

Upcoming Events

Sat April 1

President's Gala

6:30 p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

Mon April 3

Florida Oceanographic Society Coastal Lecture Series

Blake Library in Stuart - 6:30 p.m.

Presenting Matt Ajemian - Discover the delicate connection between stingrays, shellfish, and the health of our estuaries [Click here for more.](#)

Wed April 5

Ocean Science Lecture Series

The Indian River Lagoon: "You Can Observe a Lot by Just Watching" presented by Dennis Hanisak, FAU Harbor Branch. Johnson Education Center Auditorium, 4 & 7 p.m., admission is free. For the full season lineup, [click here](#).

Wed April 5

The Harbor Branch Immersion Tour

A behind the scenes tour of Harbor Branch. Call 772-242-2293 for reservations. [Click here](#) for ticket

March, 2017

Learning Ahoy! Semester By The Sea Students go on Research Cruise



2017 SBTS cruise participants on the RV Bellows in St. Petersburg

The 2017 Semester By The Sea (SBTS) students spent this week aboard the R/V Bellows in the Gulf of Mexico. The research cruise is part of the Ocean Exploration for Undergraduates course taught by Drs. Dennis Hanisak, Jim Masterson and Ned Smith, which provides "hands-on", at-sea, multi-disciplinary opportunities for undergraduates. Students develop team projects on the cruise, which leads to the students collecting appropriate data and producing a scientific poster. Through these activities, students learn a number of research methodologies in a team setting, and take a small project from inception at-sea through completion and dissemination.

The students are working at-sea with Hanisak, Masterson, and Biologist Lisa Jackson. Projects currently under development are heavily focused on analysis of different components of the benthic community (fish, crustaceans, mollusks and echinoderms) along the cruise track from Tampa Bay estuary to the continental shelf. Projects will be presented in the SBTS poster session on April 17.

This will be SBTS's last cruise on the RV Bellows, which has worked along Florida's estuaries and coastlines as a floating laboratory for more than 40 years. It will be replaced later this year by the 78-foot RV Hogarth, which is currently being built in Tarpon Springs.

information.

Fri April 7

Marine Science Fridays
A lecture series
featuring graduate
student research.
Presenting: Sarah
Huff's "Mangroves and
the Unwelcome House
Guest" [Click here for
reservations.](#)

Thurs April 13 Artifact & Fossil Roadshow

5-9 p.m., Vero Heritage
Center. [Click here for
more info.](#)

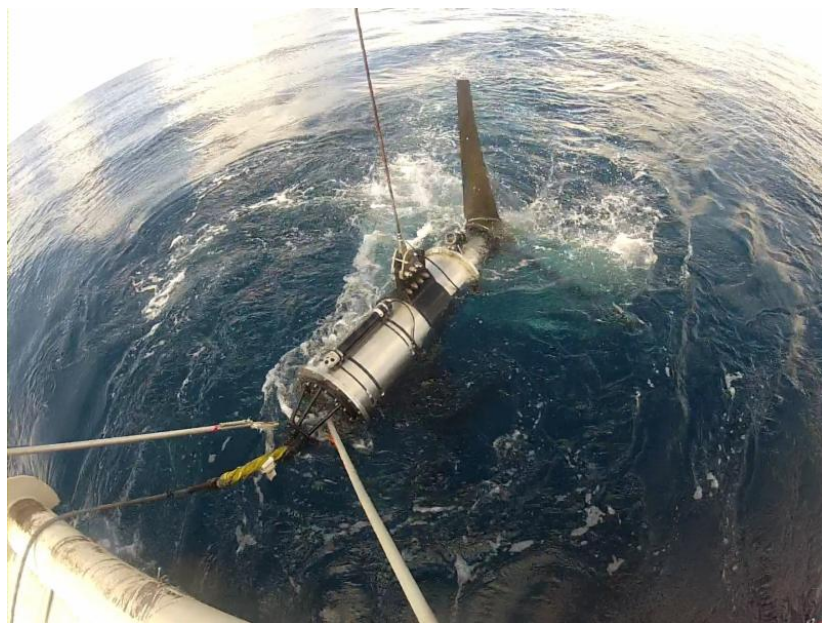
If you enjoy our
programs at FAU
Harbor Branch,
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FAU's SNMREC Lands \$360,000 Grant from NSF



FAU's SNMREC experimental ocean current turbine being deployed for offshore tow testing.

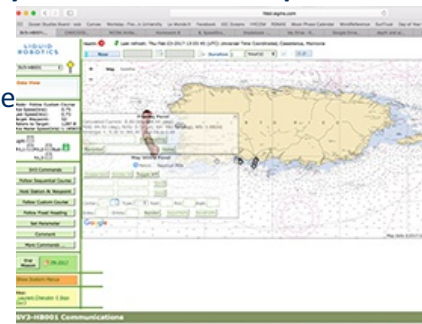
FAU's Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC), a U.S. Department of Energy designated center, has received a \$360,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for undergraduate research.

