

Invitation

Reconstructing the invasion
history of the seagrass
Halophila stipulacea

Thursday
22 November 2018
17:00 - 18:30

Kyrenia Room
Andreas Themistocleous building
Cyprus University of Technology
Athinon street, Limassol



Cyprus
University of
Technology

The Department of Environmental Science and Technology of the Cyprus University of Technology invites you to the lecture entitled:

**Reconstructing the invasion history of the seagrass
*Halophila stipulacea***

Short Description:

Kelcie Chiquillo, is a PhD Candidate at University of California Los Angeles studying the interspecific interactions between native seagrasses and the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea*. Species interactions are important drivers shaping the success of invasive plants and understanding the specific interaction between invasive and native seagrasses is critical for predicting the future spread of an invader. *Halophila stipulacea* is native to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, it was first documented in Rhodes, Mediterranean in 1894, and first appeared in the Caribbean in 2002 from the island of Grenada. The species/invader has quickly expanded across the Caribbean Sea, apparently displacing local seagrasses. She is interested in understanding better whether *H. stipulacea* interacts negatively against, or is facilitated by, common native seagrasses in the US Virgin Islands and Cyprus, Mediterranean.

The Speaker:

Kelcie Chiquillo is a PhD Candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles. She graduated from San Francisco State University receiving her Bachelors of Science in Marine Biology and minored in Holistic Health. Her research is broadly interested in using multidisciplinary approaches to understand the origins and ecological dynamics of invasive marine organisms, and will use this information to advance marine conservation and biodiversity. Kelcie hopes to become a professor and continue to do research and mentor diversity students to increase minority participation in marine science.