



Biology Seminar Series

Biology Graduate Student Association
Department of Biological Sciences
Humboldt State University

Using molecular tools to measure changes in ecological communities



Dr. Ryan Kelly
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Friday, December 4th, 12 p.m. (PST)
Via zoom

For zoom info, please email the B.G.S.A
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Sequencing DNA derived from environmental samples offers a way of surveying hundreds or thousands of species at a time, across a large range of phylogenetic groups. I'll report results from two recent studies using such community-level sampling in nearshore marine environments. The first of these speaks to warming, acidification, and global change generally, using a gradient of present-day conditions to forecast changes in the planktonic communities of the near-term future. The second speaks to local-scale remediation efforts, finding a biological halo effect of eelgrass beds that appears to discourage dinoflagellates. I use these studies as a springboard to talk about how we measure the impacts of human activities on the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

