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UMass Dartmouth student captures top award at international conference

Tops hundreds of marine scientists and students to win best presentation

Cate O'Keefe, doctoral student at the UMassD School for Marine Science and Technology, has received the Merit Award for the best paper presented at the annual science conference of the world's largest marine science and advisory body.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea conference was held September 21-25 in Berlin, with more than 650 marine scientists and students attending to discuss the current and future status of the oceans. Out of nearly 400 papers presented at the conference, O'Keefe's was judged to be the best.

Said SMAST Prof. Steven Cadrin, who also attended the conference, "It was well-deserved, and I heard many people who were overwhelmed with her excellent presentation. Winning the best presentation is remarkable for someone her age."

The Merit Award gives formal recognition to the best research paper and poster given at the Annual Science Conference, and to the best up-and-coming new scientist making a presentation at the Annual Science Conference.

O'Keefe's presentation was "From bust to boom: The success of industry collaboration in U.S. sea scallop research," co-authored with her advisor, Prof. Kevin D. E. Stokesbury.

Continued Cadrin, "The University and our fishing partners should be proud of Cate and this outstanding achievement. It reflects well on our program."

O'Keefe studies living resource management in the Department of Fisheries Oceanography. She also serves on the Scallop Planning Development Team of the New England Fishery Management Council.

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