Zostera marina, commonly known as Eelgrass, and
Crassostrea virginica, the Eastern oyster. The goalof this ongoing project is to investigate the possibility
of a mutually beneficial relationship between oysters and eelgrass in which the eelgrass can mitigate some
of the effects of ocean acidification and global warming on oysters. Oysters and other shell-forming
organisms need readily available stores of carbonate to grow and build their shells. Unfortunately, much
One half of the project was an outdoor mesocosm system that I constructed with my research
partner. We spent the first two weeks of our fellowships designing and building the mesocosm. We
learned basic plumbing and some carpentry, which was very useful and allowed us to be independent in
the process of constructing the mesocosm. Our mesocosm system consisted of three conditions, oysters
only, seagrass only, and oysters and seagrass together. These conditions were then exposed to one of four
treatments. The conditions were set to mirror projected Gulf of Maine pH and temperature conditions inoo�嘀. oe퀄耀nt

ocean floor and the other was meant to float just below the surface. We then adhered the oysters to the
oyster arrays and deployed them into two sites in Harpswell Sound where they stayed for just under two
months. I took weekly trips out to the field sites to check on the arrays and clean them while snorkeling. I
became a boat operator and was able to drive Bowdoin’s boats out into the sound to do this.
I have decided to engage in an Honors Project in the Biology Department to conm─ܓ⠒僐Ԑt ut⍦䁢僐ЀmҀ烔ഀ刀unity has allowed me to foster relationships with professionals in the field of ecology and
climate change research, which is what I believe I will have a career in. I gained many practical skills this
summer which will help me to be competitive in future hiring processes. I am very thankful to have had
this opportunity and am very excited to see what my future holds.
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