## Managing diseases affecting Rhode Island Shellfisheries Marta Gomez-Chiarri, University of Rhode Island gomezchi@uri.edu









The role of disease mortality on fisheries



# **Understanding and Managing Diseases**

HOSTS Immunity Physiology Genetics



PATHOGENS Microbial community Interactions

ENVIRONMENT Temperature, Hypoxia, Acidification, Storms, Food availability, Pollutants





# Managing Diseases of Marine Organisms

Pathology Microbiology Biochemistry Chemistry Immunology Nutrition Genetics Genomics Ecology





# Responses of organisms to climate change: Identification of the causative agent of Sea Star Wasting Disease

Gary Wessel - Brown University

Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Ed Baker, and Caitlin DelSesto Bucci - University of Rhode Island

Roxanna Smolowitz – Roger Williams University



Bucci et al. 2017 – PLOS One

## Effects of climate change on species: Disease Monitoring









Rhode Island



## Responses of organisms to climate change: What is the adaptive potential?

#### OPEN OACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

### Transcriptome of American Oysters, *Crassostrea virginica,* in Response to Bacterial Challenge: Insights into Potential Mechanisms of Disease Resistance

lan C. McDowell<sup>1</sup>, Chamilani Nikapitiya<sup>1</sup>, Derek Aguiar<sup>2</sup>, Christopher E. Lane<sup>1</sup>, Sorin Istrail<sup>2</sup>, Marta Gomez-Chiarri<sup>1</sup>\*

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#### Fish & Shellfish Immunology 53 (2016) 13-23



Multi-species protein similarity clustering reveals novel expanded immune gene families in the eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica* 



Ian C. McDowell, Tejashree H. Modak, Chris E. Lane, Marta Gomez-Chiarri<sup>\*</sup> University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, USA



### Oysters as a model to investigate adaptation to environmental stress *Gomez-Chiarri, Proestou, Puritz, Putnam*

#### Organism Overview ; Organelle Annotation Report [1]



#### Crassostrea virginica (eastern oyster)

The eastern oyster is a mollusk of commercial importance

Lineage: Eukaryota[2659]; Metazoa[874]; Lophotrochozoa[28]; Mollusca[18]; Bivalvia[10]; Pteriomorphia[7]; Ostreoida[2]; Ostreoidea Ostreidae[2]; Crassostrea[2]; Crassostrea virginica[1]

The Crassostrea virginica, or eastern oyster, is a filter-feeding mollusk. It is a marine animal and consumes phytoplankton. This species is abundant on the east coast of America, and is of commercial value.

#### Summary

Submitter:	McDonnell Genome Institute - Washington University School of Medicine
Assembly level:	Chromosome
Assembly:	GCA_002022765.4 C_virginica-3.0 scaffolds: 11 contigs: 669 N50: 1,971,208 L50: 108
BioProjects:	PRJNA379157, PRJNA376014
Whole Genome Shotgun (WG	S): INSDC: MWPT00000000.3
Statistics:	total length (Mb): 684.741
	protein count: 60213
	GC%: 34.8191
NCBI Annotation Release:	100





## Exploiting microbial-microbial interactions to manage disease

Kathy **Castro**, Barbara Somers, Mitch Hatzipetro, **Gómez-Chiarri**, Murni Karim, Saebom Sohn, Tejashree Modak, Melissa Hoffman, Sam Hughes, **David Nelson**, Jason LaPorte, Weijing Zhao, Chris Schuttert, Linda Kessner **Anton Post**, Rebecca Stevick, **David Rowley**, Christine Dao, Megan Hamblin, Hilary Ranson, **Ying Zhang**, Zachary Pimentel (URI); **Roxanne Smolowitz**, **Dale Leavitt**, **Karin Tammi, Karen Markey (RWU)** 



# **Probiotics and Aquatic Animals**

Disease protection in other farmed organisms as diet or water additive



- Developed 2 probiotics that increase oyster and scallop larval survival after disease challenge in the lab and the hatchery
- Probiotic treatment has an effect on the microbial community in the \_ hatchery (*microbiome studies*)
- Complex mechanisms of action: -
  - Antibiotic and biofilm production
  - Quorum quenching
  - Immune modulation
- Role of algal probiotic interactions





# Candidate bacterial probiotics that could to **slow down or stop** the progression of Epizootic Shell Disease in lobsters.





Credit: Mitch Hatzpietro & Melissa Hoffman 2016

Kathy Castro David Nelson David Rowley

Melissa Hoffman Grace Underwood Hilary Ranson Mitch Hatzipetro Barbara Somers



# Screen isolated probiotics on post-larval lobsters (PLs)





- Most candidates were safe to PL lobsters (*Loktanella* spp. may cause lesions)
- Pre-incubation with candidate probiotics reduced PL mortality under stress conditions
- S4 persists in the water longer and forms stronger biofilms *in vivo* when compared with other treatments



### Pathogens, Nitrogen, and Changing Climate: Understanding impacts of multiple stressors on Narragansett Bay shellfish Ashley Hamilton, Serena Moseman-Valtierra, Marta Gomez-Chiarri (URI) & Roxanna Smolowitz (RWU)





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