



Environmental Studies in Woods Hole & at Sea

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SEA Semester Undergraduates Present Original High Seas Management Plan and Scientific Research at Fourth Annual Symposium in Woods Hole

June 4, 2015, Woods Hole, MA — What are potential next steps for protecting the Sargasso Sea, a North Atlantic region increasingly recognized for its strong ecological importance and economic impact? Outstanding science undergraduates from top U.S. and international institutions will present original biodiversity research and a management plan for conservation of the Sargasso Sea at the fourth annual SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity & Conservation Symposium, to be held Friday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sea Education Association's campus in Woods Hole.

"Our students' work could make a lasting impact on conservation of this very important ecosystem," said Dr. Amy NS Siuda, Associate Professor of Oceanography and the program's director. "Their proposal will help inform the ongoing work of the Sargasso Sea Commission, the international body that is developing policies to sustain this region, both ecologically and economically, for the long haul."

The public is welcome to attend and observe this event. [More information and a full agenda is available on the SEA website.](#)

In addition to presenting their policy and scientific work, the students will host four expert guest speakers:

- Dr. Robbie Smith, Curator of the Bermuda Natural History Museum
- Dr. Billy Causey, Regional Director of the Southeast Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Region for the NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries and a member of the Sargasso Sea Commission
- Dr. Caleb McClennen, Executive Director of Marine Conservation for the Wildlife Conservation Society
- Dr. Simon Thorrold, senior scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The symposium marks the culmination of the 12-week [SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity & Conservation](#) program, which included rigorous shore and sea components. Earlier this spring, the class of 20 students sailed as crew and scientists onboard SEA Semester's state-of-the-art ocean research vessel, the SSV *Corwith Cramer*, a 134-foot brigantine operating in the Atlantic Ocean. During their five-week voyage from San Juan, Puerto Rico to New York City, the class collected and analyzed original biodiversity data as part of six research groups. A mid-cruise port stop in St. George's, Bermuda, allowed them to conduct field research on conservation policy.

Materials from past symposia, including student posters and videos of guest speakers, are available on the [SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity & Conservation program website.](#)

About [Sea Education Association/SEA Semester®](#)

Sea Education Association (SEA) is an internationally recognized leader in undergraduate ocean education. For nearly 45 years and more than one million nautical miles sailed, SEA has educated students about the world's oceans through its Boston University accredited study abroad program, SEA Semester. SEA/SEA Semester is based on Cape Cod in the oceanographic research community of Woods Hole, Massachusetts and has two research vessels: the SSV *Corwith Cramer*, operating in the Atlantic Ocean, and the SSV *Robert C. Seamans*, operating in the Pacific.