

# eBulletin

A monthly update for the community

HARBOR BRANCH

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY\*

## Upcoming Events

Sat April 29

### Oxbow Eco Center's Earth Day Festival

10 a.m. - 3p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

Wed May 10

### Ocean Science Lecture Series

*Conservation of a Prehistoric Fish through Field Research and Aquaculture* presented by Aaron Adams, FAU Harbor Branch. Johnson Education Center Auditorium, 7 p.m. only, admission is free. For the full season lineup, [click here](#).

If you enjoy our programs at FAU Harbor Branch, [please consider making a donation](#).

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## April, 2017

### Harbor Branch Ocean Visibility and Optics Laboratory Awarded Two Grants

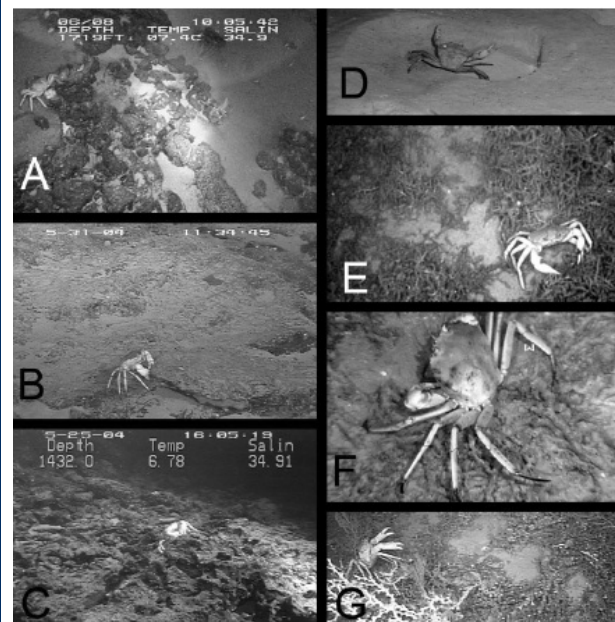


FAU Harbor Branch's Ocean Visibility and Optics Laboratory (OVOL) was recently awarded a grant to package the Non-Invasive Underwater Optical Tracking System. The system that the team is building in collaboration with the Naval Surface Warfare Center - Carderock Division based in Ft. Lauderdale, will be installed at their South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility close to FAU Seatech and offshore Dania Beach.

OVOL, in collaboration with FAU SNMREC and the University of Florida, was also recently awarded a three year grant to extensively field test, validate, enhance performance, and reduce the unit cost for a new sensor known as Unobtrusive Multi-static Serial LiDAR Imager.

For more information on the projects, click [here](#).

### Reed Published in Gulf and Caribbean Research



Harbor Branch Research Professor John Reed co-wrote a paper published recently in *Gulf and Caribbean Research*, a peer-reviewed, scientific journal published online by The University of Southern Mississippi and co-sponsored by the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. The paper is titled Distribution and Habitat Use of the



Golden Crab *Chaceon fenerri* off Eastern Florida Based on in situ Submersible and ROV Observations and Potential for Impacts to Deep Water Coral/Sponge Habitat.

The Johnson-Sea-Link submersible video archives were used for this publication and for a grant from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to conduct the analyses. This study documents the distribution and habitat use of the golden crab, a deep-water commercially fished species, in relation to deep-sea coral/sponge ecosystems (DSCEs) at 200-900 m depths off the southeastern USA. These archives consisted of underwater videotapes from 140 submersible dives from 1999 to 2010. A total of 386 hours of dives covering a total distance of 376 km were reviewed to characterize the benthic habitat and habitat usage of the crabs. The crabs were observed on a wide variety of habitat types, including coral thickets, rock escarpments, rock pavement, boulders, and soft bottom. The golden crab fishery operates off eastern Florida in Allowable Crab Fishing Areas (ACFAs) within the deep-water Coral Marine Protected Areas (CHAPC); however, the researchers have documented at least eight regions within the CHAPCs where the ACFAs overlap probable DSCE habitat. In this paper, the researchers provide resource managers data in order to adjust the boundaries of the ACFAs to protect and preserve vulnerable DSCE habitat while allowing benthic fisheries to operate in areas of soft bottom habitat.

[Read the full paper here.](#)

## Congrats to Researcher of the Year Dr. Bing Ouyang



Dr. Bing Ouyang (pictured, right) was officially awarded Researcher of the Year this week by FAU. Harbor Branch Executive Director Dr. Anton Post (pictured, left) and Associate Executive Director Dr. Megan Davis traveled to Boca to watch him accept his plaque.

## Voss Lab Notes from the Field: Carrie Bow Cay



Harbor Branch's Coral Reef Health & Ecology Lab ([Dr. Joshua Voss](#), [Michael](#), [Allie](#), [Dani](#), and [Ryan](#)) conducted field sampling in Belize in support of their Mesophotic Project, funded through NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology which is

located at Harbor Branch. The goal is to sample *Montastraea cavernosa* colonies from three Meso-American barrier reef sites. After three days and eight SCUBA dives the team successfully collected all 135 samples across three depth zones at their main three reef sites. Read the full post [here](#), and check out the [Flickr album](#) for more images from the trip.

Later in the month, members of the Voss Lab and Harbor Branch community successfully presented at the 2017 Benthic Ecology Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Danielle Dodge was awarded "Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation" for her master's thesis research regarding coral population genetics and gene expression responses to estuarine discharge. Read more [here](#).



## Semester by the Sea Students go Seining



*This month, the Marine Biodiversity students pulled seine nets to collect fish in the lagoon from multiple locations for their last field work of the year.*

## Clelia Returns from Georgia Aquarium



The Harbor Branch Clelia submersible recently returned from the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta. Since 2010, Clelia was on display, serving as an ambassador for deep-sea research and exploration.

Clelia made 629 dives as a Harbor Branch research submersible. She was utilized by scientists on drug discovery missions to collect deep-sea marine organisms and to survey the deep-water *Oculina* coral reefs in the Gulf Stream off Florida's east coast. The yellow sub was built by Perry Systems in the 1970s and was purchased by Harbor Branch in 1992 to round out the institution's fleet of under-sea vehicles, joining the Johnson-Sea-Link I and II submersibles.

## Celebrating Earth Day!

April 22nd marked the 47th annual [Earth Day](#), an environmental movement working with more than 50,000 partners in nearly 195 countries to build environmental democracy. Members of the Harbor Branch community celebrated by participating in the Treasure Coast March for Science, which was organized with the help of Harbor Branch Student Association. The mission of the march ultimately involved celebrating science and encouraging respect for research.



*From left: David Bradshaw, Dr. Esther Guzmán, Bob Halstead, Carlie Perricone, Richard Mulroy, Dr. Amy Wright, Zack Nilles.*

Earth Day festivities will continue this weekend at the [Earth Day Festival at the Oxbow Eco Center](#) on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Harbor Branch will be participating at the event - look out for our booth and stop by and say hello!