

# Using Marine Science Technology in an Integrated Science Class By Jessica Thompson

An Inquiry Adventure in Undersea  
Exploration Technology

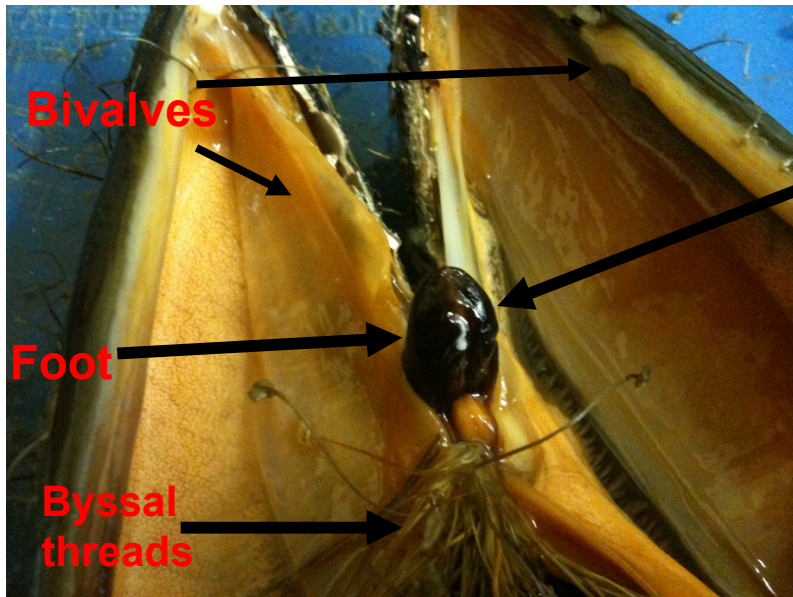
# RET I: Antimicrobial Properties of Mussel Foot Proteins in the Adhesive Plaques of California Mussels

- Waite Lab: Using biomimetics to design under water adhesives

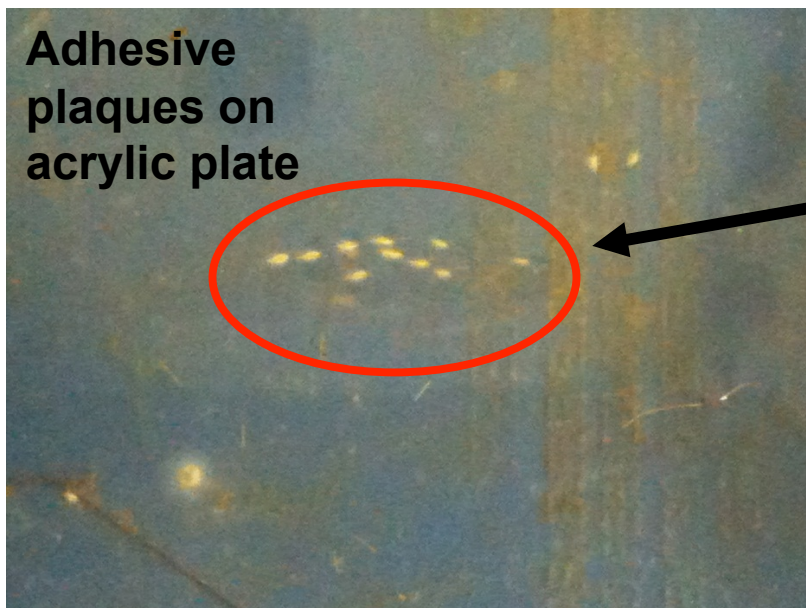


- To determine if proteins Mcfp-3-5 or-6, found in adhesive plaques of *Mytilus californianus*, have any antimicrobial activity.
- If the proteins do have antimicrobial activity, the biomimetic materials created from them could resist biodegradation.
- Biomimetic materials include adhesives that can be applied under water.

