RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Mikayla Clark: UMaine MARINE Seed Grant Recipient

Mikayla Clark is a graduate research assistant in the

Events

Expedition Reef
Fri. Jan. 19th, 7pm

 ORD Professional Development
Estapa Lab focusing on chemical oceanography and microplastics. Particularly, determining whether plastic fibers are being incorporated and transported within the biological carbon pump and the effect plastics have on the particle buoyancy of marine snow.

In this Researcher Spotlight, Mikayla shares her research path as well as an update on her microplastics research funded by a UMaine MARINE Seed Grant. Mikayla explores how plastics impact the sinking rate of marine snow and how the concentrations of surface plastics varies throughout the Damariscotta River Estuary by season, helping to elucidate seasonal cycles of how plastics move downriver from our coastal towns into the Gulf of Maine.

UMaine-led research team making new frozen foods from squid fins

To reduce food waste and open new markets, a University of Maine-led team of researchers and students will devise new frozen food products that can be created from squid fins, one of their byproducts. The project is supported by $229,376 from the NOAA Fisheries Saltonstall-Kennedy Competitive Grants Program. The group, led by UMaine professor of food science Denise Skonberg, will devise and develop several frozen food prototypes at the Dr. Matthew Highlands Food Pilot Plant in Hitchner Hall using processed fins from North Atlantic longfin and shortfin squid.
Evolution might stop humans from solving climate change, says new study

Central features of human evolution may stop our species from resolving global environmental problems like climate change, says a new study led by the University of Maine evolutionary biologist Tim Waring. The project sought to understand three core questions: how human evolution has operated in the context of environmental resources, how human evolution has contributed to the multiple global environmental crises and how global environmental limits might change the outcomes of human evolution in the future.

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Aquaculture in Shared Waters: 2024 Women in Aquaculture Series

The 2024 Women in Aquaculture Series builds skills and centers community among active and aspiring aquaculturists in Maine who self-identify as women or nonbinary. The series focuses on targeted skills for women on the water and is designed around emerging social science research on the training needs for women in aquaculture. In addition to skill building, the series focuses on knowledge-sharing and co-learning to empower participants and build community for women and nonbinary aquaculturists. The series is free of charge to participants and includes both virtual and in-person components. Applications close 1/26/2024.

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