



**The Downeast Institute  
Undergraduate Research Assistants  
Summer, 2017**

We will be hiring one or two undergraduate research assistants for the summer of 2017. Assistants will participate in an interdisciplinary NSF-funded project examining how larval dispersal interconnects blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) populations along the Gulf of Maine coast. This team-based project also includes faculty and graduate students from the University of Maine, the University of Massachusetts, and Northeastern University. Specific tasks will include shore-based intertidal and boat-based subtidal sampling, laboratory analysis of field samples, and computer analysis of photographic and ecological data. Students are encouraged to specialize on a subset of these tasks and develop independent projects on related topics. Participants will be based at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in South Bristol, ME, though the project will require periodic multi-day field trips east of Mt. Desert Island/Acadia National Park.

Candidates should have completed course work in invertebrate zoology and either marine ecology or oceanography. Prior lab or field research experience is preferred, especially in population ecology. Willingness to live and work in rural Maine and access to a personal vehicle and a valid drivers license are essential. Our research opportunities are generally most appropriate for students between their junior and senior years, though students at earlier and later stages in their careers will also be considered. Past experience also suggests that these opportunities are more appropriate for students majoring in a basic science (e.g., Biology, Oceanography, Geology) as opposed to more applied environmental programs. And finally, because we are unable to pay relocation expenses, these opportunities are more appropriate for students coming from locations on the east coast. Compensation is on the order of \$400 per week plus paid dormitory housing. Candidates should be available from late May until at least mid-August. For more information or to apply, please contact Dr. Phil Yund ([pyund@downeastinstitute.org](mailto:pyund@downeastinstitute.org)). To apply, please send a cover letter with a statement of your background and interests, college transcripts (informal copies are fine), and names and contact information for two references, by March 6, 2017.