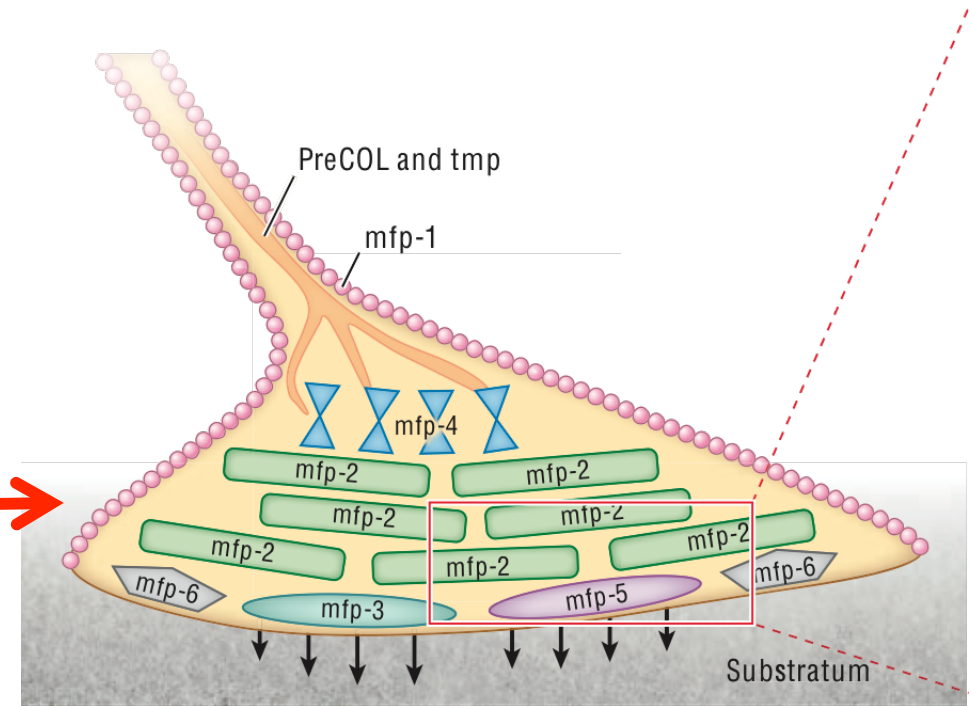
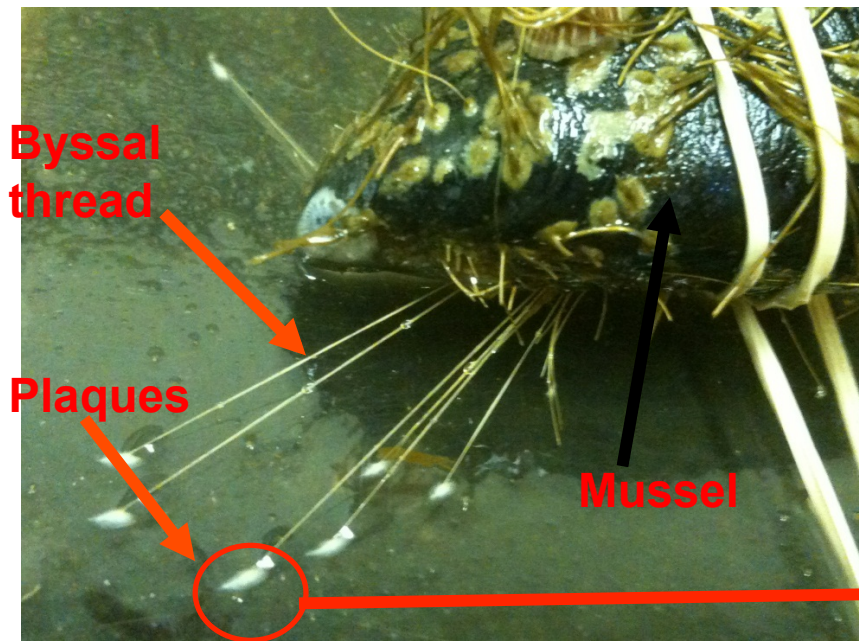
# What is a Mussel's Adhesive Plaque?



Inside the mussel shell, there is a muscular foot which produces a thread and a plaque.