The grant includes funding for 10 undergraduate researchers who will be engaged in a paid, 10-week program. Participants will receive a weekly salary along with a meal allowance, and will be provided with housing in apartment-style dormitories on FAU's Boca Raton campus (six students) and FAU's Harbor Branch campus (four students) based on their selected project, and travel funding available. Click [here](#) to read more.

Harbor Branch Research Report

Harbor Branch SV3 Wave Glider Surveys Caribbean for Grouper

Under the direction of Project Lead, Laurent Chérubin, Ph.D., Harbor Branch's SV3 wave glider surveyed the waters of the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico as part of a NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy grant with the University of the Virgin Islands and University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Chérubin piloted the wave glider, first along the southern shelf edge of St. Thomas and then along the west coast of Puerto Rico, in search of unknown grouper spawning aggregations. The search was conducted with a listening device (PAM) towed 10 meters below the wave glider, which can classify and identify in real time fish sounds for five species of groupers.



The PAM was designed and built at Harbor Branch and the wave glider was purchased with a grant from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic

Voss & Pomponi Prepare for CIOERT Expedition in Cuba



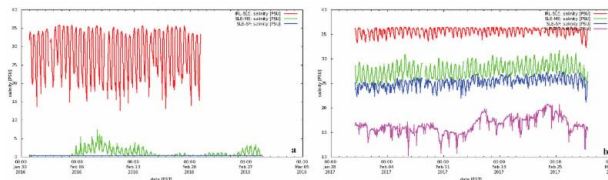
Front Left to Right: Deputy Director of CNAP, Dr. Patricia Gonzalez (U Havana), Carlos Diaz (CNAP), Dr. Shirley Pomponi (HBOI), Marta (translator) Back Far Left: Dr. Joshua Voss (HBOI). Back Far Right: Dr. Peter Ortner (UM)

FAU Harbor Branch's Dr. Shirley Pomponi and Dr. Joshua Voss, joined by Dr. Peter Ortner (University of Miami), and Fernando Bretos (Frost Museum of Science), travelled to Havana, Cuba on Monday to make final arrangements for the upcoming CIOERT expedition which will be circumnavigating the Cuba archipelago.

The cruise will kick-off an exploration and research collaboration between FAU Harbor Branch, University of Miami Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Studies (UM CIMAS), The Frost Museum, the Cuba National Center for Protected Areas (CNAP), the University of Havana

Center for Marine Studies, and the Cuba Institute of Oceanology. The expedition will be the first activity in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA, the U.S. National Park Service, and the Cuba National Center for Protected Areas establishing Sister Sanctuaries between two marine protected areas in Cuba and the Flower Gardens Bank and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries in the U.S. The meeting was organized by Carlos Diaz, Director, CNAP, with participants from each of the partner organizations and representatives from United States and Cuban governments. The expedition will depart May 15 from Miami aboard the University of Miami R/V Walton Smith, and return on June 9.

IRLO Update: What a Difference a Year Makes!



Dr. Dennis Hanisak, Research Professor and Indian River Lagoon Observatory (IRLO) Director, and Kirsten Davis, Indian River Lagoon Observatory Network (IRLON) Manager, provided an Indian River Lagoon update earlier this week.

IRLO research and education activities are being enhanced by the deployment of an estuarine observation network of land/ocean biogeochemical observatory (LOBO) units and weather sensors to provide real-time, high-accuracy and high-resolution water quality/weather data. Check out the full post [here](#).

FAU Harbor Branch's Dr. Sullivan featured on CBS12

Dr. Jim Sullivan was featured in a CBS12 news story highlighting the research on harmful algae blooms in the Indian River Lagoon.

"With harmful algal blooms, there's 40 different species in the lagoon that could create a toxic bloom. Any one of them can be blooming at any time," said Jim Sullivan, PhD, with FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic's Institute. Read the full story [here](#).



FAU Harbor Branch Marine Mammal Rescue and Photo ID Update



"TOOT" - Photo by Sarah Jane Gates

In March, Marine Mammal Rescue received report of an injured dolphin in Martin county, noting that the person reporting the animal could not tell if the dorsal fin injury was fresh or old. Harbor

Branch's Steve Burton forwarded the images to the Photo-ID team who confirmed that it was an IRL dolphin named "TOOT" (a 28-year-old male captured during HERA in 2006) and that the injury was at least six years old. Burton relayed the information to all involved parties and allowed the dolphin to continue without intervention. Special thanks to Dr. Charlie Manire at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center for contacting staff ASAP and big thanks to Photo-ID for their extensive Indian River Lagoon dolphin database.

