Special Seminar Announcement
15:15 Monday 18 August 2014 (3.15 William Perkin Building)

Plastics and Priority Pollutants: A Multiple Stressor in Aquatic Habitats

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Abstract: Approximately 8% of the world’s fossilized fuels are used for the production of plastic products and many of these products are ultimately released into the environment. Huge quantities of plastic debris occur globally in marine environments and the issue is now among the most prominent environmental problems confronting the environmental science community, regulators, and the public. This presentation will discuss the costs of plastics in aquatic habitats based on recent insights from field and laboratory experiments that address both plastics and the priority pollutants that sorb to them. Our investigations have examined (i) the fate of priority pollutants to and from the most abundant types of plastic debris in marine habitats and (ii) the toxicological consequences for fish that ingest this material. These findings will be discussed in addition to the need to integrate policies for managing plastic debris to reduce the problems caused by this material that litters our planet.

Dr. Chelsea Rochman earned her BS in Biology with emphasis in Ecology, Behavior and Evolution from UC San Diego and her PhD in Marine Ecology jointly from UC Davis and San Diego State University. Currently, she is doing postdoctoral research in the Aquatic Health Program at UC Davis funded by NOAA’s Marine Debris Program and will soon begin a David H. Smith Postdoctoral Fellowship in Conservation Biology in the autumn of 2014. Chelsea is also part of a working group on Marine Debris at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) in Santa Barbara and participates in policy meetings and outreach activities to translate research beyond academia.

Dr Ted Henry will be hosting Dr. Rochman and will be pleased to coordinate meetings with her during her visit to HWU (18 August 2014). Please contact Ted (T.Henry@hw.ac.uk) (0131 451-4315) to set up a time to meet if you wish.