

Current and Upcoming in 2023 Smith Lab - VIMS

- IFCB HAB + toxin monitoring
- New passive sampler (improved MCs and DA)
- Toxicity of phytoplankton biochemicals

Juliette L. Smith Associate Professor jlsmith@vims.edu Virginia Institute of Marine Science William & Mary



IFCB HAB monitoring

2021 Mean daily cell concentration









Marine Scientist



Vanessa Strohm Master's Candidate

- 2017 present, IFCB data displayed on HABhub (WHOI) for VIMS Pier by May 1
- Convolutional neural network (CNN) classifiers focused on season and species of interest
- Happy to share all training images used to generate classes

 please email Juliette
- Ecological modeling and networking coming this year...

WHOI HABhub





New passive sampler



Josh Garber PhD Student

- Detection of microcystins and domoic acid in oyster tissue (Pease 2021) below advisory threshold
- New evidence suggests polar toxins, e.g., microcystins and domoic acid desorb within a day from SPATT resin (Kudela et al., US HAB symposium) – snapshot vs. time-integrated
- Josh to trial a new passive sampler (patented mixed-phase polymer) better retention of polar toxins, ≥28 days
- Possible collaboration with VDH and MDE to trial in field!!! (CA + FL)
- Test stability of these toxins in water and on the new passive sampler (e.g., light, pH, temperature, hydrolysis)

Toxicity of phytoplankton biochemicals

- Toxins (e.g., PTXs, YTX, AZAs)
- Bioactive chemicals (e.g., PUAs, oxylipins oxidized products of PUFAs)
- Oyster larvae and shrimp
- Within hatcheries: Characterizing the role of toxic phytoplankton byproducts in shellfish hatchery failures

VIMS (Smith, Carnegie), University of California – Berkeley (Edwards), Mook Sea Farm, Oyster Seed Holdings, Fishers Island Oyster Farm







Josh Garber

PhD Student



Nour Ayache Assist. Research Sci. Marta Sanderson Marine Scientist