RARGOM
REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON THE GULF OF MAINE

Draft Program
RARGOM 2026 Annual Science Meeting

Navigating Change in the Gulf of Maine: Science, People, and the Next Generation

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

- Daytime Program: Granite State Room, 8 am – 5:10 pm
- Poster Session and Reception: Piscataqua Room, 5:10 – 7 pm

Schedule at a Glance

Time	Activity
8–9 am	Registration, breakfast, and poster setup
9–9:10 am	Welcome and Acknowledgments
9:10–10:30 am	Morning science session
10:30–11 am	Networking break and poster viewing
11 am–12:15 pm	Keynote and late morning science session
12:15–1:40 pm	Lunch (provided on site), networking, and poster viewing
1:40–3:10 pm	Keynote and afternoon science session
3:10–3:40 pm	Networking break and poster viewing
3:40–5 pm	Late afternoon science session
5 pm	Closing remarks
5:10–7 pm	Poster session and reception with refreshments and bar

** Indicates student presenter*

NOTE: This program lists primary presenters for talks and posters. Additional authors are highlighted in the RARGOM 2026 Annual Science Meeting Abstract Booklet, and links to view abstracts in this document.

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Special thanks to the following organizations for helping to plan and coordinate the RARGOM meeting.

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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

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Morning Science Session

Time/type	Activity
8:00 am	**Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Poster Set-Up**
9:00 am	**Welcome and Acknowledgments** Adrian Jordaan • University of Massachusetts Amherst (RARGOM Chair) Erik Chapman • University of New Hampshire (Event Host)
9:10 am Presentation	**Kelp Forests of Cashes Ledge: A "Bright Spot" in the Gulf of Maine** Douglas Rasher • Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]
9:25 am Presentation	**Gulf of Maine Energyscape: Reconstructing Zooplankton Energy Available to Higher Trophic Levels for the Period 1961–2024** Jérôme Pinti • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]
9:40 am Presentation	**Marine Mammals as Sentinels of Change in the Gulf of Maine: A Top-down View of a Warming Ecosystem** Michelle Caputo • University of New England [View Abstract]
9:55 am Presentation	**Cumulative Impacts of Offshore Wind Development on the Marine Environment Over the U.S. Northeast Shelf: From Individual Turbines to Regional Scales** Changsheng Chen • University of Massachusetts Dartmouth [View Abstract]
10:10 am Lightning Talk	**Thirty-Three Years of Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring Reveal a Regime Shift in Boston Harbor** Claudia Mazur • Massachusetts Water Resources Authority [View Abstract]
10:15 am Lightning Talk	**Evaluation of Spatially-Explicit Water Mass Characterizations in the Gulf of Maine** Haley Synan* • NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center and University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography [View Abstract]
10:20 am Lightning Talk	**Incorporating Inshore Data Reveals Spatial Variation in Winter Flounder Age and Growth** Ben LaFreniere • Maine Department of Marine Resources [View Abstract]
10:25 am Lightning Talk	**Striped Bass Foraging Ecology and Implications for Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in Maine** Abrielle Remick* • University of Maine; Darling Marine Center [View Abstract]
10:30 am	**BREAK** (30 minutes) *Coffee with light snacks, networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance not required)*

Keynote and Late Morning Science Session

Time/Type	Activity
11:00 am Keynote	**Co-Charting the Course: Harnessing the Power of Science and Fishing Partnerships** Anna Mercer • NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center [View Speaker Bio]
11:30 am Presentation	**Twenty Years of Coastal and Ocean Acidification Monitoring in the Gulf of Maine** Christopher W. Hunt • Ocean Process Analysis Laboratory, University of New Hampshire
11:45 am Presentation	**Evolving Ocean Conditions in the Gulf of Maine During the Holocene: New Insights from Marine Microfossils** Ria Raval* • University of Maine, Orono [View Abstract]
12:00 pm Lightning Talk	**Trials of Novel Biodegradable Lantern Net Covers for Biofouling Mitigation** Madison Maier • Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership [View Abstract]
12:05 pm Lightning Talk	**BloomBoard: An Interactive Dashboard for Daily Coastal Chl-a Forecasts in the Gulf of Maine** Cameron Webb • Boston University [View Abstract]
12:10 pm Lightning Talk	**Surviving the Cold: How the Temperate Coral *Astrangia poculata* Survives New England's Winters and Implications for Range Expansion in a Changing Ocean** Taylor Lindsay • Tufts University [View Abstract]
12:15 pm	**BREAK** (85 minutes) *Lunch (provided on site), networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance optional)*

