Welcome newest faculty member Malin Pinsky to Rutgers

I'm an ecologist with a strong interest in the metapopulation dynamics of coastal marine species. What range of physical, ecological, evolutionary, and anthropogenic forces drive long-term and large-scale dynamics in the abundance and distribution of marine populations? My approach to science is an integrative one: I combine field ecology with modeling, population genetics, and the analysis of long-term datasets to understand how populations function across space and time. Genetics provide a particularly useful tool for tracking microscopic larvae, while meta-analysis provides insights into broad spatial and temporal dynamics that are otherwise obscured.

A central goal of my research is to further the conservation of marine ecosystems and to help ensure sustainable sources of the seafood, clean water, safe shorelines, and recreation upon which we as a society rely. While all conservation and management is inherently spatial, we barely understand how the populations and ecosystems at the focus of these actions operate across the seascape. I am keenly interested in developing a predictive science of spatial marine ecology to guide the conservation and sustainable development of marine ecosystems into the future.

Education

2003 A.B. in Biology and Environmental Studies, Williams College

2011 Ph.D. in Biology, Stanford University

Bio

Malin grew up in eastern Maine tide pooling, sailing, and collecting mussels along the rocky coast. After a Biology and Environmental Studies degree from Williams College (2003), he did field work in Antarctica, helped run a college outing club, lobbied briefly for fisheries research money on Capital Hill (a learning experience, to say the least), taught outdoor leadership in Wyoming, and worked as a conservation scientist working with salmon in Portland, OR. That experience convinced him science plays a vital role informing public policy. He went to Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station for a Ph.D. in Biology (2011), spending time by the kelp forests and sea otters of Monterey, CA when he wasn’t chasing clownfish in the Philippines. Postdoc work brought him back east to Princeton, where he still lives with his wife, Kristin, and their favorite mutt, Sitka. Besides being in or on the water, he loves backcountry skiing, hiking, and natural history.

Read my CV