

Presentation of MAR-ECO Students

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Degree: MS student

Working title of project: *A DNA-based method for identification of prey species of fish on the Mid Atlantic Ridge.*

Summary of Project: Accurate identification of species that are consumed by vertebrate predators is necessary for understanding marine food webs. Morphological methods for identifying prey components after consumption is often hindered by digestive damage to diagnostic features. Recent studies demonstrate the potential for DNA-based analysis for identifying prey species in the gut contents of predators. This project aims to generate DNA sequences of selected macro-zooplankton, sampled on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR). Such species-specific PCR assays may be used to identify prey species in the gut contents of fish on the MAR.

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