
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
**Special Biology Department
Seminar**



Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Redfield Auditorium – 12:00 Noon

**Integrating multiple techniques to study
pinniped diets: a tale of two species**

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The relationship between pinnipeds and fisheries that compete for limited resources is contentious and has occasionally resulted in culling to preserve fish stocks. Diet investigations are critical to effective management of both the predator and the fisheries. However, most management efforts are based on years- to decades-old studies that analyzed prey remains in scats or stomachs, which are known to have multiple biases that limit interpretation. Thus, utilizing techniques that can replace or complement hard parts analysis is paramount to providing accurate information to stakeholder groups. While biochemical and, more recently, molecular methods have been used to study diets, these techniques also have limitations when used alone. My research focuses on integrating dietary information from multiple techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of pinniped diet. Two cases will be presented of integrating molecular data with those from hard parts and stable isotope analysis.