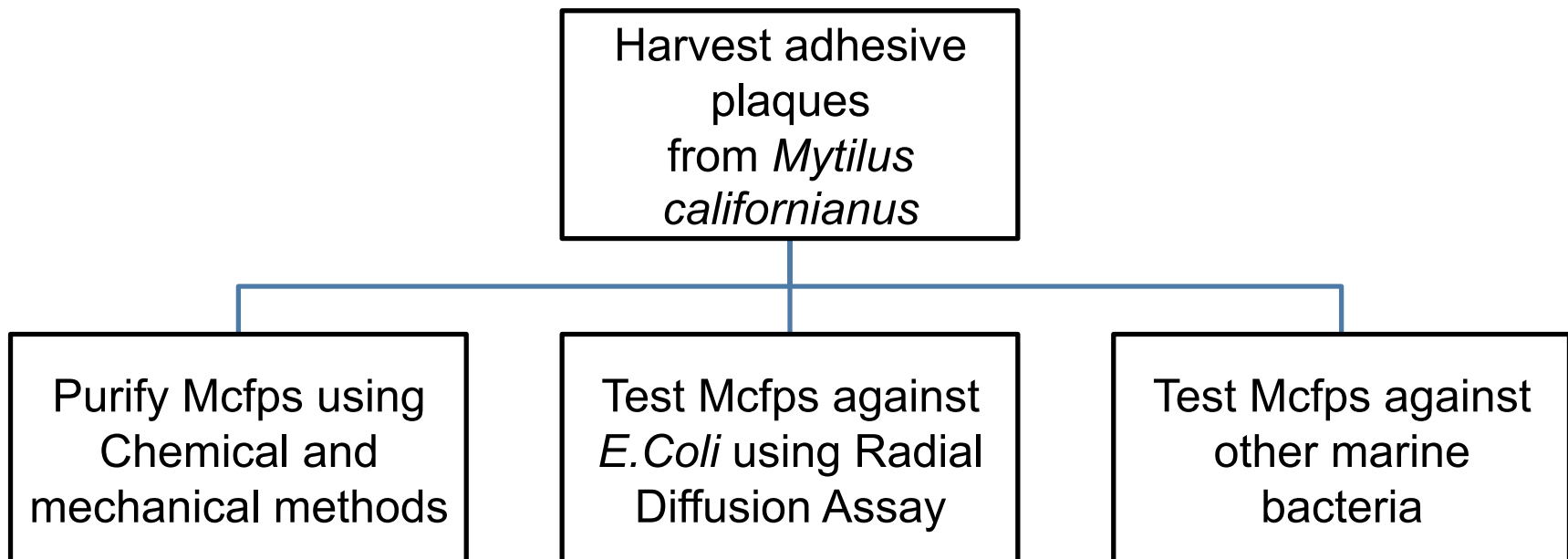


The plaques help the animal to adhere to rocks and other substrata in its intertidal environment so it is not swept away by waves.



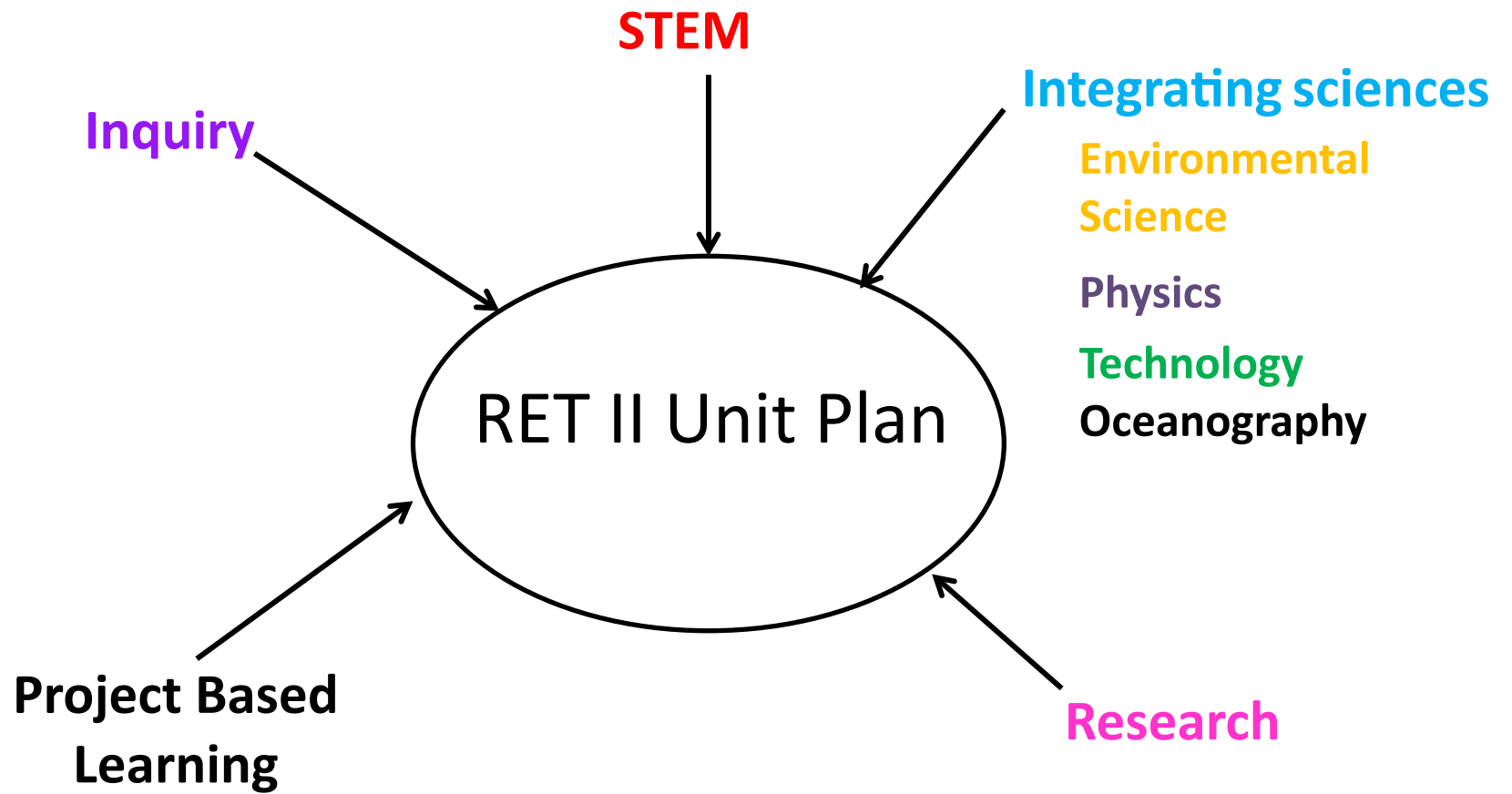
- This is an illustration of the mussel foot proteins (mfps) in an adhesive plaque of a marine mussel depicting the relative locations of the major proteins.  
(Adapted from Lee et. al. 2011[[31](#)])