Afternoon Keynote and Science Session

Time/type	Activity
1:40 pm Keynote	**Wikpiyik naka Welimahaskil Kehkikemuwakon: Moving Towards Indigenous Research Methodologies** Suzanne Greenlaw • Schoodic Institute • Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians [View Speaker Bio]
2:10 pm Presentation	**"It Takes Somebody to Love It": The Invisible Work of River Herring Stewardship** Anne Zegers • Manomet Conservation Sciences [View Abstract]
2:25 pm Presentation	**Following the Atlantic Marsh Fiddler Crab (*Minuca pugnax*) into the Gulf of Maine—and Down Its Burrows** Lori LaPlante • Saint Anselm College [View Abstract]
2:40 pm Lightning Talk	**Understanding Coastal Resilience Through Physical and Social Science: Integrating Geomorphic Change and Community Perspectives in Camp Ellis, Maine** Katelyn DeWater* • University of New England [View Abstract]

Afternoon Keynote and Science Session (continued)

Time/type	Activity
2:45 pm Lightning Talk	**A Framework for Climate Adaptation in Marine Resource Monitoring Programs and Application within the Maine Department of Marine Resources** Jesica Waller • Maine Department of Marine Resources [View Abstract]
2:50 pm Lightning Talk	**Bridging the Gap: Building Relationships and Gathering Community Perspectives on Regional Climate Action, Process, and Progress in Southern Maine** Jennifer Brousseau • University of New England [View Abstract]
2:55 pm Lightning Talk	**Elevating Maine's Marshes: Preliminary Data on Salt Marsh Recovery Following the First Sediment Placement Project in Maine** Marjorie Mednikova* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]
3:00 pm Lightning Talk	**Regionalism in Offshore Wind Energy Acceptance in Maine** Harry Nutifafa Arden* • University of Maine [View Abstract]
3:05 pm Flash talk	**Low Flows, High Stakes: Exploring the Interactions of Drought, Water Demand, and Diadromous Fish** Reese Dorroh* • University of Massachusetts Amherst [View Abstract]
3:06 pm Flash talk	**Hard to Swallow: Northeast Fisheries Species Under Acidification Stress** Geir M Hartl* • NERACOOS [View Abstract]
3:07 pm Flash talk	**How Unique Were the January 2024 Storms? Sou'easters and their Coastal Impacts in the Gulf of Maine** Katherine Giannakopoulos • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]
3:08 pm Flash talk	**Physiological Responses of Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Under Elevated Temperatures in the Gulf of Maine** Aslan Gustafson* • Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]
3:09 pm Flash talk	**A Proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Cashes Ledge Area** Gareth Lawson • Conservation Law Foundation [View Abstract]
3:10 pm	**BREAK** (30 minutes) *Coffee with light snacks, networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance not required)*

Late Afternoon Science Session

Time/type	Activity
3:40 pm Presentation	**The Gulf of Maine Bat Monitoring Program (GOMBAT)** Merra Howe • Biodiversity Research Institute [View Abstract]
3:55 pm Presentation	**Shell Shock: Investigating Four Decades of Ocean Acidification and Warming on Atlantic Sea Scallop Shells** Halle Berger* • University of Connecticut [View Abstract]
4:10 pm Presentation	**Microplastics in the Gulf Of Maine: Comparative Microplastic Deposition Across Five Coastal Habitats in Great Bay Estuary, NH** Anna Gabrielle Jarrett* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]
4:25 pm Lightning Talk	**A Collaborative Approach to Tackling the Threat of *Didemnum vexillum* in Atlantic Canada** Claire Goodwin • Huntsman Marine Science Centre [View Abstract]
4:30 pm Lightning Talk	**Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON): Integrative Approaches to Sustained Ecosystem Monitoring in the Western Gulf of Maine** Cameron Thompson • NERACOOS [View Abstract]
4:35 pm Lightning Talk	**Building a Spatial and Temporal Record of Climate Change and Human Impact in the Gulf of Maine: Seeking Collaborators** R. Mark Leckie • University of Massachusetts Amherst [View Abstract]
4:40 pm Lightning Talk	**The New England Ocean Atlas: Story-Driven Science Translation for the Gulf of Maine** Peter H. Taylor • Waterview Consulting [View Abstract]
4:45 pm Lightning Talk	**Collaborating with Fishing Communities to Adapt: Codeveloping Actionable Strategies for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery** Ludivine Conte • University of Connecticut [View Abstract]
4:50 pm Lightning Talk	**Decline of Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) Population in the Quoddy Region of the Bay Of Fundy, Canada** Jessica Desaulniers • Huntsman Marine Science Centre [View Abstract]
4:55 pm Lightning Talk	**Social-Ecological Science in Support of Community-Led Marine Stewardship** Heather M. Leslie • University of Maine [View Abstract]
5:00 pm	**Closing Remarks and the Future of RARGOM** Gareth Lawson • Conservation Law Foundation

