

A DNA Barcode and Photographic Library of the Organisms of Narragansett Bay

Mollie Mikulski, Catherine Keable, John Petrick, Alex Rosado, Laura Landen, Christopher Deacutis & Joseph DeGiorgis

Biology, Providence College, Providence, RI

As part of the C-AIM mission, we have begun to develop a photographic library and a DNA barcode for each species that lives in Narragansett Bay. To this end, we have collected organisms through a variety of techniques, including trawler tows, dip netting, plankton tows, piling scraping, and hook and line fishing. We have also obtained samples previously collected or cultured by many other C-AIM participants.

Each species is photographed in their native environment or in the laboratory/studio setting using a wide variety of techniques from flash photography to electron microscopy. Genomic DNA samples are obtained for each species and used for PCR and sequence analysis. To date, we have more than 60 species in total. We have begun to develop a website (<http://www.speciesofnb.com/>) to disseminate the data we collect.

This spring and summer we hope to add 100 species to our database in collaboration with other C-AIM investigators.