

## **MEM Seminar Series**

Friday, 24 February 2017, 6.00pm, LR425 SDE3

National University of Singapore

Free Admission. Please register here [MEMSS07](#)

# **Remember Chek Jawa: Lessons for the Straits of Johor**

*Assoc Prof Daniel Rittschof, Marine Science & Conservation Division, Duke Marine Lab*

## **The Speaker**

Prof Rittschof's day to day research focus is ecology with emphasis on larval biology, chemical, behavioral, spatial ecology and environmental toxicology. Theoretical contributions are in the origins and evolution of chemical systems. Presently, there are three areas of focus: 1) Ecology and behavioral biology of local macro invertebrates such as blue crabs and mud snails; 2) Barnacle models as they relate to fouling and the prevention of fouling and bio adhesives; 3. Impacts of xenobiotic on behavior and reproduction. He and his students are funded in all three areas with grants to work on a variety of aspects of ecology and reproduction of blue crabs, grants to study families of barnacles with heritable biological adhesive phenotypes and to provide expertise in barnacle biology and to provide living material for the Office of Naval Research Fouling Research program and funding to study impacts of biocide boosters on reproduction and fecundity of target and non-target species. He continues to participate in an antifouling program in Singapore which began January 2000. The Singapore program has the goal of using drugs from medicine as environmentally benign antifoulants. I have recently begun collaborative research programs in India and Brazil.

## **Synopsis**



In developing societies, environmental health, food security, and human health take a back seat to development. However, eventually each society reaches a point where it has the luxury of attending to its environment and its quality of life. This includes, clean water and air, food security, societal health and an economy based upon these values. I will begin with thoughts on Chek Jawa about 16 years after an MP's asked, (paraphrasing) "if protected, what would happen to Chek Jawa". In hindsight, the answer is obvious. Lessons from thinking about Chek Jawa can be applied to the Straits of Johor and can be part of the theoretical basis for thinking about the local environment and relations with Malaysia.