

Abstract Title: Corals in Long Island Sound? How Astrangia!

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Abstract:

\*\*\* RICK (Rick Bassett) \*\*\* September 6, 2006 at 7:19am

The study examines the distribution and morphology of the temperate scleractinian coral *Astrangia poculata* in Long Island Sound. In Summer 2006, ten rocky, sites in the Sound were examined to determine the abundance and morphology of corals. At each site, using SCUBA, three, thirty meter transect lines were laid on the substrate (~5-7 m depth) and all coral colonies were counted within 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrats placed at random intervals along the transect line. In addition, 10 colonies were collected from each site to determine the morphology of corals and how they may differ in the eastern Sound where water flow is traditionally higher and in the western Sound where water flow is less. Data was examined with analysis of variance with site as a factor, and abundance the dependent variable. In addition, Principal Component Analysis was completed examining the differences in morphology from those sites in the Eastern and Western Sounds.