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Harbor Branch at FAU Hosts Fish Farming Workshop for Teachers from 24 Florida Counties

FORT PIERCE, FL (June 22, 2009) — Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, in collaboration with the University of Florida, recently hosted 50 teachers from 24 counties in Florida who gave up one week of their summer vacation to learn about fish farming. They hope to utilize what they learned in this workshop when they return to the classroom.

Aquaculture, the farming of animals and plants in water, is not only one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture in the world, but an engaging way to teach math and science. Each day, aquaculture tasks require mastering volume, weight, and size measurements, as well as conversions and calculations using both metric and standard systems of units. The objective of this workshop prepared teachers on how to educate students on the foundations of aquaculture so they can familiarize themselves with this growing segment of agriculture.

The teachers learned a curriculum developed for middle and high school level classes. Educators who participated in the workshop now are able to apply for a \$500 start-up grant to help build or expand a classroom aquaculture program. This workshop was sponsored by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture and Florida Aquaculture Specialty License Plate funds.

Teachers from Bay, Broward, Citrus, Duval, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Saint Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sarasota and Volusia counties attended.

For more information, contact Nancy Hatch at 772 465 2400, ext. 439 or nhatch@hboi.fau.edu, or visit wise.fau.edu/hboi/Aquaculture/AQacted_ImmersionExcursion.php .