

**The effect of different diets on the growth rates of juvenile green sea urchins, *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*.**

Green sea urchins, *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*, require specific amounts of nutrients and protein in order to grow optimally, and achieve this generally through their wide diet. Their habitat and the time of year play a role in determining how much protein will be available in their diet. In order to test this, *S. droebachiensis* were fed three different diets with varying levels of protein in them (algae, formulated pellets, and a 50:50 mix) for three months and they were measured and weighed each week. Over all, there was no significant difference in the over all growth in length based on treatment, but there was a significant difference in the overall weight gain per treatment. The greatest weight increase was in the 50:50 mix (mean =  $109.0 \pm 31.03$  %), then the formulated pellets (mean =  $98.6 \pm 34.49$ %), and finally the algae (mean =  $52.8 \pm 20.38$  %).