Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Biology Department Seminar

Thursday, March 3, 2016
Redfield Auditorium – 12:00 Noon

Coral reef soundscapes: spatiotemporal variability is linked to reef biota

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Coral reef soundscapes are dynamic, demonstrating amplitude and spectral variability across space and time. To investigate how biological sound production on a given reef relates to abiotic and biotic parameters, an observational study was carried out in 2013 on a range of reefs in the US Virgin Islands National Park. This seminar will present results from acoustic analyses that relate the incursion of anthropogenic noise into the reef soundscapes and the link between diel variability in biological sound production and the species assemblages present on a given reef. It has been suggested in the literature that larval reef animals may use sound to identify and orient towards suitable settlement habitat although the distances over which this acoustic cue may be available have not been well documented. Results from one reef located in Maui, HI, which describe the distances over which reef sound was detectable, will also be presented.