Poster Session and Reception

5:10–7 pm • Piscataqua Room

Poster session (with presenters) and reception with refreshments and bar.

Posters are in order by the presenter's last name.

Posters	
A Privacy-Preserving, Open-Source AI Framework for Gulf of Maine Socio-Ecological Data Anas Abuamar* • Colby College - Bigelow Lab	[View Abstract]
Evolving Gulf of Maine Oceanography Viewed Through the Lens of Stable Isotopes Katherine Allen • University of Maine	[View Abstract]
Intra-Annual Distribution Dynamics of Marine Species: Seasonal Asymmetry in a Rapidly Warming Shelf Ecosystem Andrew Allyn • Gulf of Maine Research Institute	[View Abstract]
Advancements in Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Aging Brian Alper* • The University of Maine	[View Abstract]
Secondary Succession and Blue Carbon Recovery in Historically Disturbed Salt Marshes in New England Kimberly Arlen* • University of New Hampshire	[View Abstract]
Long-Term Range Testing to Inform Acoustic Telemetry Efforts in Coastal Gulf of Maine Sidney Axtell* • University of New Hampshire	[View Abstract]
Integrating Temperature-Dependent Growth into Population Modeling of American Lobster Miguel Barajas* • Gulf of Maine Research Institute, University of Maine	[View Abstract]
Losing Ground? Carbon Storage and Sea Level Rise Response in Gulf of Maine Tidal Flats Hannah Baranes • Gulf of Maine Research Institute	[View Abstract]
The Manila clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) (Bivalvia: veneridae) Arrives in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Carolina Bastidas • Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sea Grant	[View Abstract]
Expanding Adaptive Harmful Algal Bloom Observations Across the Gulf of Maine Michael Brosnahan • Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	[View Abstract]
Hydrology and Vegetation Responses to Runneling of Degraded, Waterlogged Salt Marsh in New England David Burdick • Jackson Estuarine Lab, SMSOE, University of New Hampshire	[View Abstract]
Spectral Changes in Intertidal Macroalgae During Desiccation Melanie Carolan* • Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire	[View Abstract]

Describing Temporal Changes in Marine Heatwaves and Cold Spells in Casco Bay
Kiran Cremer* • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]

Does that Stream Seem Fishy? River Herring Use of an Impounded Skutik River Tributary
Rebecca P. Cusick* • University of Massachusetts, Amherst • Project SHARE [View Abstract]

Spatiotemporal Analysis of Antibiotic-Resistant Genes in Great Bay Watershed, New Hampshire
Natalie Danek* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Satellite Oceanography: Developing Phytoplankton Bloom Indicators from Ocean Color Remote Sensing
Grace Davis* • University of North Carolina Wilmington [View Abstract]

Seafloor Terrain and Community Stability in a Rapidly Changing Gulf of Maine
Jenn Dijkstra • Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Overwintering Physiology and Dormancy Behavior in New Hampshire's Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) Aquaculture
Maggie M. Dillon* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Mapping Offshore Maine: High-Resolution Seafloor Surveys in the Gulf of Maine
Rebecca Fernandez • Maine Department of Marine Resources [View Abstract]

Vessel-Based Bat Acoustic Monitoring in the Gulf of Maine and Probable Vessel-Following Behavior
Brianna Frankina • Biodiversity Research Institute [View Abstract]

Eelgrass Seed Settling Locations in Canopy Flows
Will Goddard* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Temporal Shifts in American Lobster Research Themes Since 1994 Seen Through Publication
Jason Goldstein • Wells NERR [View Abstract]

