

Shinkishi Hatai International Marine Biology Course

3rd–9th July, 2026

The Research Center for Marine Biology (RCMB), Tohoku University will hold the Shinkishi Hatai International Marine Biology Course (SHIMBC) on 3rd–9th July 2026. The details of the course are available on our website:

<http://www.biology.tohoku.ac.jp/lab-www/asamushi/shimbc2026.html>

The course is designed for undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in marine biology, imparting experiences in basic practices. Not only international students but also some Japanese students will participate in this course, presenting a significant opportunity to enhance scientific and intercultural exchange among students. We regard this course as a unique opportunity for participants to learn about marine biology and specific techniques. Experience with handling marine organisms is not necessary, but priority for acceptance is given to students with much interest in marine developmental biology and coastal ecology.

Overview:

A marine biology station is the ideal environment to observe live marine organisms and to begin studying marine biology. The marine biology course held at our marine biology station, RCMB, situated on the coast of Mutsu Bay, provides hands-on experience in handling marine organisms and explores the diversity and ecology of coastal invertebrates. The course will be comprised of basic and advanced projects. The basic project will introduce the participants to two fields, developmental biology of ascidians and coastal ecology. In the latter advanced project, participants will conduct a supervised project led by instructors, and their findings will be presented on the last day.

Project and Instructor(s):

Developmental biology of ascidians

Dr. Sébastien Darras (Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls, France)

Supporting RCMB staff: Shumpei Morita and Takuya Minokawa

Coastal ecology

Dr. Daphne Munroe (Rutgers University, USA)

Supporting RCMB staff: Aiko Iwasaki

Venue:

Research Center for Marine Biology, Tohoku University (for details see our website: For Users > Access)

Schedule*:

1st day (3rd July): Registration

Keynote lecture (lecturer: TBA)

Welcome reception

2nd and 3rd days (4th–5th July):

“Basic project for developmental biology of ascidians” by Dr. Sébastien Darras

“Basic project for coastal ecology” by Dr. Daphne Munroe

Lecture & lab work

4th–5th days (6th–7th July):

“Advanced project for developmental biology of ascidians” by Dr. Sébastien Darras

“Advanced project for coastal ecology” by Dr. Daphne Munroe

6th day (8th July): Presentations of advanced project

Farewell party

7th day (9th July): Leave Asamushi

Qualifications:

The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students (approx. 15 in total) from any institute, who major in or have an interest in marine biology or related fields. If the number of applicants exceeds our hosting capacity, we may have to decline certain applications. Experience in handling marine animals is not necessary, but priority for acceptance will be given to students with much interest in marine developmental biology and coastal ecology. Accommodation and meals are available at a reasonable rate at the center’s dormitory (for details see the center’s website: For Users). We are unable to support your travel expenses.

Registration:

If you are interested in the SHIMBC, please send an e-mail to the following address by March 31st, 2026. When we receive your e-mail, we will send you an application form with additional information about the course, accommodation, and other relevant details. An early notification of your

intention to participate will assist us in optimizing preparations for SHIMBC.

E-mail address: **shimbc2026(at)grp.tohoku.ac.jp** [Please change (at) to @]

Organizing committee:

Dr. Takuya Minokawa (Chairperson)

Dr. Gaku Kumano (Director of RCMB)

Dr. Shumpei Morita

Dr. Aiko Iwasaki

Dr. Hiroaki Fukumori