

## **Optimal foraging behaviors of the gastropod *Littorina littorea* in Castine, Maine**

The gastropod *Littorina littorea*'s feeding preferences have been studied many times with many different algal species to determine whether the snails forage optimally. In this study, I determined after supplying *Littorina littorea* with three algal species, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, *Chondrus crispus*, and *Ulva lactuca* over a 4 week period, in an agar-algae mixture, that the snails had a preference for the *U. lactuca* rather than *A. nodosum* and *C. crispus*. Using the literature it was determined that the gastropod optimally foraged on the most nutrient abundant and least deterring algae.

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