**Fish and ships: soundscape ecology in north-eastern New Zealand**

Ros Putland

The aquatic environment is far from silent. Distant earthquakes, rain and wind, as well as invertebrate, marine mammal and fish vocalisations create an underwater orchestra. However, there is increasing concern that the noise from human activity in and around bodies of water may be causing homogenisation or fragmentation of the natural aquatic soundscape. Some fish vocalize at key life stages or whilst foraging, and disruption to their acoustic habitat at these times could lead to adverse consequences at the population level. For example, low frequency vessel noise could threaten the ability of vocalizing fish species to communicate by masking important biological signals. To question the risk of these impacts, we investigated the effect of commercial shipping noise on the communication space of the New Zealand bigeye (*Pempheris adspersa)*, a nocturnal fish species which uses contact calls to maintain group cohesion while foraging. In another study, we combined passive acoustic and visual monitoring to monitor the behaviour of a commercially important fish species in New Zealand, snapper (*Pagrus auratus)* before, during and after, recreational boat noise. The results of these studies as well as general soundscape research conducted in north-eastern New Zealand will be discussed. Additionally, I will introduce how soundscape research is going to be applied to inland waters in the midwest to help management combat the effects of human noise and invasive species movement.