The Downeast Institute
Undergraduate Research Assistants
Summer, 2016

We are pleased to offer two undergraduate research assistantships for the summer of 2016. 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. Students will work as part of a team with 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 water column sampling, laboratory analysis of field samples, and computer analysis of ecological and physical oceanographic 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 to the Acadian region of Maine.

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 or community ecology, or involving the collection of physical oceanographic data. Willingness to live and work in rural Maine and access to a personal vehicle and a valid drivers license are essential. Experience working on small boats would be a plus. Our research opportunities are generally most appropriate for students between their junior and senior years, or recent (spring semester) graduates, though students at earlier 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. Compensation is on the order of $350 per week plus free dormitory housing. Candidates should be available from mid-May until at least mid-August. For more information or to apply, please contact Dr. Phil Yund (pyund@downeastinstitute.org). To apply, 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 7, 2016.