RARGOM
REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON THE GULF OF MAINE

RARGOM 2026 Annual Science Meeting - Program

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 pm – 7 pm

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Note: This program lists primary presenters and topics for talks and posters. Abstracts with additional authors are highlighted in the RARGOM 2026 Annual Science Meeting Abstract Booklet, and via links to view individual abstracts included in this program.

Schedule at a Glance

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 pm – 7 pm

Time	Activity
8–9 am	Registration, continental 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.

Remote Participation

While the RARGOM Science Meeting has been organized as an in-person event to promote networking and exchange of ideas, those unable to join the meeting in person may view the daytime presentations via ZOOM using the following link. We do not anticipate this being a full hybrid format, i.e., zoom will be used for viewing only. We also intend to make presentations and recordings available after the meeting.

- **ZOOM Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81628993777**

RARGOM
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November 4, 2026

Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM), it is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 2026 RARGOM Annual Science Meeting at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH. Since RARGOM was founded in 1991, our coalition has served as the premier international U.S.–Canadian organization dedicated to regional research, monitoring, and stewardship across the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. This year, our meeting centers on the theme: Navigating Change in the Gulf of Maine: Science, People, and the Next Generation.

The Gulf of Maine is undergoing rapid physical, ecological, and socio-economic transformations. Today's program brings together scientists, resource managers, students, and community partners to address these pressing challenges through multidisciplinary research—spanning rapid ocean warming, coastal acidification, and shifting species distributions to offshore wind development, coastal flood resilience, and habitat restoration. We are especially privileged to feature two inspirational keynote speakers:

Dr. Anna Mercer (NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center), presenting "Co-Charting the Course: Harnessing the Power of Science and Fishing Partnerships".

Dr. Suzanne Greenlaw (Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians & Schoodic Institute), presenting "Wikpiyik naka Welimahaskil Kehkikemuwakon: Moving Towards Indigenous Research Methodologies"

Whether you are attending the meeting or participating through oral presentations, lightning talks, flash talks, or poster sessions, this gathering provides a vital opportunity to foster cross-border collegiality, build impactful partnerships, and inspire actionable stewardship for the next generation.

Thank you to our host, the University of New Hampshire, RARGOM Steering Committee members, session chairs, sponsors, and every presenter and attendee who makes this collaborative community possible.

Welcome, and I look forward to an invigorating day of dialogue and discovery!

Adrian Jordaan, Conference Chair, RARGOM 2026 Annual Science Meeting
University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors and Partners

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Organizational Partners

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

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Conservation Law Foundation
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Maine Coastal Program
MIT Sea Grant
NERACOOS
New Hampshire Sea Grant
NOAA-Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center
SUNY Stony Brook
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

RARGOM 2026 | Program

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]
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]

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]

A Tale of Two Kelps: Habitat Models and Drop Camera Observations Suggest Isles of Shoals Kelp Bed Persistence Depends on Depth and Species
Constance N. Tyler • University of New Hampshire [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]