



TITLE: Linking phylogenomic species concepts to functional traits in marine bacteria

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Paul Jensen received a BS in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology, an MS degree in microbiology from San Diego State University, and a PhD in marine biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, where he is currently a professor at the Center for Marine Biotechnology and Biomedicine. His research interests lie at the interface of marine microbiology and natural product chemistry. His group addresses fundamental questions related to the diversity and distributions of bacteria in the marine environment while targeting taxa that produce biologically active secondary metabolites. The compounds produced are explored for useful applications and to assess the functional roles of secondary metabolites in marine systems. His studies employ molecular and culture-dependent techniques with an emphasis on sequence based approaches to investigate the ecology and evolution of secondary metabolism. The overall goals of his program are to ask which microbes produce natural products, where they live, and why they make them in the context of developing better methods for natural product discovery.