1999 ANNUAL REPORT AND
STATEMENT OF PROGRAM DIRECTION
RUTGERS/NOAA COOPERATIVE MARINE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

RUTGERS/NOAA CMER PROGRAM
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
INSTITUTE OF MARINE AND COASTAL SCIENCES
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rutgers/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program is now completing its seventh year. Established in 1993 under a Cooperative Agreement between Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the CMER Program combines university and agency expertise to address marine issues affecting the state, region, and nation. Base funds for the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program are provided by NOAA through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). As of December 1999, cooperative projects funded with base funds through the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program totaled $816,600 and supported twenty-one cooperative projects. Thirteen faculty from four University departments, nineteen students from six graduate programs, four post-doctoral fellows, and numerous undergraduate students have participated in the first seven years of base funded projects. Numerous NOAA scientists serve as co-principal investigators or advisors on these projects. Additional funds are contributed to the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program from a variety of sources within and outside the NEFSC to support specific research projects. During the first seven years, the Rutgers/NOAA CMER program received approximately $3.6 million in external funds to support twenty-three projects. Base funds available to the CMER Program in 1999 were used to fund four new projects.

The program direction for base and external funded projects during 1999 included: surfclam larval settlement and recruitment; feeding behavior of larval and juvenile flatfish; role of turbidity in defining fish habitat in shallow estuaries; support of fisheries research experiences for undergraduates; bottom habitat and mapping of the New York Bight using GIS; Bluefish/striped bass ecology and interactions; studies of the effects of multiple stressors and ecological complexity in coastal ecosystems; nutrient removal and recycling processes in continental shelf ecosystems; and field, laboratory, and modeling programs examining eutrophication in coastal ecosystems.
INTRODUCTION

The Rutgers/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program was established in early 1993 under the aegis of a cooperative agreement between Rutgers the State University of New Jersey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Rutgers Program joins cooperative programs established in 1989 at the University of Massachusetts and the University of Rhode Island. The CMER Programs were built upon a long history of cooperation between NOAA and these institutions.

The Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program is intended to foster enhanced interactions between all elements of NOAA and the University; however, special emphasis is placed upon projects of mutual interest to the University and the Northeast Region (NER) of NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The proximity of these institutions offers enhanced opportunities for: (a) joint research involving faculty, students and NOAA personnel; (b) training opportunities for both students and federal employees; and (c) shared use of specialized facilities and equipment. The CMER Program combines university and agency expertise to address marine issues affecting the state, region, and nation.

Graduate research and education are at the core of the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program. Thirteen faculty from four University departments, nineteen students from six graduate programs, four post-doctoral fellows, and a number of undergraduate students participated in the first seven years of base funded projects.

The CMER program is a truly cooperative program with all parties contributing towards the objectives of the program. A coordinating committee, consisting of two University representatives and two NOAA representatives, determines program direction and funding priorities. A NOAA employee (Dr. Sybil Seitzinger) stationed on the Rutgers campus serves as Program Director. The Director has adjunct faculty status, conducts an active research program, and teaches and supervises graduate students. Dr. Seitzinger is a Visiting Professor at Rutgers and a member of the Graduate Oceanography Program faculty.

The Rutgers/NOAA CMER program has received continuous support from the NEFSC. The program has received a total of over $4.4 million during the first seven years from NEFSC and external sources. Base funding provided by the NEFSC has ranged from $98,700 to $153,000 per year for a total of $816,00 during the first seven years (Figure 1). In addition to base funds, the Rutgers/NOAA CMER program has received a total of $3,614,812 in external funding from sources and outside the NEFSC. External funding has ranged from $100,000 to $955,438 per year (Figure 1). Projects supported by base and external funds encompass a variety of topics including habitat studies, socioeconomics, education and training, fishery products, biology and life history and studies of pollutants and their effects. Studies of pollutant effects, biology and life history, and habitat account for over 75% of the projects (Figure 2) and funding (Figure 3) in the Rutgers/NOAA CMER program to date.
FIGURE 1. Base funds and external funds received by the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, 1993-1999
Figure 2. Number of projects in each topic addressed by the Rutgers//NOAA CMER Program, 1993-1999

- Habitats: 9
- Socioeconomics: 4
- Educ. & Training: 4
- Fishery Products: 2
- Ed. & Life History: 10
- Pollutants & Effects: 16
- Biol. & Life History: 38%

Figure 3. Relative expenditures for each topic addressed by the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, 1993-1999

- Pollutants & Effects: 36%
- Habitats: 17%
- Socioeconomics: 6%
- Educ. & Training: 1%
- Fishery Products: 3%
- Ed. & Life History: 38%
NEW PROJECTS SUPPORTED WITH 1999 BASE FUNDING

Base funding for the CMER Program is provided by NOAA through the Northeast Fisheries Sciences Center. Continuing work under multi-year projects receives high priority for funding, given satisfactory performance in the preceding year. This policy helps to insure continuity of support to graduate students. A listing of students supported by the CMER Projects is provided in Table 2.

All projects involve a high degree of cooperation among University and NOAA personnel. Three of the four base funded projects in 1999 have NOAA employees as advisor or co-principal investigators (Table 1). A brief description of projects supported with 1999 base funds follows.

99-05 Effects of bottom roughness on surf clam (Spisula solidissima) larval settlement and recruitment (Judith P. Grassle and Shannon G. Newby, IMCS, Rutgers University)
This two-year project will examine factors affecting settlement of surf clam larvae. Laboratory studies will be conducted in the racetrack flume at Rutgers. After characterizing the flow fields over ripple beds and shell-hash in the flume, settlement patterns of surfclam larvae will be determined as a function of bottom roughness parameters. The results of these studies will then be compared to field measurements conducted at the LEO-15 site on the continental shelf off Tuckerton, NJ.

99-06 Fish movements in the dynamic ecoscape of a shallow flood dominated estuary (Robert J. Chant, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University and Allan Stoner, The James J. Howard Laboratory, NMFS)
This two-year project will examine aspects of the changing temporal and spatial structure of essential fish habitat by studying the relationships between the dynamic physical environment and movements by fishes in the Navesink River estuary. Turbidity in the estuary exhibits strong temporal (and spatial) patterns due to tidal circulation. The high turbidity areas are hypothesized to serve as a refuge for juvenile winter flounder and blue crabs from their predators. The approach combines time series measurements (tidal time scales) of turbidity, particle size distribution, temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and fish distribution (biotelemetry).
Ontogenetic diet shifts of larval and juvenile flatfish: Validating the use of stable-isotope ratios to track changes in feeding behavior (Sam C. Wainright, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University and Christopher Chambers, The James J. Howard Laboratory, NMFS)

This one year study will examine two critical periods in fish early life history: the transition from dependence on a maternal source of nutrition to exogenous sources of nutrition, and the transition from zooplanktivory to piscivory. Laboratory studies will be conducted at the Howard Lab. In the first set of studies, the isotopic signature (N and C) of winter flounder eggs will be determined, as will the isotopically signature of exogenous prey (rotifers). These will be followed throughout the winter flounder yolk-sac stage and through metamorphosis and settlement. Summer flounder studies will be used to examine the dietary transition that occurs later in the early-life history of fish, namely the shift from zooplanktivory to piscivory, again using isotopically distinct prey (zooplankton). The effect of temperature on the time transitions in both of these life-history stages will be examined.

