

Treasure Coast

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DNA research team at FAU studying extinct populations

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University scientist Greg O'Corry-Crowe and his DNA research team are working to unravel scientific mysteries dating back thousands of years through studies involving innovative "Ancient DNA (aDNA)" analyses. A Harbor Branch laboratory dedicated specifically to aDNA studies was established at the Fort Pierce campus in Novem-

FAU UPDATE

ber 2008. This recent breakthrough makes it possible for researchers to gain knowledge about extinct populations, and also to compare and contrast populations of the same species from long ago with those still living today. This capability can shed valuable light on why certain species recover from population declines, whereas others do not.

The Harbor Branch re-

search team is getting a first look into historic and prehistoric megafauna from Alaska's Cook Inlet and Aleutian Islands. The team is working with several agencies, institutions and scientists to recover and analyze marine mammal bones and teeth from seafloor sediments and archaeological sites across the Arctic.

For more information about Harbor Branch, contact (772) 465-2400 or visit <http://wise.fau.edu/hboi/>.