Grant Awards

Thomas Grothues “Assessment of Dredge Spoil Island Shorelines as Habitat for Juvenile Summer Flounder and Other Fish” DOD US Army $28,395

Josh Kohut “SNJ-DEP Annual Glider Deployment” SNJ-DEP $65,447

Malin Pinsky “Genetic monitoring to improve fish stock assessments” NJSG $73,118

Diane Adams “Determining coral susceptibility to ocean acidification through functional analysis of biomineralization” US-Israel Binational Foundation $60,000

Janice McDonnell “Advancing Climate Literacy through Investment in In-Service Science Educators” State of Washington $33,589

Jennifer Francis “Collaborative Proposal: An Intergrated Observation/Modeling Assessment” U. Colorado $76,458

Olaf Jensen “Collaborative Research: Hierarchical Functioning of River Macro Systems in Temperate Steppes” National Science Foundation $49,134

Congratulations to the newest marine/geology Distinguished Professor Yair Rosenthal recognizing a career of leadership in paleooceanography!

Congratulations to Yair Rosenthal who has been promoted to Distinguished Professor. This promotion recognizes that Yair has developed a globally recognized research program focused on understanding the history and underlying mechanisms of global climate change. His research has focused on the role of the ocean in the climate system by understanding shifting circulation and distributions of heat and salt. He has accomplished this through developing geochemical proxies that allow for the quantitative reconstructions with a specific focus on both Cenozoic and Holocene climate variability. His research involves extensive field-work conducted globally with expeditions spanning from waters in the United States, Norwegian Sea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Timor Sea, eastern equatorial Pacific, Western pacific warm pool. His research productivity is extremely high as evidenced by over 90 manuscripts published in high profiles journals (Science, Nature, Nature GeoSciences, PNAS, Geology). He has advised 9 graduate students, many who have gone to form successful laboratories of their own. He has been an advisor to 13 postdoctoral researchers. Beyond these formal teaching efforts, Yair has been active in entraining undergraduates in hands-on research having Advised over 35 undergraduate students in laboratory work including 10 participants on research cruises. These exemplary efforts make Yair an indispensable resource to Rutgers students.
Workshop held to understand Deep Water Horizon oil spill impacts on marsh food webs

Left to right: Olaf Jensen (Rutgers), Paola Lopez-Duarte (Rutgers), Shelby Ziegler (University of North Carolina), Brian Roberts (Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium), Jessica Johnson (Louisiana State University), Mike McCann (Rutgers), Jill Olin (Stony Brook University), Mike Polito (Louisiana State University), Bob Christian (East Carolina University), Ken Able (Rutgers), Joel Fodrie, Charlie Martin (Louisiana State University)

Coastal Waters Consortium researchers seek to identify critical species for the response of food webs to oil spills: Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences postdoc Mike McCann, along with Olaf Jensen, Ken Able, and Paola Lopez-Duarte, hosted a workshop to synthesize the current knowledge of salt marsh food webs in the Gulf of Mexico and the sensitivity of marsh species to oil spills. The workshop was held at the Rutgers University Marine Field Station in Tuckerton, NJ October 22-25, 2015 and was funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative's Coastal Water Consortium, which also supports the group's field work in Louisiana salt marshes.

Previous single-species studies on the impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill suggested that salt marsh taxa vary widely in their sensitivity to oil. The differences in oil effects throughout the marsh food web may have altered food web structure and energy flow pathways and reduced food web resilience. Therefore, developing a holistic understanding of the impacts of oiling across the entire marsh food web is essential.

At the workshop, the group constructed a food web model depicting the feeding relationships between marsh species. Then, ecological network analysis was used to identify the taxa (“nodes”) that are most important to network structure. The group also compiled measures of oil vulnerability from published studies for a variety of marsh taxa in the network. Finally, the relationship between oil vulnerability and network importance was used to identify critical taxa that are expected to be both important to network stability and highly sensitive to oil. This effort has also helped the group identify key gaps in the understanding of salt marsh processes and will shape their future field sampling in Louisiana, as well as other modeling efforts.

Mike McCann will present results of the workshop at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference in Tampa, Florida in February 2016.

Paul Falkowski asked to serve on advisory committee for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced today that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have selected 14 distinguished experts to serve on the new standing committee on environmental science and assessment for offshore energy and mineral resources. The committee will provide independent information on issues relevant to BOEM’s environmental studies and assessment activities and support discussions on relevant issues.

“BOEM is honored to have these extraordinary scientists provide their guidance to the bureau on scientific matters,” said BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper. “We look forward to engaging with and learning from them as we continue to address complex offshore energy and marine mineral issues in an environmentally responsible manner.”

The committee encompasses a broad range of expertise in both natural and social sciences, and relevant disciplines within those broad areas. They include ecology and habitat, sea ice, economics, noise, the application
of science to policy and other topics. With their collective expertise in all four Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) regions, they bring a wealth of knowledge from their academic, industry, government and non-profit experience. Thanks to Paul for generously giving of his time!

Rutgers movie “Antarctic Edge” collects a series of honors

The Rutgers documentary has been receiving critical accolades. The film, which follows Rutgers scientists and team members to study a melting West Antarctic Peninsula has won the Chicago Film Festival Intercom Competition in the category of Science/Research/Technology filmmaking! Additionally “Antarctic Edge” won Best Cinematography award from the United Nations Film Festival at Stanford University. Finally Antarctic Edge: 70º South is also a finalist for Best Documentary Feature in the Blue Ocean Film Festival held this November in Monaco! For those who want to know more check out the film on either ITunes or Netflix.

Rutgers Haskins Shellfish Research Laboratory is recognized as a global leader

A bibliographic analysis conducted by Chinese researchers published in Aquaculture International found that Rutgers ranks third in the world in the number of academic publications on oysters. The top two are Mega national institutions run by federal governments. This is a great tribute to the hard working team at Haskins. Congratulations and keep up the great work!!

Congratulations to Tina Haskins.

Tina Haskins combined chlorophyll fluorescence and underwater gliders in Antarctica to earn her a Masters degree. After graduating from RU as an undergraduate and stint as a fisheries observer in Alaska, Tina rejoined the RU team as part of the COOL glider team. During that time she has anchored expeditions to the North Atlantic, Amundsen Sea, and the West Antarctic Peninsula. She has been stolen away by WHOI to run gliders for the National Science Foundation. Congrats Tina!
GET YOUR RU OCEAN SWAG!!!!

Rutgers Oceanography tee-shirts are here. Proudly wear the Rutgers Oceanography tee-shirts - funds are raised to host science socials for the undergraduate and graduate students. Tee-shirts go for $15 and will make you look athletic, smart, and dashing. Such a great deal for a great cause. Contact Sarah Kasule if interested (kasule@marine.rutgers.edu). To see the quality people your contribution would support check out our featured graduate students at http://marine.rutgers.edu/main/Featured-Student/.

Please help us enable Rutgers oceanography to support the next generation!

Rutgers oceanography needs your support to meet the environmental and educational challenges facing the world today. Your support is critical to enabling high risk and high reward research, developing students to be the leaders of tomorrow and bringing the public with our scientists into the ocean. Your private gifts will create new laboratories, student fellowships, endowments and feed ambitious new programs. Come join us! Even the smallest gifts have huge impacts by getting students out on the water or getting a student to a professional meeting. So please join us explore the world. Go RU!

New Publications