CMER Research Experiences for Undergraduates (Michael P. DeLuca, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers Univ.)

This project will fund two summer undergraduate interns in 2000. The interns will be involved in research projects at one of the NEFSC laboratories.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED WITH 1999 EXTRAMURAL FUNDING

In addition to the base funds provided by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, funds were contributed from a variety of sources within and outside the NEFSC to Rutgers University for the following projects (Table 1). These projects were approved for inclusion in the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program by the Coordinating Committee.

Bluefish/Striped Bass Interactions in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (Michael DeLuca, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

Recently, Congress expressed concern with the decline in abundance of bluefish stocks along the Atlantic coast. This decline has been attributed to a variety of factors ranging from competition with other species to dwindling forage species and unusual migratory pathways. Rutgers University is administering a collaborative effort with NMFS scientists to address concerns with the status of bluefish stocks. This project is an extension of 97-Ex1.
99-Ex2 Bottom Habitat Classification and Mapping of the New York Bight (Richard G. Lathrop, Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

The fishery resources of coastal marine habitats are among the most diverse and economically valuable along the East Coast. The diversity, quality, and extent of coastal marine habitats are important determinants of distribution, abundance and diversity of fishery resources. This project will develop and test strategies for remotely mapping the benthic habitats of commercial fish species and investigate the influence of sea floor geology and sea floor disturbance on the distribution, abundance and diversity of fishery resources. Recent high resolution geologic mapping of the sea floor of the New York Bight region provides a new, detailed regional framework for defining sea floor habitats.

98-Ex4 Composition and Bioavailability of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen in Atmospheric Deposition (S. Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ and Monica Mazurek, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

Humans have dramatically altered the Earth's nitrogen (N) cycle by doubling the natural rate of N-fixation and causing atmospheric N deposition rates to increase by three to more than ten fold compared to pre-industrial times. Atmospheric deposition is a major source of nitrogen to many ecosystems: up to 70% of the N inputs to estuarine and coastal marine systems are attributed to atmospheric sources. Marked changes in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are occurring as a result of increased nitrogen (N) deposition from anthropogenic sources. Currently, approximately 80% of the atmospherically deposited N is anthropogenic. To date, most studies of the magnitude, sources and effects of atmospherically deposited N have only considered inorganic N. However, a considerable portion (20 to 85%) of N in rainwater is in the form of organic-N, and almost nothing is known of the chemical composition, sources or ecosystem effects of the bulk of that organic-N. The objectives of this three-year study are to: 1) characterize the chemical composition of dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) in atmospheric deposition in a relatively perturbed site in the Northeastern U.S.; 2) determine how much of the total DON in rainwater is biologically available to coastal plankton communities; and 3) characterize the chemical composition of the DON compound classes that are bio-available and thus contributing to ecological changes in receiving ecosystems. Funding from NSF.
97-Ex4 Estuarine Eutrophication: Seasonal Cycle of the Contribution of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen from Non-Point and Point Sources (Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Monica A. Mazurek, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University; Robert W. Sanders, Temple University, Department of Biology Philadelphia, PA)

This project is evaluating the seasonal differences in the contribution to estuarine eutrophication of dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) from non-point and point sources. DON is a major source of pollutant related N to coastal waters. However, the biological availability of DON in various non-point and point sources, and thus its contribution to eutrophication has received little attention. Traditionally, DON has been considered to be refractory. This project is a continuation of CMER 95-Ex1 in which summer studies of the biological availability of dissolved organic nitrogen in specific non-point and point sources of pollution to estuarine ecosystems were studied. In the current study, the seasonal differences in the bioavailability of DON from various pollutant sources are being examined. Sources included in the study are urban storm water runoff, agricultural runoff, as well as natural sources from forested watersheds. The results of these studies will be made available to state and regional managers for use in the development of nutrient reduction plans and eutrophication models. Funding by NOAA, New Jersey Sea Grant.

95-Ex3 The Importance of Understanding Ecological Complexity to Predicting Effects of Multiple Stressors on Coastal Systems (Denise Breitburg, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Benedict Estuarine Research Laboratory; Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; plus 15 other Principal Investigators from 7 Institutions)

In order to understand the cumulative effects of numerous stressors on coastal ecosystems, the complexity of such systems must be recognized and dealt with. In this six-year study complexity is addressed by studying an estuarine system at multiple levels of organization. The experimental approach includes: 1) a multilevel large-scale experimental study of the effects of stressors on ecological processes within the estuary, 2) an examination of the relationships between land-use patterns, geology and the watershed loadings of stressors, 3) modeling of the ecological effects of stressors from the individual through ecosystem level, including spatially explicit fisheries models, and 4) an economic evaluation of management practices. The principal classes of stressors that are being examine include inorganic toxics and high nutrient inputs. S. Seitzinger's portion of the project focuses on ecosystem level responses (benthic processes, whole system primary production, respiration and net ecosystem metabolism). Funding by NOAA Coastal Ocean Program.
ONGOING PROJECTS SUPPORTED WITH 1998 EXTRAMURAL FUNDING

98-Ex1 Costs of Surf Clamming and Ocean Quohogging (Bonnie McCay, Department of Human Ecology - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
This project is an extension of 96-Ex2 on the costs and earning of the "for hire" charter and party boat fisheries of Maine, New Jersey, and New York. The current project moves from the charter and party boats to the boats engaged in catching surfclams and ocean quahogs (SCOQ), most of which come primarily from Mid-Atlantic ports. The economic analyses of this project will contribute to assessing the extent to which the SCOQ ITQ fishery management regime addresses National Standards 4 (no discrimination between residents of different States) and 8 (importance of fishery resources to fishing communities) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act. Funding from NMFS NEFSC.

98-Ex5 An Initiative to Gain a Regional Perspective on Coastal Eutrophication (Sybil P. Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ and Tracy N. Wiegner, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
The primary objective of this 1 year development project is to strengthen the relationship among Sea Grant funded research teams from New York to Georgia working on issues surrounding coastal eutrophication. The project will bring together Sea Grant funded researchers from New Jersey (Dr. Sybil Seitzinger), Maryland (Dr. Patricia Gilbert), Georgia (Dr. Deborah Bronk), and New York (Dr. Julie LaRoche) to begin addressing the contribution of organic nitrogen to coastal eutrophication on a regional scale. Specifically, the team will begin collecting information on the quantity, quality, and molecular weight size distribution of the organic molecules from a variety of rivers throughout the east coast of the United States. Results from this development project will be made available to a wide audience through a peer-reviewed journal article, an article for the mass media highlighting the regional issues, and through our DON (dissolved organic nitrogen) website. Funding from NJ Sea Grant Development Fund.