# Experimental approach





- Refined and refreshed lab skills
- Worked with current biotechnology used in protein extraction methods.
- Allowed me to put the labs I do with students into a professional context.
- Immersed in current research projects which I could share with my students in context with what they are studying.
- Worked with a lab team, the way we generally make our students work on labs in the classroom



## Big Ideas

## Topics

## Activities

Laws of physics  
under water



Pressure and Light/Depth  
Animal Adaptations  
Engineering adaptations



Under Pressure  
Designing Floats  
Creatures at Depth

Using  
Buoyancy



Calculating Buoyant Force  
Neutral Buoyancy  
Applying Archimedes'  
Principle



Modeling the Trieste  
James Cameron's  
voyage: Reading/  
writing activity

Technology



Types of under water  
craft and how scientists  
use them for research.



Design your own  
submersible blueprint  
Build a working ROV

Ecology



Factors that affect D-O<sub>2</sub>  
Health of an ecosystem is  
determined by abiotic  
factors like, D-O<sub>2</sub>  
salinity, and temperature



Extension:  
Using sensors and  
ROVs to collect data  
Design a research  
project



# Precursor: Get Your Students Excited About Undersea Exploration

- In order to incite curiosity I showed my class footage from <http://explorationnow.org/>
- Here they can see **live**, real time footage of **scientists using ROVs** to explore the deep.
- They can hear the scientists explaining what they are doing as it is happening
- They can see what the scientists see as they control the ROV camera

*Its like having a marine scientist right in your own classroom!*

# Phase 1: Explore the Laws of Physics in the Underwater World

- Learn about different types of under sea craft and how they are used
- Research the limitations of different deep sea technology
- Connect deep sea animal adaptations to engineering needs of deep sea vessels.
- Observe that pressure increases with depth



