about these events, research findings and how researchers are assessing the potential impacts on public health and safety.



AUGUST 28 AT 2:30PM

Equatorial Islands and Climate Change

Kris Karnauskas, Geology & Geophysics Department

At the equator, nature’s rules have some fascinating loopholes. From the Gilbert Islands all the way to the Galapagos Archipelago, find out how island ecosystems in these remote Pacific locations are not only subject to the impacts of climate change in unique ways, but may actually have played an important role in shaping the Earth’s climate system over the course of millions of years.