Group discussion: Population-level consequences of larval dispersal

Many marine organisms have a bipartite (two-part) life-history that adds a level of complexity to issues of population dispersal and replenishment. During the oceanic phase, some eggs and larvae may disperse away from the region where they were produced, settling away from where they were produced. Others may return back to their source...

Given this basic scenario... consider the following questions:

What <u>physical environmental</u> factors could influence patterns of dispersal or retention on both....

...temporal....

.... and spatial scales?

Similarly, what biological factors could influence patterns of larval dispersal or retention?

How might temporal patterns of settlement by larvae influence local population dynamics?

How might the age structure of adult populations (how long adults live) influence local population dynamics?

How might the breeding schedule of adult populations influence local population dynamics?

What lines of evidence might suggest that larvae settling in a region are not from that region?