**CCL 1b:** Support claims with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding about the topic.

# Phase 2: Undersea Exploration Technology

## Past and Present

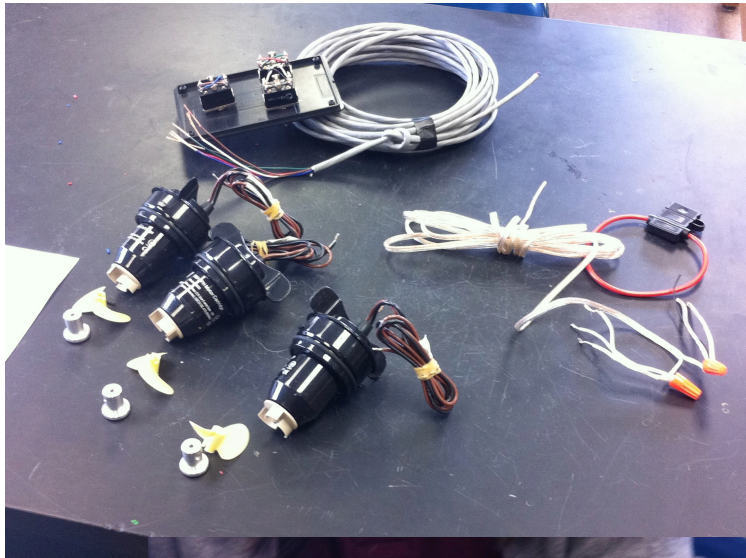


- Compare technology used in exploration of the deep ocean in the past to present technology
- Determine what types of materials are best for floatation
- Model the Trieste to Explore Density and Buoyant Force

- **HS-PS2-6** Communicate scientific and technical information about why the molecular level structure is important in the functioning of designed materials.



# Phase 3: Build a Working Model ROV

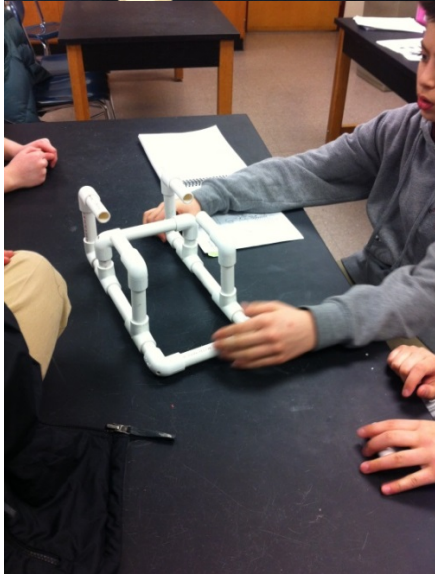
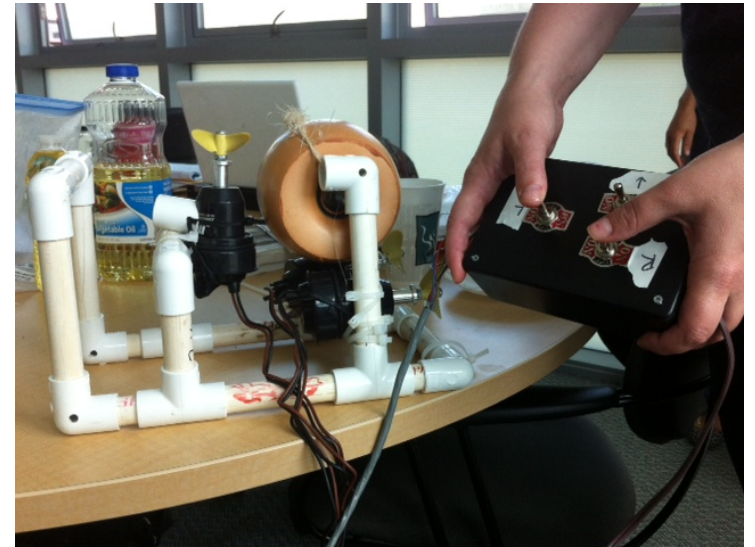


- Design Your Own Submersible Activity
- ROV Construction: MIT Seaperch



**MS-ETS1-2** Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem

# ROV Construction and Testing



# Extension: Use technology to collect data from aquatic or marine ecosystems

- Use the ROV constructed by students with sensors to collect data
- Form a researchable question to investigate the health of the ecosystem.



**HS-LS2-6** Evaluate claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.

# MATE ROV Competitions

- <http://www.marinetech.org/rovcompetition>
  - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/matecenter>
- 
- More than 600 teams from upper elementary, middle, high, and home schools - as well as community colleges and universities - from around the world participated in the 2013 competition season

# Thank You!



- Materials Research Lab
- UCSB- RET
- NSF
- Dr. Frank Kinnaman
- Marilyn Garza
- Javier Cervantes
- Kyla Gupta
- Julia Pustizzi

