Seminar in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation
MARN 3812 / 5812 – Spring 2021
University of Connecticut – Avery Point
Instructors: Profs. Ann Bucklin and Tracy Romano

Course Description
Critical examination of state-of-the-art research, policy and regulatory frameworks of marine conservation biology and associated environmental, cultural, and socio-economic implications. This course is designed to highlight key topics and state-of-the-art research in marine biodiversity and conservation. Each class will be framed around an important question or issue underlying current challenges and opportunities in the preservation of marine environments and organisms. Topics each week will be framed by sets of more specific questions to help structure the class activities.

Class sessions will include presentations by invited guest experts in the field of marine conservation biology, including Mystic Aquarium staff. Partnership with Mystic Aquarium will allow students to gain a unique perspective and appreciation for conservation issues, including (virtual) visits to Aquarium exhibits and behind-the-scenes tours and discussions with Aquarium staff. Classes will include student-led discussions based on the presentations and assigned readings from the primary scientific research literature. Students will submit written reports summarizing the class presentation, discussion, and readings each week. Students will design and complete individual or group projects using the online resources and facilities of the Mystic Aquarium.

Teaching Mode for Spring 2021
This course will be taught via Distance Learning (online synchronous). Invited speaker presentations, class discussions, and student projects will all be carried out virtually.

Schedule and Credits
Wednesdays 1:25 – 3:55 pm (3 credits). Minimum prerequisite: One year of College Biology (BIO 1107 / 1108 or equivalent). Recommended: General Ecology (EEB 2244 or equivalent)

Instructor Contact Information
Ann Bucklin, PhD
Professor of Marine Sciences
University of Connecticut, Avery Point
Email ann.bucklin@uconn.edu

Tracy Romano, PhD
Professor-in-Residence of Marine Sciences
University of Connecticut, Avery Point
Chief Scientist and Vice President of Research, Mystic Aquarium
Email tromano@mysticaquarium.org