

## 2024 Marine Science Award Recipient Highlight:

Ben Gowell, University of New England, graduation: Spring 2025, Major: Marine Science

Ben Gowell was a 2024 recipient of QBC's annual Marine Science Award. With QBC's support he conducted his summer research project using acoustic telemetry to track striped bass in the Saco River and Saco Bay. Ben used acoustic hydrophones (devices that detect tagged fish as they swim past) in water bodies across southern Maine to track the bass. As tagged fish swim near these devices, the fish are pinged! The date and time are recorded, given scientists an idea of how fish are utilizing their environments while they track their movements. With MSA funding, Ben was able to purchase 12 more autistc tags for this ongoing project with UNE's Shark and Fish Ecology Lab.

Ben has been inspired through this work to continue his education through a master's program at UNE where this project will be incorporated into his thesis. Looking forward, Ben hopes to begin publishing his work and one day run his own research lab.

To read further, go to:

<https://www.une.edu/ben-gowell-summer-24-striped-bass-tracking>