As part of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, a synthesis of existing information on pollution inputs, land and bay use changes, and human activities in the Barnegat Bay watershed region will be conducted. This is a joint effort between Rutgers University and the USGS. Funding from the Barnegat Bay NEP.
**CMER-SPONSORED PRESENTATIONS (Base Funding 1993-1999):**

Able, K. and R. Rowe. 1999. Essential Fish Habitat for Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*): Comparison of the Role of Ocean Beaches and Estuarine Habitats. IMCS/NMFS Bluefish Project Symposium, Mystic, CT, November. (CMER Project # 97-Ex1)


Chant, R.J. 1997. Low frequency circulation in a multiple inlet/bay system. The Gordon Conference, June 8-12, Colby-Sayer College. (CMER Project #96-08)


Chant, R.J. and A. Stoner. 1998. Particle trapping in a stratified flood dominated estuary. Mid-Atlantic Bight Physical Oceanography and Meteorological meeting (MABPOM), St. Michaels, MD, October. (CMER Project #97-03)

Chant, R.J. 1998. Particle trapping in a stratified flood dominated estuary. IMCS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, December. (CMER Project #97-03)


Cook, M. and C. Chambers. 1998. Temperature effects on age, size, and condition at hatching in windowpane, Scophthalmus aquosus. (CMER Project #97-08)
Cooper, K.R. and R.P. Brown. 1995. Toxic effects of 2, 3, 7, 8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD) and related compounds (PCDD/PCDF) on aquatic invertebrate species and specific studies on the soft-shell clam, (*Mya arenaria*). DIOXIN '95 Edmonton, Canada. (CMER Project # 93-08)


Houde, E. and D. Secor.  1999.  Comparison of Habitat Use by Juvenile Bluefish Between Chesapeake Sub-Estuaries and Maryland's Coastal Bays.  IMCS/NMFS Bluefish Project Symposium, Mystic, CT, November.  (CMER Project # 97-Ex1)


Liu, H. and K.R. Cooper.  1995.  DNA adduct formation of 7, 12-Dimethylbenz (a) anthracene in the embryo of the Japanese medaka (Oryzias latipes).  Second SETAC World Congress, Vancouver, British Columbia.  (CMER Project # 93-08)

Longo, S.  1995.  Society of Toxicology, Baltimore, MD.  (CMER Project # 93-08)

Neuman, M.J. and K.W. Able.  1994.  Spatial and temporal patterns of abundance of larval and juvenile windowpane flounder, (Scophthalmus aquosus), in an estuarine/inner continental shelf system.  NOAA/NMFS Flatfish Biology Workshop in Mystic, CT.  (CMER Project # 93-01)


Oliveri, C.  1994.  DNF-Adduct studies in Fundulus heteroclitus from New Jersey coastal waters.  Society of Environmental Toxicologists and Chemists, Denver, CO.  (CMER Project # 93-08)

Oliveri, C.  1995.  Toxicity of 2, 3, 7, 8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin to embryos of the fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas).  JGPT Student Symposium, Rutgers University.  (CMER Project # 93-08)

Oliveri, C. and K.R. Cooper.  1995.  Comparative toxicity in developmental stages of fish from 2, 3, 7,
8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. DIOXIN '95. Edmonton, Canada. (CMER Project # 93-08)


Olivieri, C. 1996. Toxicity of 2, 3, 7, 8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) in embryos and larvae of the fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas). Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology Fermentation Seminar Series, Rutgers University. (CMER Project # 93-08)


Weissberger, E.J. and Judith P. Grassle. 1996. Predator/Prey relationships at the LEO-15 site: the effects on surfclam recruitment. Sixth Science Symposium of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Falmouth, MA. (CMER Project # 93-05)


**CMER-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS (Base Funding 1993-1999):**


Kroeze, C. and S.P. Seitzinger. 1998. The impact of land use on N$_2$O emissions from watershed draining into the Northeastern Atlantic and European Seas. Environmental Pollution 102(S1): 149-158.


Price, M.K., P.J. Parks, and J.E. Kirkley. Sustaining the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: Viability in a


**CMER-SPONSORED THESES & DISSERTATIONS (Base Funding 1993-1999):**


Chen, C.M. 1994. Evaluation of 2,3,7,8-TCDD, 1,2,3,7,8-TCDD and 2,3,7,8-TCDF in Japanese Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) using toxicity and enzyme induction as endpoints. Toxicology, Ph.D. Dissertation. (CMER Project #93-08)


Liu, H. 1995. DNA adduct formation of 7, 12-Dimethylbenz (a) anthracene in the embryo of the Japanese medaka (*Oryzias latipes*). Environmental Science, M.S Thesis. (CMER Project # 93-08)

Longo, S. 1995. Effects of methyl tert-butyl ether and naphthalene on the embryo of the Japanese medaka (*Oryzias Latipes*). Toxicology, M.S. Thesis. (CMER Project #93-08)


Olivieri, C. 1996. Toxicity of 2-3-7-8 TCDD in embryos and larvae of the fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas, rafinesque*). Environmental Sciences, Ph.D. Dissertation. (CMER Project # 93-08)


Schnitz, A. 1997. Transfer of benzo(a)pyrene from two invertebrate prey species to the winter flounder, *Pleuronectes americanus*. Environmental Sciences, Ph.D. Dissertation. (CMER Project # 94-03)


**ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION OF NOAA OR RUTGERS SCIENTISTS IN SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS, AND JOINT USE OF NOAA OR RUTGERS FACILITIES:**

Dr. J.P. Grassle (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) participated in the 19th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC), held at the NEFSC in Woods Hole in September 1994.

Dr. T.-C. Lee (Department of Food Science) participated in the NOAA sponsored workshop on Future Emphasis for Research on Atlantic Mackerel held in December 1994.

Dr. L. Kerkhof (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Developing a specific growth rate assay for a marine bacterium at the James J. Howard Laboratory in November 1994.

Dr. C. Curran (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Daily Rhythms, Hibernation and Starvation in the Cunner, *Tautogolabrus adspersus*, at the James J. Howard Laboratory 1995.

Dr. K. Keating (Cook College) presented a seminar entitled Natural Products of Phytoplankton: Allelochemicals, Antibiotics (Biotoxins), Probiotics, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1995.
Mr. Kim (Environmental Science) spent 4 months during 1995 working with NOAA researchers at the James J. Howard Laboratory learning extraction techniques for lobster tissues.

Dr. C. Reimers (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) used Howard Laboratory facilities to process samples during and after NOAA/NURP funded cruises in the New York Bight apex during the summer of 1995. Howard Laboratory scientists, Andrew Draxler and co-workers, participated in those cruises and made their laboratory space available for sample processing.

Dr. P. Rona (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Drilling of a Sea Floor Hydrothermal Field, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1995.

Dr. K. Smith (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Processes Regulating Habitat Use by Salt Marsh Nekton in a Southern New Jersey Estuary, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1995.

Dr. C. Chambers (NEFSC, James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Highlands, NJ) presented a seminar entitled Early life history variation and recruitment processes in marine fishes, at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, 1996.

Dr. J.T. Duffy (Rutgers University Marine Field Station) presented a seminar entitled Factors affecting the vital rates of the two sciaenids, the weakfish and the red drum: experiments in field enclosures, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1996.

Dr. S. Glenn (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Observations and models of coastal upwelling off New Jersey, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1996.

