

**Linda A. Aufer, M.S.**  
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*Eager to relocate effective June 2010*  
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#### Objective

A position where broad knowledge of marine biology principles, good communication and collaboration skills, and a strong background in research are needed.

#### Qualifications

- Extensive knowledge of marine invertebrate species, marine ecology, and invasive species
- Published two peer-reviewed journal articles from undergraduate and masters thesis research
- Experienced in researching diverse marine systems (including fouling communities, rocky intertidal areas, and sandy beaches) in several locations (Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, Gulf of Maine, New Zealand coastal areas), using multiple techniques
- Learns new techniques and principles quickly

#### Education

**Ph.D.** Zoology, University of New Hampshire (UNH), 2010

Adviser: Larry G. Harris, Ph.D.

Dissertation Topic: The epibiotic relationship of *Didemnum vexillum* to *Mytilus edulis*

**M.S.** Oceanography, University of Rhode Island (URI), 2006

Adviser: Candace A. Oviatt, Ph.D.

Thesis: An invasive tunicate *Didemnum* sp. in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

**B.S.** Marine Science/Biology (Honors), Southampton College of Long Island University (LIU), 2001

Adviser: Sandra Shumway, Ph.D., D.Sc.

GPA: 3.47

#### Research Experience

**Dissertation Research**, UNH. 2007 - present

- Investigating the effects of a native invasive tunicate *Didemnum vexillum* on the common blue mussel *Mytilus edulis*' biology and ecology
- Utilizing caging studies, predation experiments, histological techniques, and settlement panels to study growth, plasticity, predatory effects, reproduction, and settlement of the mussel when overgrown by the tunicate
- Mentor undergraduates who assist in the lab with analysis of samples

**Visiting Scientist**, Cawthron Institute, Nelson, New Zealand. June 2007 – August 2007

- Member of inaugural group of graduate students chosen to go to New Zealand as part of the NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute program
- Dissected *Didemnum vexillum* samples to evaluate larval maturity
- Instructed M.Sc. student on methods of evaluating larval maturity and conducting panel studies

**Masters Thesis Research**, URI Graduate School of Oceanography. 2005 - 2006

- Studied a novel invasive species in Narragansett Bay (*Didemnum vexillum*), focusing on the effects of various factors on the species' distribution and abundance
- Collaborated with the University of Connecticut to learn recruitment analysis and identification skills, as well as to compare Narragansett Bay data to Long Island Sound data
- Worked closely with scientists at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to collect *Didemnum vexillum* recruitment and community data on Prudence Island
- Presented results in a peer-reviewed article in *ICES Journal of Marine Science*

**Volunteer Scientist**, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. June 2006

- Assisted scientists on a week long plankton survey on the R/V *Albatross IV*
- Collected and preserved samples from bongo nets
- Aided in trial deployment and use of a Video Plankton Recorder

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Marine Ecosystems Research Laboratory, URI, June 2004 – September 2005

- Processed, analyzed, and reported results on all chlorophyll *a* samples for MERL and for partner labs
- Designed and maintained new laboratory website
- Worked as a team with other graduate students to complete C-14 primary production experiments, sample over 25 sites throughout Narragansett Bay in one summer (as part of the EPA's National Coastal Assessment Program) and maintain data logs in the laboratory
- Assisted in maintenance and deployment of YSI sondes

**Undergraduate Intern**, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Milford, CT. Summer 2000

- Utilized multiple sampling techniques to capture fish for habitat studies, including beach seining, rod and tackle fishing, and caging techniques
- Identified, enumerated, and measured recorded species caught in beach seines
- Collected and maintained weekly water quality data using a Secchi disk and YSI meter
- Designed, initiated, and executed stomach content analysis study on *Tautoga onitis* for Honors Thesis project
- Collaborated with NMFS scientists on a peer-reviewed journal article

Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. 2008. Factors influencing the recruitment and abundance of *Didemnum* in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. *ICES J. Mar. Sci.* 65(5): 765 – 769.

Clark, P.E., J.J. Pereira, **L.A. Auker**, C. Parkins, and L. Vinokur. 2006. Size-related variation in the diet of juvenile tautogs from Long Island Sound. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 135: 1361 – 1370.

Other Publications

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. 2007. Observations on the colonization of the invasive tunicate *Didemnum* sp. *Rhode Island Naturalist*. 14(1): 1-4.

## Invited Presentations

**Auker, L.A.** The effects of *Didemnum vexillum* epibiosis on *Mytilus edulis* biology and ecology. Normandeau Associates. Bedford, NH. 5/14/2010.

**Auker, L.A.** An invasive tunicate's effect on a native blue mussel. Great Bay Stewards Meeting. Durham, NH. 5/27/2009

**Auker, L.A.** Spotlight on species: *Didemnum* sp. Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel Spring Meeting. Mystic, CT. 5/31/2007

## Other Presentations

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. [Poster] Effects of *Didemnum vexillum* overgrowth on *Mytilus edulis* growth. International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference III. Woods Hole, MA. 4/26 - 4/28/2010.

