

Knauss Lecture Series

NOAA Central Library Brownbag Lecture Series
Thursday, Sept 18, 2008, noon to 1 PM



Corals / New England MPAs

FINE SCALE GENETIC POPULATION STRUCTURE IN THE THREATENED *ACROPORA PALMATA* AND *ACROPORA CERVICORNIS* IN SOUTHWEST PUERTO RICO



JOSELYD GARCIA, *MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION*

During the 1980s and 1990s, populations of *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* experienced region-wide declines of up to 95% or more in some areas due mostly to disease. Once considered the most important reef builders in the Caribbean, their rapid decline prompted their listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2006. To understand the genetic connectivity between reefs in southwestern Puerto Rico, sequences of the mitochondrial control region were recovered from geographically adjacent and distant populations of *A. palmata* and *A. cervicornis*. Results suggest that there is fine scale population structure and recovery of these reefs might rely on the survival and sexual reproduction of local populations rather than replenishment from distant reefs. In this presentation, I will also discuss my current project and the experiences gained through the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission.

DO CLOSED FISHING AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND QUALIFY AS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?

CHRISTINE PATRICK, OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are often presented as a new addition to the “traditional toolkit” of fisheries management measures used by the U.S. federal government. However, temporary or rotational closed areas have been used in New England since before the creation of the federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the expanded federal power to manage fisheries. Despite this fact, the MPA canon does not acknowledge New England closed fishing areas as MPAs, or even as the theoretical ancestors of MPAs. Is this exclusion justified? What are the differences between New England closed fishing areas and MPAs?



The bi-monthly Knauss Lecture Series features current **2008 Sea Grant Knauss fellows**. Each brownbag consists of two to three short presentations during the one-hour lecture block, highlighting varied Masters or Doctoral research conducted by each fellow along with current projects in their respective offices during the year-long fellowship. All are welcome to attend.