Dr. R. Tucker (Ecopolicy Center, Rutgers University) presented a seminar entitled Policy Issues Related to Dioxin, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1996.

Mr. D. Witting (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) presented a seminar entitled Ichthyoplankton community stability: Analysis of a 6-year data set from southern New Jersey, at the James J. Howard Laboratory, 1996.

Dr. Anthony Paulson (James J. Howard Marine Science Laboratory, Northeast Fisheries Science Center) presented a seminar entitled Distributions and modeling of trace metals in Puget Sound, at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, 1997.

Dr. C. Reimers (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) used Howard Laboratory facilities to process samples during and after NOAA/NURP funded cruises in the New York Bight apex during the summer of 1997.

Dr. Al Stoner (James J. Howard Marine Science Laboratory, Northeast Fisheries Science Center) presented a seminar entitled The need for multidisciplinary approach to fisheries biology: An example from Bahamian seagrass meadow, at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, 1997.
Dr. Sam C. Wainright (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) used the R/V Gloria Michelle for a field trip for the Biological Oceanography class (Spring 1996 and Spring 1997).

The Rutgers/NOAA CMER van was used by a number of Rutgers students and faculty for CMER-related projects (1994-1999).

Eric Simms (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) organized the Bluefish Symposium at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission annual meeting in Mystic, CT, November 3, 1999.

Dr. Judith P. Grassle (Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) participated in the SAW-27/SARC held at the NEFSC in Woods Hole in June, 1998.

E.J. Weissberger and J.P. Grassle provided reports on Essential Fish Habitat for three bivalve species: *Arctica islandica*, *Placopecten magellanicus*, and *Spisula solidissima*. These reports were incorporated into the EHF reports developed by the NMFS/NEFC/James J. Howard Laboratory EHF reports, 1998.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE RUTGERS/NOAA CMER PROGRAM (Base Funding 1993-1999)**

Requests for reprints or information should be directed to the principal investigators.

**98-03 Selective Feeding in Post-Larval Winter Flounder** (Oscar Schofield and Pat Shaheen, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers Univ. and Alan Stoner, NOAA/NMFS, J.J. Howard Lab)

This one-year project addresses the pelagic food resources of post-larval winter flounder. Recent studies have indicated that the relative composition of prey species in the guts of recently settled winter flounder differ from the relative abundance of the prey species (copepods) in the environment, indicating selective feeding. The proposed study had two major components: 1) a spring field study in which the copepod community and post-larval winter flounder gut contents were concurrently characterized and 2) a laboratory feeding study in which the relative abundance of *Acartia* and *Eurytemora* were experimentally manipulated.

**98-04 Sustaining the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: Simulating Policy and Management Options** (Peter J. Parks/Michael K. Price, Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Rutgers University)

This is for the second year of funding to expand CMER project 97-06 initiated last year. The overall objective of the first year was to develop an analytical framework to help quantify the necessary economic conditions for a sustainable Northeastern sea scallop fishery. The research proposed in the renewal proposal will use this framework to simulate changes in economic, biological or policy conditions, and expand the scope to potentially include the Northeastern scallop fishery.
Recent observations in the Navesink/Sandy Hook estuary indicate that the distribution of winter flounder and blue crabs appear to be associated with specific locations within the tidal flow field. Enhanced abundance of these species are found across a broad region of the estuary where several different habitat types occur. Preliminary observations indicate that these areas are regions of particulate organic material accumulation. This project investigated the physical properties (Glenn, Chant) influencing the distribution of fishery resource species (Stoner) in the Navesink by combining a description of the hydrodynamic properties of suspended particles within the estuary, the behavior of the organisms, and a detailed understanding of circulation.

97-04 Environmental Influences on Metamorphosis in Summer Flounder (Paralichthys dentatus) (Kenneth W. Able, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers Univ.; Chris Chambers, NOAA/NMFS - Howard Lab)
This project addresses the effect of the physiological and ecological challenges imposed during flatfish metamorphosis on recruitment success in summer flounder populations in the northern Middle Atlantic Bight. The hypothesis being tested is that stage duration, which is influenced by temperature, influences the rate of mortality through prolonged exposure to predators during metamorphosis and settlement of summer flounder. Laboratory experiments will manipulate stage duration by controlling temperature, and the resultant effects on survival during late larvae and metamorph stages will be determined, in the presence and absence of predation. The information from this project will clarify the role of winter temperatures on survival and subsequent recruitment of summer flounder to estuaries, which are in the northern part of their range in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.

An analytical framework was developed to help quantify the necessary economic conditions for a sustainable Northeastern sea scallop fishery. The model can be used to: determine the relationship between days-at-sea (DAS) and average catch size; measure the sensitivity of operational costs to vessel size and capital equipment size; and provide quantitative recommendations for fishermen and regulators that may help sustain the fishery.
97-07 Physical Transport of Bivalve Larvae through a Tidal Inlet: Molecular Probe Applications
(Judith P. Grassle, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers Univ.)
The flux of commercially important bivalve larvae (*Mercenaria* or *Mya*) through the tidal inlet of the mouth of Great Bay was studied using species-specific molecular probes that allow species level identification of transported larvae. This project was conducted in collaboration with an ongoing CMER project (Haidvogel and Chant, # 96-08) in which water exchange between Great Bay/Little Egg Harbor and the coastal ocean is being investigated. Molecular probe techniques developed in this study could be applied to a range of habitats and to other commercially important bivalves.

96-05 Isotopic Turnover Rate and Marginal Growth Increment Validation for Young-of-the-Year Winter Flounder (Sam Wainright, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Beth Phelan, NOAA/NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center - James J. Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ)
A concurrent NOAA/Coastal Ocean Program project examined habitat utilization and trophic linkages between juvenile fish and estuarine habitats in three Northeastern estuaries. A significant component of the study involved confining juvenile winter flounder in cages within different estuarine habitats, yielding habitat-specific growth rates. To establish trophic linkages, stable isotope ratios of tissue samples of the caged fish were measured and compared with stable isotope ratios of prey and vegetation. However, interpretation of the isotopic data requires knowledge of the time required for a fish to acquire the isotopic "label" of its habitat, i.e., turnover time. This study examined the isotopic turnover time for winter flounder.

96-08 Development of a Hydrodynamic/Fishery Recruitment Model of Great Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuarine System (Dale Haidvogel and Robert Chant, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
A three-dimensional numerical model with the immediate objective of assessing linkages between hydrodynamics and an identified settlement habitat of winter flounder *Pseudopleuronectes americanus* in the Great Bay-Little Egg Harbor estuarine system was developed. Efforts focus on the interaction between larval behavior, secondary flows and dispersion in the vicinity of the settlement habitat. The work complemented an ongoing multi-year study of *P. Americanus* that involved scientists at both Rutgers (Ken Able, Sam Wainright) and the National Marine Fisheries (Ann Studholme, Anthony Calabrese) which was funded by NOAA/COP. Results from this work will aid in both the interpretation of sparse biological measurements and in the design of future field campaigns in the Great Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuarine system. Furthermore, this work is the first step in developing a comprehensive model of fish recruitment processes in shallow estuarine systems.
96-11, 97-08 and 98-05 CMER Research Experiences for Undergraduates (Michael De Luca, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
Funding for this project supported two summer undergraduate interns each year. The interns were involved in research projects at the James J. Howard Laboratory. Each student undertook a research project, the results of which were presented in a written report and in an oral presentation at both the NEFSC Lab and at Rutgers.

