

Biology Seminar



Biology Graduate Student Association and Department of Biological Sciences

Fri. 4/11 @ 4pm in Sci B 133

Zooplankton of the Northern California Current: Community Structure and Energy Content.



Dr. Christine Cass

Humboldt State University, Oceanography

The California Current off of northern California and Oregon is a highly productive system which supports many important fisheries species, including local salmon populations. Zooplankton in the region provide an important energy link between primary producers and these higher trophic level organisms. Local zooplankton community structure is strongly dictated by currents, leading to certain times of year where high-latitude species dominate the community as they are brought down the west coast via southward currents, and other times when zooplankton from sub-tropical latitudes dominate as they are transported northward along the California coast. It is hypothesized that high-latitude zooplankton provide a higher-quality food source for the predators, as, on average, they often contain more fat than their lower-latitude counterparts. My research specifically tests this hypothesis by comparing calorie content of copepod and krill species with known northern or southern origins collected off the coast of Trinidad, CA. This seminar will also examine the seasonal variability in calorie density of local zooplankton as well as explore the existence of latitudinal gradients in calorie density within the larger northern California Current region.

Upcoming Speakers: April 18, Roel Nusse, Stanford

Biological Sciences Seminar Series venue is wheelchair-accessible. Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations, including sign-language interpreters, should contact the Department of Biological Sciences, c/o jz15@humboldt.edu. Please request accommodations at least two days prior to the event. Some attendees may be sensitive to various scents from perfumes, shampoos, soaps, etc. Although optional, please consider refraining from wearing scented products to this event.

Questions? Contact: jz15@humboldt.edu