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Seminar Series

# MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

Corning School of Ocean Studies

December 5, 2022

Chris West

Assistant Regional Wildlife Biologist  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

## *The Importance of Maine's Mudflats*

Tidal mudflats are located within the intertidal zone and are one of the most dynamic habitats along Maine's coast. These areas become exposed twice a day when the tide falls to its lowest point. Maine's mudflats are somewhat underappreciated and one of the least studied ecosystems. Organisms living in the soft mud sediment benefit various species and humans alike. Mudflats in Maine generate millions of dollars towards Maine's economy just from shellfish and baitworm landings every year. Large numbers of migrating shorebirds are found feeding on the marine macroinvertebrates in the mud year after year giving these small birds enough energy to make the long journey. Let's dig deep and explore the mudflat biodiversity, how this habitat has changed over time, cultural significance, resource management, ecological importance, sediment composition, historic uses, and what impacts Maine's mudflats face due to climate change and coastal development pressures.

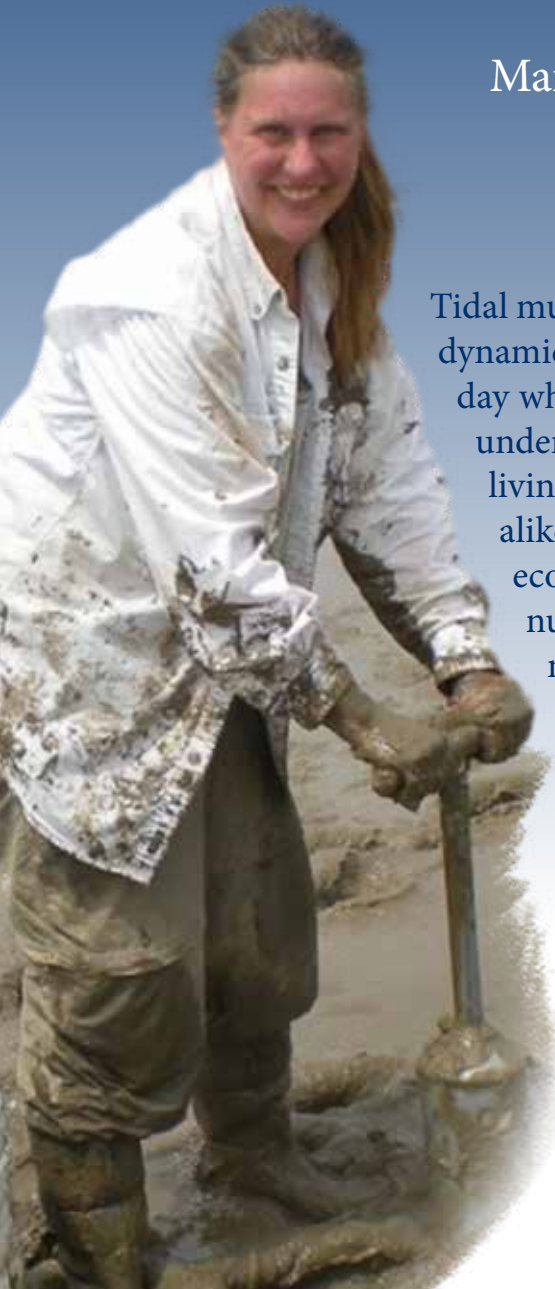
3:00 - 3:50 PM

Delano Auditorium, Maine Maritime Academy

Livestream: [live.mainemaritime.edu](https://live.mainemaritime.edu)

Full seminar schedule:

<https://mainemaritime.edu/ocean-studies/seminar-schedule/>



## **Bio:**

Chris is the assistant regional wildlife biologist for Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife out of the Jonesboro office. She has 30 years' experience working with wildlife in Maine and has previously worked for United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity Research Institute, Maine Natural History Observatory, Department of Marine Resources, and University of Maine on avian, marine benthic macroinvertebrates, phytoplankton, and vegetation surveys throughout the US and Canada. She specializes in coastal avian ecology, conservation, and management with an emphasis on shorebirds and saltmarsh obligate bird species. Chris is interested in the feeding ecology of shorebirds. She designed and implemented a marine benthic macroinvertebrate survey to monitor the changes in macroinvertebrate abundance on two Washington County mudflats before, during, and after shorebird migratory stopovers. She collaborates with many fellow biologists, stakeholders, researchers, and academic colleagues to make the best management decisions on conserving Maine's wildlife.