95-05 Assimilation of Metals by Phytoplankton in the Mid-Atlantic Bight: Controls on Introduction to the Coastal Marine Food Web (Robert Sherrell, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Vincent Zdanowicz, NEFSC - James J. Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ)
Uptake of metals by phytoplankton is an important pathway for the introduction of potentially toxic elements into the marine food web. Environmental and physiological controls on the assimilation of dissolved metals, both nutrient and nonessential, have only recently begun to be understood in culture studies. This project combined remote sensing-targeted sampling, in situ size-fractionating filtration methods, and state-of-the-art ultra-trace analyses using recent developments of Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICPMS) to examine assimilation of metals by phytoplankton in the Mid-Atlantic Bight. This project used facilities and analytical equipment at the Howard Laboratory, and was integrated with a UMASS CMER funded project.

94-03 Transfer of Xenobiotic Contaminants from Prey to Predator (Gary Taghon, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
The potential transfer of oil and oil components (e.g., polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - PAHs) through trophic levels and the effect this may have on the structure of the ecosystem were investigated. Experiments were conducted of in vivo metabolism and the biological fate and bio-transfer of a carcinogenic PAH in organisms inhabiting marine sediments (softshell clam, Mya arenaria and the sand worm, Neanthes virens) and in a predator (winter flounder, Pleuronectes americanus) on those organisms.

93-01 Life History and Ecology of the Windowpane Flounder (Scophthalmus aquosus) in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (Kenneth Able, Marine Field Station, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, Tuckerton, NJ; Wallace Morse, NEFSC, Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ)
The aim of this project was to better understand the life history and ecology of windowpane flounder in order to better manage this resource and contribute to our understanding of flatfishes in the northeastern U.S. The specific objectives of the project were to: 1) determine the patterns of metamorphosis and settlement during the first year of life in the Great Bay/Little Egg Harbor estuarine system; 2) identify the nursery habitats and patterns of distribution through space and time; and 3) compare life history characteristics in Mid-Atlantic Bight populations with those on Georges Bank.
93-05 Studies on Surf Clam (Spisula solidissima) Recruitment (Judith Grassle, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
This research effort focused on the causes of year-to-year variation in settlement and recruitment success in the surf clam. The temporal and spatial settlement patterns, size distributions, and growth rates of surfclams and their predators were investigated. The death assemblage was used to examine size-preference in predators. The relationship between surfclams and two of their major predators: the moon snail Euspira heros and the starfish Asterias forbesi, were examined with laboratory experiments. Predation rates, size selectivity, interactions between the two predators, and the possible role of dead surfclam valves as a refuge from predation were examined.

93-06 Identification of Major Chemical Compounds Relating to Quality Determination of Mackerel and Other Fatty Fish by a GC/MS Method; Development of a Novel Rapid and Nondestructive NIR Method to Determine these Compounds and Their Application to Fish Quality Assessment and Processing Improvement (Tung-Ching Lee, Department of Food Science, the Fisheries and Aquaculture TEX Center and the Center for Advanced Food Technology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Judith Krzynowek, NMFS, Gloucester Laboratory, MA)
Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) and near infrared (NIR) technology, and sensory panel evaluation were used to identify major chemical compounds relating to quality deterioration of mackerel and other fatty fish. Novel rapid and nondestructive methods based on NIR technology were developed to determine these compounds as indicators of quality.

93-08 Evaluation of Toxicity of Dioxins, Furans, and PCBs on Commercially Important Species Inhabiting and Migrating Through the Newark Bay Systems (Keith Cooper, Claudia Olivieri, and Sharon Longo, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and Joint Program in Toxicology, Environmental Occupational Health Sciences Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Sharon McLean, NMFS, Narragansett Laboratory, RI; Anne Studholme NEFSC, Howard Laboratory, NJ)
This effort addressed the hypothesis that the chlorinated pollutants specifically dioxins, furans, PCBs and PAHs present in the Newark/Raritan Bay Estuary are of sufficient levels to impact the fisheries of these areas. This research combined both field and laboratory studies to examine causal relationships between body burdens of these compounds and the impact on the fishery. Histological lesions, selected biomarkers and reproductive success were evaluated in relation to contaminant levels in important fish species.
COMPLETED PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE RUTGERS/NOAA CMER PROGRAM (External Funding 1993-1999)

98-Ex3 Sensors for Direct Observation for use in Stock Assessment (W. Wakefield, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; W. Overholtz and W. Gabriel, NOAA/NMFS, Woods Hole, MA)
This project will initiate development and application of sensors and capabilities of direct observation (e.g., video imaging systems) for use in conjunction with various gears used in stock assessment (acoustics, trawls, and dredges). Specifically it will include a preliminary effort for a self-contained, high-resolution time-lapse video camera system.
This system does not require armored conducting wire, is rather simple and flexible and can be used in a variety of applications to evaluate gear and record direct observations of fish behavior and fish habitat. Many of the main components (e.g., video cameras and lights) may also be used as elements in other future video systems. Funding from NEFSC.

97-Ex1 Bluefish/Striped Bass Interactions in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (Michael DeLuca, Frederick Grassle and Kenneth Able, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program)
Recently, Congress expressed concern with the decline in abundance of bluefish stocks along the Atlantic coast. This decline has been attributed to a variety of factors ranging from competition with other species to dwindling forage species and unusual migratory pathways. Rutgers University is administering a collaborative effort with NMFS scientists to address concerns with the status of bluefish stocks. A workshop was held to prioritize research areas, a call for proposals was issued, and four research projects were funded that address the decline of Atlantic bluefish stocks ("Empirical Modeling of Bluefish Population Fluctuations: Interactions among Bluefish, Striped Bass and Forage Species", Anne Richards, University of Maryland System; "Recruitment of Young-of-the Year Bluefish: Patterns, Pulses and Processes in the Chesapeake Bay Estuarine System", Ed Houde, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; "Influence of Coastal Oceanography on Habitat Use and Recruitment Success of Bluefish (Pomatomus saltrix) in New Jersey", Ken Able, Rutgers University Marine Field Station; "Recruitment of Spring- and Summer-Spawned Bluefish: Genetic Structure, Cohort Identification, and Relative Contribution to the Adult Stock", David Conover, Florida State University)
97-Ex2 Essential Fish Habitat (Judith P. Grassle and Waldo W. Wakefield, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences; Richard G. Lathrop, Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Jeffrey Cross and Anne Studholme, NOAA/NMFS - Howard Lab)

The recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (also known as the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA)) requires that essential fish habitat (EFH) be identified and described for each species or species assemblage covered by a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). All Fishery Management Councils are required to submit FMP amendments to implement EFH by October 1998. Responsibility for supporting the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) rests with the Northeast Regional Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The Howard Laboratory at Sandy Hook prepared information on the life history and habitat requirements for species managed by the NEFMC and the MAFMC; the information will be used by the Council/NMFS EFH Teams to write the EFH amendments. The current study was conducted cooperatively between Rutgers University and the Howard Laboratory to develop EFH reports for the following species: Atlantic sea scallop, surf clam, ocean quahog, squid, mackerel, and butterfish. Funding by NEFSC.

