



# TROPICAL ROCKY INTERTIDAL COMMUNITIES: COSTA RICAN INTERTIDAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR DIFFERENCES TO CALIFORNIA

Dana Point Headlands Conservation Area  
presents

## Science Night

Wednesday  
July 10th, 2019  
6:30pm

**Dana Point Community Center**  
34052 Del Obispo St.  
Dana Point, CA 92629

## With B. Claire Arre

Rocky intertidal ecosystems in temperate regions, like California, are incredibly diverse habitats with a high abundance/biomass of macroflora and macrofauna. Conversely, tropical rocky intertidal shores have often been described as bare rock dominated, consisting of low biotic abundance. Our community composition studies at 35 rocky intertidal sites in Costa Rica (5 Caribbean, 30 Pacific) support this pattern. While macroalgae and macroinvertebrates were present, particularly in the low zone, they were often small in size. The abiotic and biotic drivers of community composition in tropical rocky intertidal systems have been understudied, and a better understanding of these systems will help us prepare for changes in our local environment.