

Oceanography Department Seminar

ARAN A. MOONEY

ASSOCIATE SCIENTIST
WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

“Soundscapes and Sonic Youth: The acoustic ecology of coral reefs”

Coral reefs harbor some of the highest biodiversity on the planet. Their rich eco-acoustic soundscape can provide a way to track both animal activities, community health and physical changes. To do so, it is critical to identify natural patterns of reef soundscapes including how these cues are influenced by biotic and abiotic parameters, as well as establish how soundscapes change over time and across habitats. Here I'll present studies of coral reef soundscapes with a focus on experiments addressing key sound producers, snapping shrimp, and how coral larvae settlement may be encouraged by healthy reef soundscapes. The overall goal is to relay how our long-term observations paired with experiments provide robust baseline measurements to better quantify changes in coral reef ecosystems.

BIO: Dr. Mooney's research focuses on sensory biology and particularly how marine animals use and are affected by sound. This involves measuring sound sensitivity in a diversity of marine animals, monitoring biological activity and reef health via underwater soundscapes, defining hearing capabilities in organisms not previously known to use sound, such as squid and cuttlefish and developing new sensors to measure sound production, biodiversity and animal behaviors. While my career started out investigating marine mammal acoustics at UH, most of my lab's work focuses on the acoustic ecology of invertebrates and other data-poor taxa. See file for appointments are prof. prep.

Thursday February 1st, 2024 3:00p.m. MSB #100