97-Ex3 Denitrification and Microbial Dynamics in Continental Shelf Sediments: An Annual Study (Sybil P. Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program and Lee Kerkhof, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

Nearly 50% of the global marine primary production occurs in continental margin waters, supporting a rich marine fisheries. Nitrogen is an important element controlling this primary production. Processes that affect the availability of nitrogen will likely have a direct impact on the primary productivity within the continental shelf ecosystem, and ultimately influence the associated marine fisheries. Denitrification in continental shelf sediments is important because it can decrease the amount of nitrogen for phytoplankton in the overlying waters. According to current estimates, up to 50% of the total nitrogen input to the oceans is removed from the system through denitrification in continental shelf sediments. However, few direct measurements of denitrification in shelf sediments exist. In the current study methods developed with CMER 96-Ex1 will be used to: 1) assess seasonal variability in denitrification rates at 3 sites on the continental shelf at LEO-15; 2) assess microbial population dynamics on a seasonal basis at the same 3 sites; and 3) investigate physical/chemical and biological mechanisms/factors controlling denitrification and microbial population dynamics in the continental shelf. The results of this study will provide critical information needed for local and ocean scale N models, global models of nitrous oxide (N$_2$O), and the overall contribution of denitrification in continental shelf sediments as a global marine N sink. Funding from NOAA/Mid-Atlantic Bight, National Undersea Research Program.
Nearly 50% of the global marine primary production occurs in continental margin waters, supporting a rich marine fisheries. Nitrogen is an important element controlling this primary production. Processes that affect the availability of nitrogen will likely have a direct impact on the primary productivity within the continental shelf ecosystem, and ultimately influence the associated marine fisheries. Denitrification in continental shelf sediments is important because it can decrease the amount of nitrogen for phytoplankton in the overlying waters. According to current estimates, up to 50% of the total nitrogen input to the oceans is removed through denitrification in continental shelf sediments. However, few direct measurements of denitrification in shelf sediments exist. In the current study, a new, high sensitivity method for measuring \textit{in situ} rates of denitrification in continental shelf sediments was developed and the first direct denitrification measurements in Atlantic shelf sediments were made. The preliminary measurements strongly support the original hypothesis that denitrification in shelf sediments is a major removal term for N on both a local, as well as global, scale. In addition, molecular techniques (PCR/probing of nitrous oxide reductase genes) to examine the dynamics of bacterial populations capable of denitrification were developed. The results of this study provided information necessary to begin evaluation of the contribution of denitrification as a global marine N sink. Funding from NOAA/Mid-Atlantic Bight, National Undersea Research Program.

This project evaluated the contribution of dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) from non-point and point sources to estuarine eutrophication during summer. DON is a major source of pollutant related N to coastal waters. However, the biological availability of DON in various non-point and point sources, and thus its contribution to eutrophication, was not known. Traditionally, DON has been considered to be refractory. This project is a continuation of CMER 94-Ex1 in which DON in major rivers was investigated. In this project summer experiments were conducted to examine the biological availability of dissolved organic nitrogen in urban storm water runoff, agricultural runoff, as well as natural sources from forested watersheds. A substantial portion of the DON from all sources was found to be biologically available to estuarine organisms and resulted in stimulation of bacterial and phytoplankton production. The results have important implications for state and regional management plans and eutrophication models. Funding by NOAA, New Jersey Sea Grant.
95-Ex2 The Bioavailability of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen at the Ocean Boundary of Chesapeake Bay (Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Robert DeKorsey, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Robert W. Sanders, Academy of Natural Sciences, Division of Environmental Research, Philadelphia, PA)
Approximately 40% of the total tracked nitrogen loading to the Chesapeake Bay enters from ocean boundary bottom water, and approximately 90% of the N in ocean boundary bottom water is in the form of organic nitrogen. However, the biological availability of organic N in ocean boundary bottom water was not known; thus, its contribution to eutrophication was unknown. Traditionally, organic N has been considered to be refractory. This study examined the biological availability of organic nitrogen in ocean boundary bottom water and its ultimate contribution to phytoplankton production and eutrophication in the bay. The information was incorporated in eutrophication models of Chesapeake Bay. Funding provided by US Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program.

95-Ex3 Effects of Fisheries Regulation on the Economic Viability of the Charter and Party Boat Fishing Industry in the Northeast Region of the U.S. (Bonnie McCay, Department of Human Ecology - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; S. Steinback, NMFS, Woods Hole, MA)
The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted an economic valuation study of marine recreational anglers in the Northeast region of the U.S. This CMER project was part of a cooperative project among the NEFSC and CMER institutions in the Northeast Region: University of Rhode Island, University of Massachusetts, and Rutgers the State University of New Jersey. Work on the recreational service industry (charter and party boats) is coordinated with work on two other poorly-documented sectors of the Northeast region's fisheries, the "hook" and the small trawler fisheries. The purpose of this cooperative project was to develop a data collection system that will become part of the core statistics collected through NMFS for use by NMFS and the cooperating universities for the assessment of fishery management issues and other fishery economics research needs. Specific objectives included the development of survey instruments to be tested in pilot surveys of the Northeast U.S. hook, small trawler, and recreational party and charter fleets, to compare and statistically validate various survey methods, to design the framework for a possible ongoing cost/earnings data base that will eventually encompass all Northeast fisheries of interest, and to begin building research tools based on these data.
95-Ex4 An Evaluation of Shallow Water Drift Material in the Arthur Kill and Kill van Kull (Kenneth Able and Uwe Kils, Marine Field Station, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, Tuckerton, NJ; A. Studholme, NEFSC, James J. Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ; Gary Taghon, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

Throughout the New York Harbor, the removal of deteriorating piers, bulkheads, pilings, derelict vessels and other debris is the objective of a major drift removal program undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Of special concern are shallow water structures in and around Arthur Kill and Kill van Kull, which are major sources of drift material. While these artificial structures can contribute to habitat degradation, alternatively they may serve to attract migratory and resident fish species, providing essential shelter, a critical factor for highly vulnerable early life history stages. This program evaluated the role that these man-made structures play, particularly as nursery areas of juvenile fishes. Funding by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

94-Ex1 Role of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen in Estuarine Eutrophication (Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Robert W. Sanders, Academy of Natural Sciences, Division of Environmental Research, Philadelphia, PA)

This project was designed to evaluate the contribution to estuarine eutrophication of dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) transported to estuaries by polluted rivers. DON is a major source of pollutant related N to coastal waters. However, the biological availability of DON, and thus its contribution to eutrophication, was not known; traditionally, DON has been considered to be refractory. Inputs of DON from the Hudson and Delaware rivers were quantified and the extent to which the DON from these sources increases algal and microbial production was examined. The results of this study are being used to refine estuarine eutrophication models. Funding by NOAA, New Jersey Sea Grant.

