CONSIDER FOR TALK

7th Annual SEA-PHAGES Symposium Abstract

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Mariner: A novel marine phage which may affect marine biofilms

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Marine phage are ubiquitous and increasingly recognized as an important component of the aquatic environment. For instance, phage have been shown to control dynamics of some phytoplankton blooms. The role of phage in the composition and function of marine biofilms is largely unknown. Epizootic Shell Disease (ESD) in American Lobsters (Homaus americanus) is an emerging disease in the Gulf of Maine which can have a negative economic impact on its fishing industry. Although significant work has been done on the prokaryotic composition of biofilms in ESD lesions, we have found no published research on the role of phage in these biofilms. In this study, we cloned DNA fragments from a phage which infects a bacterium isolated from ESD lesions for partial genome sequencing.