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. How does an invasive tunicate epibiont affect predation on its mussel host? Benthic Ecology Meeting. Wilmington, NC. 3/13/2010.

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. The effects of *Didemnum vexillum* overgrowth on *Mytilus edulis* biology and ecology. Sixth International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions. Portland, OR. 8/25/2009

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. The effects of *Didemnum vexillum* overgrowth on *Mytilus edulis* biology: growth and reproduction. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Corpus Christi, TX. 3/7/2009

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. The effects of *Didemnum vexillum* overgrowth on *Mytilus edulis* biology. NOAA Invasive Tunicate Workshop. Providence, RI. 9/10/2008

**Auker, L.A.** and L.G. Harris. Developing a study of the didemnid – mytilid epibiotic relationship. International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference II. Brudenell, PEI. 10/3/2007

**Auker, L.A.** *Didemnum*: past, present, and future work. Seminar. Cawthron Institute. Nelson, NZ. 8/6/2007

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. Factors affecting the distribution of *Didemnum* sp. in Narragansett Bay, RI. Fifth International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions. Cambridge, MA. 5/22/2007

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. Observations on *Didemnum* sp. colonization on a pier in Narragansett Bay, RI. Rhode Island Natural History Survey 12th Annual Ecology of Rhode Island Conference: Invasive Species - A Threat to Rhode Island's Biodiversity. Narragansett, RI. 3/22/2007

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. [Poster] *Didemnum* sp. in Narragansett Bay, RI, USA: factors influencing distribution. Biodiversity Corridor Workshop. St. Andrews, NB. 2/28 - 3/2/2007

**Auker, L.A.** and C.A. Oviatt. [Poster] An invasive tunicate, *Didemnum* sp., in Narragansett Bay, RI. International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference. Woods Hole, MA. 4/21 - 4/22/2005

## Funding, Awards and Honors

- **Dissertation Year Fellowship**, University of New Hampshire Graduate School, 2009-2010.
- **Summer TA Fellowship**, University of New Hampshire Graduate School, Summer 2009.
- **Marine Program Research Grant**, University of New Hampshire, 2009.
- **Martha and Theodore Frizzell Fund Scholarship**, University of New Hampshire, 2008-2009.
- **Graduate Research Grant**, Great Bay Stewards, 2008.
- **Lerner-Grey Award for Marine Research**, American Museum of Natural History, 2008.
- **UNH Women's Commission Award Nominee**, Spring 2008, Spring 2010
- **Fellowship**, East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute (EAPSI), National Science Foundation, 2007.
- **John Wald Grant**, Rhode Island Natural History Survey, 2005. (Co PI: Dr. Candace A. Oviatt).

## Teaching Experience

### Teaching Assistant

- Human Biology (Zool 401), UNH. Spring 2009
- Aquatic Invasive Species (Zool 444A/721), UNH. Fall 2007 and Spring 2009
- Marine Ecology (Zool 725/825), UNH. Fall 2008
- Principles of Biology II (Biol 412), UNH. Summer 2008
- Human Physiology (Zool 507), UNH. Summer 2008
- General Ecology (Biol 541), UNH. Spring 2008
- Ecology and Evolution of Invertebrates (Zool 628), UNH. Spring 2007
- Introduction to Marine Biology (Zool 503), UNH. Fall 2006
- Oceans, Atmosphere, and Global Change (OCG 123), URI. Spring 2006
- Deep-Sea Biology (OCG 420), URI. Fall 2005

### Instructor

- Chemistry II Lab (CHM 114), URI Center for Continuing Education. Spring 2004
- Organic Chemistry Lab (CHM 126), URI Center for Continuing Education. Spring 2004

### Tutor, Department of Natural Sciences, LIU. Fall 1999 – Spring 2001

- Courses included Pre-Calculus, Cell Biology, Quantitative Chemical Analysis, Introductory, Chemistry courses, and Organic Chemistry

## Professional and Academic Service

**Proposal Review Panelist**, National Science Foundation, 2008, 2009, 2010.

**Founder and Organizer**, Graduate Women in Science group, Spring 2008 - present.

- Collaborate with faculty chapter of Association for Women in Science in planning events
- Organize biweekly meetings with graduate women in science to discuss pertinent issues
- Arrange faculty discussions with the graduate students about the job search process

**Coordinator**, Department of Biological Sciences Graduate Research Seminar, University of New Hampshire, Spring 2007 – Fall 2009.

- Organize monthly seminars to engage graduate students in discussing their research with their peers
- Developed a new seminar in order to accommodate more students' schedules
- Publicize speakers, set up audiovisual equipment and arrange for refreshments each month

**Graduate School Representative**, President's Commission on the Status of Women,  
University of New Hampshire, September 2006 – Fall 2008.

- Represented graduate students and communicated their needs to the commission
- Served as a the Commission's representative on the 2006 UNH Social Justice Awards Committee

Professional Affiliations

National Shellfisheries Association

Association for Women in Science

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Fisheries Society