94-Ex2 Inputs and Cycling of Nutrients in NY/NJ Harbor (Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

The role of sediments in nutrient, trace metal, and oxygen cycling throughout the New York/New Jersey Harbor ecosystem was examined. In addition, external inputs of nutrients (both inorganic and organic) from 41 different point sources were quantified. The biological availability of dissolved and particulate organics in those inputs were studied during spring and summer experiments. The results of this study were used in eutrophication models of the New York/New Jersey Harbor ecosystem. Funding by EPA National Estuaries Program in New York/New Jersey Harbor.
94-Ex-3 Mitigation of Nonpoint Pollution by Riparian Forest Buffers in Agricultural Watershed of the Mid-Atlantic Piedmont (Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Denis Newbold, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; Susan Watts, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ)

Buffer strips are used for non-point source nutrient removal, to reduce nutrient runoff from agricultural systems to aquatic ecosystems. Mechanisms responsible for nitrogen and phosphorus retention and removal in riparian buffer strips were examined. The rate of nitrogen removal by denitrification and the overall mass balances of nitrogen and phosphorus were quantified. Factors controlling nutrient removal/retention in the buffer strips were investigated. Both newly planted and mature forested buffer strips were included in this study. Funding by Chesapeake Research Consortium.

93-Ex1 Fish Recruitment in the Northeastern United States: The Role of Estuarine Habitats (Kenneth Able, Sam Wainright, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Anthony Calabrese, NEFSC, Milford Laboratory, Milford, CT; Anne Studholme, NMFS, James J. Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ)

A comprehensive approach was used to identify critical habitats in three northeastern estuaries and to access functional value as nursery areas for young-of-the-year fishes especially winter flounder (Pleuronectes americanus) and tautog (Tautoga onitis). This project was related to two CMER funded projects (93-01; 96-05). Funding by NOAA Coastal Ocean Program, Estuarine Habitat Research Program.
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<td>Mackerel Quality</td>
<td>T.C. Lee^4, J. Krzynowek^5</td>
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<td>95-05</td>
<td>Controls on Introduction of Trace Metals to Coastal Marine Food Web</td>
<td>R. Sherrell^3, V.Zdanowicz^2</td>
<td>$41,046</td>
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<td>95-Ex1</td>
<td>Eutrophication and Dissolved Organic Nitrogen from Non-Point Sources</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger^9, R. Styles^7, R.W. Sanders^10</td>
<td>$81,336</td>
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<td>95-Ex2</td>
<td>Organic Nitrogen Inputs in Chesapeake Bay Ocean Boundary Water</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger^9, R. DeKorssey^3, R. Sanders^10</td>
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<td>95-Ex3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors and Ecological Complexity in Coastal Ecosystems</td>
<td>D. Breitburg^12, S. Seitzinger^9</td>
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<td>95-Ex4</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Habitat Value of Man-made Structures in Urban Estuaries</td>
<td>K. Able^1, U. Kils^1, A.Studholme^2, G. Taghon^3</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>95-05</td>
<td>Controls on Introduction of Trace Metals to Coastal Marine Food Web</td>
<td>R. Sherrell^3, V.Zdanowicz^2</td>
<td>$28,917</td>
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<td>96-05</td>
<td>Isotopic Turnover Rate and Marginal Growth Increment Validation for Young-of-the-Year Winter Flounder</td>
<td>S. Wainright^3, B. Phelan^2</td>
<td>$30,788</td>
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<td>96-08</td>
<td>Development of a Hydrodynamic/Fish Recruitment Model of Great Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuarine System</td>
<td>D. Haidvogel^1, R. Chant^1</td>
<td>$61,606  (2 Years)</td>
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<td>96-11</td>
<td>CMER Research Experiences for Undergraduates</td>
<td>M. De Luca^3</td>
<td>$6,590</td>
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<td>95-Ex1</td>
<td>Eutrophication and Dissolved Organic Nitrogen from Non-Point Sources</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger^9, R. Styles^7, R.W. Sanders^10</td>
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<td>95-Ex3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors and Ecological Complexity in Coastal Ecosystems</td>
<td>D. Breitburg^12, S. Seitzinger^9</td>
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<td>95-Ex4</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Habitat Value of Man-made Structures in Urban Estuaries</td>
<td>K. Able^1, U. Kils^1, A.Studholme^2, G. Taghon^3</td>
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<td>96-Ex1</td>
<td>Denitrification and Microbial Dynamics in Continental Shelf Sediments: Use of in situ Methods</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger^9, L. Kerkhof^6</td>
<td>$69,343</td>
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<td>96-Ex2</td>
<td>Effects of Fisheries Regulation on the Economic Viability of the Charter and Party Boat Fishing Industry in the Northeast Region of the U.S.</td>
<td>B. McCay^13, S.Steinback^14</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td><strong>1997</strong></td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>97-03</td>
<td>Linkages between Circulation and Distribution of Marine Organisms in a Shallow Well Mixed Estuary: An Observational Approach</td>
<td>Scott Glenn², Robert J. Chant³, Al Stoner²</td>
<td>$26,814</td>
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<td>97-04</td>
<td>Environmental Influences on Metamorphosis and Survival in Summer Flounder (Paralichthys dentatus)</td>
<td>Kenneth Able¹, Chris Chambers²</td>
<td>$24,938</td>
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<td>97-06</td>
<td>Sustaining the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: An Economic Analysis of Consolidating Days-At-Sea</td>
<td>Peter Parks¹⁵, Michael Price¹⁵, James Kirkley¹⁶, Steve Edwards¹⁴</td>
<td>$31,527</td>
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<td>97-07</td>
<td>Physical Transport of Bivalve Larvae through a Tidal Inlet: Molecular Probe Applications</td>
<td>Judith Grassle³</td>
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<td>97-08</td>
<td>Research Experiences for Undergraduates - Summer 1998</td>
<td>Michael De Luca³</td>
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<td>95-EX3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors and Ecological Complexity in Coastal Ecosystems</td>
<td>D. Breitburg¹², S. Seitzinger⁹</td>
<td>$44,223</td>
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<td>96-EX2</td>
<td>Effects of Fisheries Regulation on the Economic Viability of the Charter and Party Boat Fishing Industry</td>
<td>Bonnie McCay¹³, Scott Steinback¹⁴</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>97-EX1</td>
<td>Bluefish/Striped Bass Interactions in the Mid-Atlantic Bight</td>
<td>Michael DeLuca³, F. Grasse³, Kenneth Able¹, Sybil Seitzinger⁹</td>
<td>$442,000</td>
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<td>97-EX2</td>
<td>Essential Fish Habitat</td>
<td>Judith P. Grassle³, Waldo Wakefield³, Richard Lathrop¹⁷, Jeff Cross², Anne Studholme²</td>
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<td></td>
<td>97-EX3</td>
<td>Denitrification and Microbial Dynamics in Continental Shelf Sediments: An Annual Study</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger⁹, L. Kerkhof³</td>
<td>$180,366</td>
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<td>97-EX4</td>
<td>Estuarine Eutrophication: Seasonal Cycle of the Contribution of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen from Non-Point and Point Sources</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger⁹, R. Sanders¹⁰</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>97-04</td>
<td>Environmental Influences on Metamorphosis and Survival in Summer Flounder (Paralichthys dentatus)</td>
<td>Kenneth Able¹, Chris Chambers²</td>
<td>$25,942</td>
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<td>98-03</td>
<td>Selective Feeding in Post-Larval Winter Flounder</td>
<td>Oscar Schofield³, Pat Shaheen³</td>
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<td>98-04</td>
<td>Sustaining the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery</td>
<td>Peter Parks¹⁵</td>
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<td>98-05</td>
<td>Research Experiences for Undergraduates</td>
<td>Michael De Luca³</td>
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### Table 1. Projects Supported Through Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program (Base Funding & External Funding 1993-1999): (cont.)