This month the Marine Mammal Rescue team assisted Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) with two manatee incidents. On March 9th, Harbor Branch's Steve Burton and Wendy Marks checked in on the manatee "Muddy Pie," who was recently released by FWC, Miami Seaquarium and Harbor Branch after three years of rehabilitation. She



FAU Harbor Branch Photo: Telemetry Buoy attached to "Muddy Pie" the manatee

was sighted and her behavior documented - the information was forwarded to the Sea to Shore Alliance, the agency tracking Muddy Pie's progress. Muddy Pie was also sighted in the Harbor Branch canal on March 15th.

Harbor Branch at Conferences, Workshops and Forums

Lapointe Gives Keynote Presentation at Laboratoire d'Excellence: Coral Reefs Facing Global Change



Principal Investigator Brian Lapointe, Ph.D. was honored with an invite to present a keynote talk at the French LabEx workshop in Guadeloupe this month. Dr. Lapointe presented "The role of nutrients in coral-algal phase-shifts: lessons from the Caribbean region." The presentation noted the susceptibility of coral reefs to small amounts of change in the environment, focusing on the change seen in Caribbean region coral since the 1970s. Improved land-use, including best management practices for agriculture and advanced wastewater treatment in urban areas, are needed to moderate

this problem and related issues of climate change in the future.

Seafood Experts Gather at Harbor Branch to Discuss Future of Aquaculture

This month, aquaculture experts from across the nation gathered at FAU Harbor Branch to discuss and prioritize the critical challenges and opportunities facing the U.S. marine food fish aquaculture



industry in accordance with the 2014-19 National Strategic Plan for Federal Aquaculture Research. Statistics from NOAA Fisheries show the United States is the leading global importer of fish and fishery products. With 91 percent of the seafood consumed originating abroad, American seafood consumption contributes to the trade deficit by more than \$11.2 billion annually.

"Based on the presidential administration's goal of reducing the trade deficit, aquaculture has become a topic of conversation in Washington and across the nation," said Anton Post, Ph.D., Harbor Branch Executive Director. "Also, the popularity of seafood as a healthy food option is on the rise - people want to know where it's coming from and that it's sustainably sourced. This workshop will help address these issues and some others that are key to the future of the industry."

The objectives of the workshop were to identify critical needs for research and knowledge gaps in current technologies for the production of marine food fish, as well as develop short-term and long-term goals for meeting the needs of the U.S. aquaculture industry.

Davis Presents at Ocean Leadership Public Policy Forum



Dr. Megan Davis and Dr. Anton Post attended the [2017 Public Policy Forum in Washington D.C. hosted by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership](#). This year's theme was "Feeding the Future: An Ocean of Opportunity." Davis moderated the panel on seafood safety, including seafood fraud, safety factors of developing new marine food sources, and maintaining current ones. The event serves as a call to action for Ocean Leadership and its members



concerning leadership in education and policy on food security and safety.

Harbor Branch Attends ASLO



Members of Harbor Branch attended the [2017 Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography \(ASLO\)](#) conference. The

meeting creates a dialogue among limnologists and oceanographers from around the world.

Laramore and Baptiste Attend Shellfish Aquaculture Workshop

Principal Investigator Susan Laramore, and Richard Baptiste, Aquaculture Facilities Supervisor, attended a statewide workshop on shellfish aquaculture (clams, oysters) presented by [Florida Sea Grant](#). The workshop focused on identifying high priority industry issues as well as helping Florida Sea Grant to fully understand the issues affecting the production of clams, oysters and other shellfish products, and the ability to maintain economic prosperity. The workshop was attended by researchers, regulatory agency staff and staff from funding agencies.



Harbor Branch Student Association Becomes Official



The Harbor Branch Student Association (HBSA) is now an official Registered Student Organization. Its Student Center headquarters is located at Harbor Branch North Office Building, HB-04. HBSA's Executive Board includes: David Bradshaw - President, Dani Dodge - Vice-President, Carlie Perricone - Treasurer, Bob Halstead - Secretary, and Kirstie Tandberg - Social Chair.

The purpose of this organization is to unify Harbor Branch campus students, and establish a connection to all FAU Campuses. Their goals are to hold social, community service, and professional development events throughout the year. Only students are allowed to vote and hold office, but anyone at FAU Harbor Branch and other FAU units can be a part of the organization.

If you would like to join, [email David Bradshaw](#) or visit their [site on Owl Central](#). HBSA would appreciate donations of items appropriate for HBSA's Student Center such as board games, books and movies. Anyone with donations can email David Bradshaw.