Narragansett Bay Fishes: Who is Eating Who?

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Project Location:
University of Rhode Island-Bay Campus

Project Description:
A fundamental question in the ocean is Who Eats Who? This process shapes the marine foodweb and thus is important information for ecologists and fisheries scientists alike. For example, how are we to know what the impact of a fishing regulation on striped bass will do for menhaden populations if we don't know how many menhaden they eat? Only with this knowledge can we better understand how things like increasing sea surface temperatures or management policies impact the marine foodweb and ecosystem. Our project will seek answers to this seemingly straight-forward question of Who Eats Who so as to better inform foodweb models for Narragansett Bay. This research will include some combination of literature review (computer-based work) and targeted diet study (field and lab-based work) of fish species that have little to no diet data. Students can expect to spend their time interacting with graduate students, a postdoc, and faculty members at various capacities.

*This project involves **both field & lab/computer work***

Required/preferred skills for student applicant:
Proficiency with Microsoft Excel and experience searching and reading scientific literature. Past experience in the lab and field (on boats) is also desirable. A strong willingness to work independently as well as with others.

Student transportation needed for project?
Yes
Ability to get to Wickford to the Cap'n Bert for the fish trawl on Mondays is desirable.