8-21-2023

Aquaculture Research Institute Newsletter, August 21, 2023

Aquaculture Research Institute

Aquaculture Research Institute

Welcome to the Aquaculture Research Institute's newsletter where we provide updates on ARI's research, education and outreach initiatives.

While the Maine sun took its sweet time warming our shores, the Aquaculture Research Institute heated up with bustling activity.

Our students have completed some impressive projects while our researchers have been hard at work, resulting in some interesting aquatic endeavors. So, don't just skim the surface—keep reading to get the full depth of our summer activities!

ARI Education Highlights

Bidding Adieu to Our Outstanding Summer Fellows and Externs!

AquEOUS Fellowship

The inaugural summer of this new USDA fellowship program welcomed 6 undergraduate students to Orono from UMaine and 4 other U.S. colleges and universities. Over the course of 10 weeks, they approached aquaculture projects with "two-eyed seeing, incorporating local indigenous perspectives. The program took them to some of Maine's most beautiful field settings, including the Center for
Cooperative Aquaculture Research, the Darling Marine Center, and the Hurricane Island Center for Science and

Undergraduate Externship

We had another great group of externs this year! Partnering with groups across Maine, our students had the opportunity to collaborate with the likes of American Unagi, Canopy Farms, Maine Oyster Company, and many more. From the depths of the Fish Nutrition and Nutrigenomics Laboratory to the bustling activity at Bangs Island Mussels, our externs delved into a world of hands-on learning and meaningful collaboration. The summer unfolded with countless successes and stories that we're eager to share. For a deeper dive into their

planning the program for next summer's larger cohort! Learn about two of our fellows' experiences, Xander and Kat, here.

episode, created by one of our summer interns, Jules Connolly.

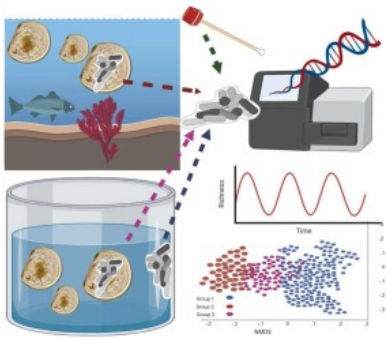
ARI Students Shine at Symposium: Achievements Celebrated in Media!

ARI partnered with Educate Maine for the first Annual Student Symposium for the Advancement of the Blue Economy in Belfast. The event showcased undergraduate discoveries and fostered connections with industry. ARI externs and AquEOUS Fellows presented their work covering topics from invasive tunicate species to examining the potential restocking strategies for the American eel population in Maine. The symposium's importance was echoed by media coverage, emphasizing its role in advancing the aquaculture sector:

- **WABI TV Coverage**
- **Fox Bangor Article**
- **Spectrum Local News Feature**

AquEOUS students at the Student Symposium for the Advancement of the Blue Economy in Belfast (Brett Comsa, Cole Palmer, Jeff Eison, Louis Ricou, and Xander LaComb

ARI Research Highlights

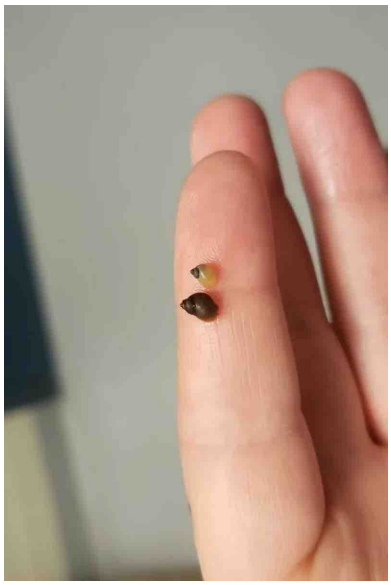


Atlantic deep-sea scallop bacterial communities

Sue Ishaq and her team published their work on Atlantic sea scallop mortality rates in hatcheries. Unraveling a connection between bacteria patterns and the lunar tidal cycle, their findings could help improve hatchery practices. This research is pivotal in ensuring the future of one of North America's most treasured

Biofouling Events and eDNA Insights

Ph.D. Student Chris Noren and his interns Ruth Havener and Gary Moline sought to understand if eDNA can help farmers deal with biofouling. Through experiments involving settlement devices (fuzzy ropes and scallop shells), they addressed the biofouling challenges presented by barnacles and mussels, two sea organisms with distinct implications. Using eDNA, the research aimed to detect larval surges and settlement events, information that could redefine strategies against biofouling and refine mussel farming practices. Stay tuned for a completed study this October!



Kelp Farm Nuisances: A Dive into Snail Infestations

Cara Blaine, a master's student at the University of New England, concluded her research supported by ARI, on the challenges posed by the tiny snail, *Lacuna vincta*, to Maine's kelp farms. Her research delved into the snail's puzzling presence on some kelp farms but not others, despite their close proximity. She explored the use of eDNA as an early detection method for snail infestations, investigating if these pests have a preference for certain kelp types. This work aims to help farmers manage these pests and safeguard their harvests. Learn more here!

Events and Happenings

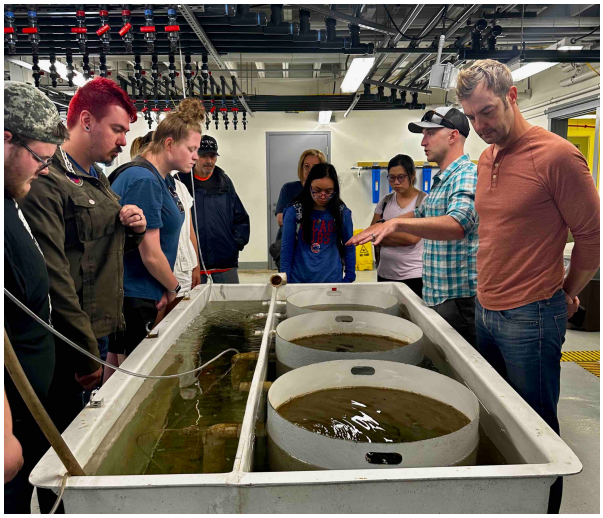
Northeast Aquaculture Conference & Exposition (NACE)

Omni Providence Hotel

1 W Exchange St, Providence, RI 02903

January 10th - 12th, 2024

NACE is set to take place this coming January and the call for abstracts is officially open. Visit the NACE/MAS website for more info on conference sessions and the abstract submission process. The deadline is October 15th. We hope to see you there!



Barton Seaver and a group of culinary students from Central Illinois visit the Darling Marine Center scallop hatchery

Listen to our podcast!

In the latest episode of Salty Talks, Barton Seaver unravels our relationship with seafood, exploring its cultural and culinary significance. He also illuminates Maine's pioneering role in the realm of sustainable aquaculture, emphasizing the importance of community connection and stewardship.

We’re looking for a postdoc interested in recirculating aquaculture systems! You’ll be responsible for developing and running numerical models to simulate hydrodynamic processes in the marine environment.

This position is ideal for those interested in marine engineering, coastal management, and environmental assessment. Click here for details and application.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe