

The Marine Ecology of Coastal Urban Habitats in Abu Dhabi

POSITION TITLE: MARINE BIOLOGY RESEARCH ASSISTANT

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: THE MARINE ECOLOGY OF COASTAL URBAN HABITATS IN ABU DHABI

FACULTY NAME & TITLE: JOHN BURT, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE OF BIOLOGY

RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over 80% of the UAE population lives along a coastline. As a result, there has been extensive development of urban infrastructure in coastal marine systems throughout the Emirates. Dredged shipping channels and breakwaters are major man-made marine habitats in Abu Dhabi, but relatively little is known of how these structures function ecologically.

This project will explore the ecology of marine biota associated with dredged channels or breakwaters with the aim of documenting the biological communities associated with this habitat and comparing these with communities in natural coastal habitats. It will also examine artificial habitats of different age in different locations to infer how biological development varies in space and time. The results of this work will be important for informing environmental managers in the emirate about the ecological role played by major man-made habitats along the Abu Dhabi coast. This research will require an ability to conduct field work from a boat to collect samples for analyses in the NYU Abu Dhabi Marine Biology Laboratory.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION

- Collect samples from a boat in Abu Dhabi coastal waters
- Process samples and identify marine organisms (after training)
- Keep records of field work and laboratory analyses
- Meet with NYUAD Marine Biology team weekly to provide status updates

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor of Science in biology, environmental science, or related discipline
- An ability to conduct boat-based field work with male and female coworkers

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE / SKILLS:

- Experience in field-based biology
- Experience in biology laboratory research
- An ability to SCUBA dive (preferred, but not essential)

APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE:

1. Statement of interest in the position
2. Transcript of degree(s)
3. CV
4. Two letters of recommendation