

## Presentation of MAR-ECO Students

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**Working title of project:** Gelatinous zooplankton along the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge

**Summary of Project:** The aim is to examine the biodiversity, vertical distribution, abundance, behavior and metabolism of gelatinous zooplankton along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR). The investigations rely heavily on the ROVs *Bathysaurus* and *Aglantha*, which were used during the second leg of the R/V GO Sars -cruise in 2004, to film the animals *in situ* as well as to gently capture them and bring them to the surface for further studies. Footage of gelatinous zooplankton distribution in the water column was filmed during the descent to the sea floor on 14 ROV dives at different locations along the MAR. The ROVs also facilitated the gentle capture of several specimens of known species for closer investigation and respiration measurements. The majority of gelatinous organisms observed during the ROV dives were relatively small (1-5 cm) and a large number of the animals could not be identified to species level from the moving image during the descent. Plankton samples taken with traditional nets should, however, shed some light on the biodiversity of gelatinous zooplankton along the MAR. The species diversity of gelatinous zooplankton along the MAR and at different depths will be examined, with special emphasis on the possible effects on the Sub-Polar Front and the MAR itself on the distribution of animals.

In addition to the above described MAR-ECO related part, my PhD project also includes work on the diversity and ecology of gelatinous zooplankton in selected West Norwegian fjords.