Climate-Related Shifts in Lobster Behavior Reshape Coastal Larval Supply in the Gulf of Maine
Andrew Goode • University of Maine [View Abstract]

The Influence of Coastal Acidification and Ocean Warming on Biotoxin Depuration Time in Commercially Valuable Bivalves
Hannah Gossner* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Seal Molting Phenology in the Gulf of Maine
Tacy Guest* • Princeton University [View Abstract]

Investigating the Diet of the Invasive Shrimp Palaemon Elegans: A Multi-Tool Approach
Luc Harrison* • University of Southern Maine [View Abstract]

Analyzing Shifts in Zooplankton Biomass Across Spatiotemporal Gradients in the Gulf of Maine
Julia Hobbs* • University of New England [View Abstract]

An Evaluation of the New Entrance Programs in the Maine Lobster Fishery
Joelle Kilchenmann* • University of Maine [View Abstract]

Development and Application of an FVCOM-3DVAR System to the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System (NECOFS)
Ki-Hwan Kim* • University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth [View Abstract]

Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Nearshore Fish Communities in Casco Bay
Katie Lankowicz • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]

Evaluating the Impacts of Climate-Mediated Prey Shifts on Common Tern Chick (*Sterna hirundo*) Energy Budgets in the Gulf of Maine
Kimberly Lato • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

A Comparison of Wind Models from ERA5 Re-Analysis and Offshore Buoy Observations for Predicting and Hindcasting Winds in a Gulf of Maine Bay
Olivia Leighton* • University of New England [View Abstract]

FIShBOT - A Gridded, In-Situ Bottom Temperature Dataset for the Northeast
George Maynard • NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center [View Abstract]

Assessing Resilience of Shellfisheries in Casco Bay to Ocean Acidification
Katherine Mills • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]

Western Gulf of Maine High-Resolution Surficial Geology and Sediment Maps
Rachel Morrison • University of New Hampshire Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping [View Abstract]

Integrating Sound into the Northeast Ocean Observing System
Jackie Motyka • Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems [View Abstract]

A Novel Method for Acoustic Detection of Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)* in a Noisy Estuary
Jill Munger* • University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Impacts of Warming Waters on Phytoplankton Respiration
Lydia M. Pinard • University of New Hampshire Alum, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]

A Multi-Decadal Increase in Jellyfish in the Gulf of Maine
Nicholas R. Record • Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]

Impacts of Intracellular Nitrate Cycling on Measurements of Denitrification in Damariscotta River and Gulf of Maine Sediments
Jeremy Rich • University of Maine, School of Marine Sciences and Darling Marine Center [View Abstract]

Interannual Variation in Larval Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Phenology and Environmental Drivers in the Gulf of Maine
Chloe Root* • University of Maine, School of Marine Sciences, Darling Marine Center [View Abstract]

Identifying the Gaps in Our Ocean Observations
Anna Simpson • Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems [View Abstract]

Linking the Diet of Key Copepods in the Gulf of Maine to Interannual Phytoplankton Taxonomic Variability
Karen Stamieszkin • Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]

What's for dinner? A Comparison of Gulf of Maine Forage Fish Energy Densities
Esher Swanson* • Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Hampshire [View Abstract]

Changes in Gulf of Maine Ichthyoplankton Community Composition and Abundance
Ian Thompson* • University of Maine/Darling Marine Center [View Abstract]

Baseline Offshore Wind Livelihood Impacts and Needs Exploration (BOWLINE)
Kanae Tokunaga • Gulf of Maine Research Institute [View Abstract]

Mixing It Up: Storm-Induced Alterations to Physical and Biological Water Column Conditions Detected in the Gulf of Maine
Paige Tortorice • Stony Brook University [View Abstract]

Opportunities for Collaborative Ecosystem-Based Science in the State of the Ecosystem Reports and Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles
Abigail Tyrell • NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center [View Abstract]

Improving Detection Probability and Spatio-Temporal Inferences by Manipulating Teleost eDNA Fragment Length
Kade Tyrrell* • University of New England [View Abstract]

Temporal Dynamics of Planktonic Protist Communities at Two Gulf of Maine MBON Stations
Angelique Wooldridge* • University of Maine [View Abstract]

Differential Effects of Seasonal Temperatures on Epizootic Shell Disease of American Lobster in Maine from 2003-2025
Reyn Yoshioka • Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [View Abstract]