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Summary

Stable isotopic analyses of animal tissues can identify the area of origin, and possibly the pathway travelled by marine objects and organisms. This project uses stable isotopes from marine hitchhikers (barnacles) and their host sea turtles to determine their travel pathways and origin, and identify critical areas for management. Identifying home areas across large portions of a sea turtle nesting population can fill remaining knowledge gaps and improve conservation outcomes for these threatened species. The methods developed as part of this project could also be used in a similar way for other animals or objects that carry barnacles throughout coastal or oceanic journeys.

Research Expertise

- Sea turtles
- Stable isotopes
- Population ecology
- Climate change
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Threatened species