

Oceanography Seminar

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“What a trip! Life history of tunas: energy, reproduction and migration”

Yellowfin tuna, or `ahi, is the most widely consumed fresh fish in the Hawaiian Islands and throughout much of the Pacific, while Atlantic bluefin, made famous in the reality TV show “Wicked Tuna”, is the reigning king of sushi. These long lived tunas are energy speculators, making extensive migrations between foraging and spawning grounds, with stopovers in productive watermasses to seek favored prey. Their unique life histories and highly migratory nature make tunas difficult to study, but understanding their basic biology and oceanographic associations is necessary for accurate population assessment, and consequently, sustainable fisheries. My presentation will highlight and contrast ocean-wide movements and reproductive biology of Atlantic bluefin and Central North Pacific yellowfin. I will show how new understanding has overturned long held scientific assumptions used in the basis for management, and why better ocean tracking and monitoring tools are needed to fill outstanding gaps.

Thursday February 13th, 2020 3:00p.m. MSB 100