



Western
Centre for Animals
on the Move

**Movement
Mondays** . . . 

Ecological and evolutionary consequences of limited dispersal in the ocean



Dr. Cassidy D'Aloia
Assistant Professor
University of Toronto Mississauga

ABSTRACT

In the ocean, most individuals begin their life as tiny larvae that disperse on ocean currents. Consequently, marine populations were historically assumed to be strongly genetically and demographically connected over large spatial scales. But evidence has accumulated showing that many larvae stay surprisingly close to home. My lab works to uncover realized patterns of dispersal in marine species using genetic and genomic tools, and explore both the ecological and evolutionary consequences of those patterns. In this talk, I will highlight our work on *Elacatinus* spp. — a diverse genus of group-living fishes that inhabit sponge and coral hosts throughout the Caribbean. Our work shows that, despite having a month-long larval phase in the pelagic zone, most fish disperse close to home and, sometimes, even stick close to their kin. I will also discuss the conservation implications of limited marine dispersal and how we are beginning to apply these methods to other understudied taxa.

Monday, April 1, 3:30 – 4:30
Location: Collip 112