

Biology Seminar



Biology Graduate Student Association and Department of Biological Sciences
Fri. 10/27 @4pm in SCI B133

Direct and Indirect effects in Southern California's Marine Protected Areas: community patterns, invasion resistance and resilience to climate change.



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California has recently completed implementation of arguably the largest, scientifically designed network of Marine Protected Areas in the world. While implementation occurred in phases throughout the state, MPAs in the northern Channel Islands were established early on (in 2003) and provide a glimpse at potential changes that may occur statewide. We have been monitoring kelp forests and rocky reefs in the Channel Islands since 1999. In this talk I will review decadal scale changes in kelp forest community structure. Direct effects of protection occurred rapidly and include changes in biomass of targeted species but we are only now beginning to see indirect effects of protection. Our recent work has shown that MPAs play a role in resistance to invasion of a non-native algae as well as buffering communities from some effects of climate change.

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