



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

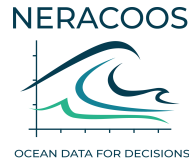
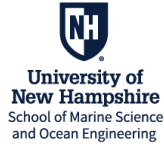
Time	Activity
8–9 am	Registration, breakfast, and poster setup
9–9:10 am	Welcome and Acknowledgments
9:10–10:30 am	Morning science session
10:30–11 am	Networking break and poster viewing
11 am–12:15 pm	Keynote and late morning science session
12:15–1:40 pm	Lunch (provided on site), networking, and poster 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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Organizational Partners

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

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University of Maine

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of New England

University of New Hampshire

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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) <i>Coffee with light snacks, networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance not required)</i>

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 <i>Astrangia poculata</i> 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) <i>Lunch (provided on site), networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance optional)</i>

Afternoon Keynote and Science Session

Time/type	Activity
1:40 pm Keynote	Wikipiyik 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 (<i>Minuca pugnax</i>) 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 Jessica 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 (<i>Zostera marina</i>) 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) <i>Coffee with light snacks, networking, and poster viewing (presenter attendance not required)</i>

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 <i>Didemnum vexillum</i> 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 (<i>Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis</i>) 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 (<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>) (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]

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 (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) 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]
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 Biotxin 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 <i>Palaemon Elegans</i>: 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 (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) 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 Xavier Mouy • Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	[View Abstract]
A Novel Method for Acoustic Detection of Harbor Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) 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 (<i>Homarus americanus</i>) 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

[\[View Abstract\]](#)