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Project No.</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>95-EX3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors and Ecological Complexity in Coastal Ecosystems</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) D. Breitburg(^{12})</td>
<td>$33,508</td>
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<td>97-EX4</td>
<td>Estuarine Eutrophication: Seasonal Cycle of the Contribution of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) R. Sanders(^{10})</td>
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<td></td>
<td>98-EX1</td>
<td>Costs of Surf Clamming and Ocean Quohogging</td>
<td>Bonnie McCay(^{13})</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<td>98-EX2</td>
<td>Bluefish/Striped Bass Interactions in the Mid-Atlantic Bight</td>
<td>M. De Luca(^3)</td>
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<td>98-EX3</td>
<td>Sensors for Direct Observation for use in Stock Assessment</td>
<td>W. Wakefield(^3) W. Overholtz(^{14}) W. Gabriel(^{14})</td>
<td>$15,791</td>
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<td>98-EX4</td>
<td>Composition and Bioavailability of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen in Atmospheric Deposition</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) M. Mazurek(^3)</td>
<td>$182,639</td>
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<td>98-EX5</td>
<td>An Initiative to Gain a Regional Perspective on Coastal Eutrophication</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) T. Wiegener(^3)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td>98-EX6</td>
<td>Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program Data Synthesis</td>
<td>Sybil Seitzinger(^9) R. Lathrop(^{17}) K.Hunchak-Kariouk(^{18}) R. Nicholson(^{19}) R.E. Hickman(^{19})</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>99-05</td>
<td>Effects of Bottom Roughness on Surf Clam <em>Spisula Solidissima</em> Larval Settlement and Recruitment</td>
<td>Judith P. Grassle(^3) Shannon G. Newby(^3)</td>
<td>$30,612</td>
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<td>99-06</td>
<td>Fish Movements in the Dynamic Ecoscape of a Shallow Flood Dominated Estuary</td>
<td>Robert J. Chant(^3) Al Stoner(^2)</td>
<td>$28,409</td>
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<td>99-08</td>
<td>Use of Stable-Isotope Ratios to Track Changes in Feeding Behavior of Larval and Juvenile Flatfish</td>
<td>Sam Wainright(^3) Keith Bosley(^3) Chris Chambers(^2)</td>
<td>$30,589</td>
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<td>99-10</td>
<td>Research Experiences for Undergraduates</td>
<td>Michael De Luca(^3)</td>
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<td>95-EX3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors and Ecological Complexity in Coastal Ecosystems</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) D. Breitburg(^{12})</td>
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<td>97-EX4</td>
<td>Estuarine Eutrophication: Seasonal Cycle of the Contribution of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9) M. Mazurek(^3)</td>
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<td>Bluefish/Striped Bass Interactions in the Mid-Atlantic Bight</td>
<td>M. De Luca(^3)</td>
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<td>Bottom Habitat Classification and Mapping of the New York Bight</td>
<td>Richard Lathrop(^{17})</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<td>98-EX4</td>
<td>Composition and Bioavailability of Dissolved Organic</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger(^9)</td>
<td>$87,382</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1Rutgers University, Marine Field Station, Tuckerton, NJ
2NMFS, James J. Howard Laboratory, Highlands, NJ
3Rutgers University, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, New Brunswick, NJ
4Rutgers University, Dept. of Food Science, the Fisheries and Aquaculture TEX Center and the Center for Advanced Food Technology, New Brunswick, NJ
5NMFS, Gloucester Laboratory, Gloucester, MA
6Rutgers University, Dept. of Biochemistry and Microbiology and Joint Program in Toxicology, Environmental Occupational Health Sciences Center, Piscataway, NJ
7NEFSC, Narragansett Laboratory, Narragansett, RI
8NMFS, Milford Laboratory, Milford, CT
9Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, New Brunswick, NJ
10Temple University, Department of Biology, Philadelphia, PA (formerly at Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences)
11Rutgers University, Environmental Sciences, Camden, NJ
12Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Benedict Estuarine Research Lab, St. Leonards, MD
13Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology, New Brunswick, NJ
14NMFS, Woods Hole, MA
15Rutgers University, Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, New Brunswick, NJ
16College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, School of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA
17Rutgers University, Ecology, Evolution & Natural Resources, New Brunswick, NJ
18USGS, Water Resources Division, Trenton, NJ
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<tr>
<th>Project No.</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Faculty (Department)</th>
<th>Student/Degree Sought/Program</th>
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<td>95-Ex3</td>
<td>Multiple Stressors</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger²</td>
<td>T. Wiegner/Ph.D, A. Laursen/Post-doc</td>
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<td>Hydrodynamic/Fish Recruitment Model</td>
<td>D. Haidvogel¹</td>
<td>Robert Chant/Post-doc</td>
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<td>97-03</td>
<td>Circulation and Distribution of Marine Organisms</td>
<td>S. Glenn¹</td>
<td>Robert Chant/Post-doc, Mary Carla Curran/Post-doc</td>
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<td>97-04</td>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>K. Able⁴</td>
<td>Stephanie Barbeau/M.S., Ecology &amp; Evolution</td>
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<td>97-08</td>
<td>Research for Undergraduates</td>
<td>M. De Luca¹</td>
<td>Geoffrey Bell/B.S., Michelle Walsh/B.S.</td>
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<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>O. Schofield¹</td>
<td>P. Shaheen/Ph.D., Oceanography</td>
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<td>Research for Undergraduates</td>
<td>M. De Luca¹</td>
<td>L. Annicchiarico/B.S., K. Tsakiris/B.S.</td>
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<td>Costs Surf-clamming</td>
<td>B. McCay</td>
<td>J. O'Neil/non-degree, Human Ecology</td>
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<td>98-Ex4</td>
<td>Atmospheric Desposition</td>
<td>S. Seitzinger</td>
<td>M. Deritter/B.S.</td>
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<td>J. Grassle</td>
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<td>99-06</td>
<td>Fish Movement Shallow Estuary</td>
<td>R. Chant</td>
<td>R. Styles/Post-Doc</td>
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1Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
2Department of Food Science
3College of Pharmacy
4Rutgers Marine Field Station, Tuckerton
5Department of Agri. Econ. & Mktg.
6Human Ecology
7Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, New Brunswick, NJ