

eBulletin

A monthly update for the community

HARBOR BRANCH

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

November, 2017

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Nov 29
Harbor Branch
Immersion Tour |
10:30 a.m. [\[More info\]](#)

Wednesday, Dec 13
Ocean Science Lecture Series: "The Role of Oceanic Eddies and Fronts in Removing Organic Carbon From the Surface Ocean"
|Presented by
Melissa Omand,
University of Rhode
Island Graduate
School of
Oceanography | FAU
Harbor Branch | 4:00
p.m. [\[More info\]](#)

FAU Harbor Branch Assists with Sperm Whale Stranding



Photo © 2017 Amber Newell, FAU
Stranding response conducted under a Stranding Agreement between NMFS and FAU HBOI under the authority of the MMPA.

FAU Harbor Branch assisted in the stranding of a young sperm whale on Wednesday, November 15. The whale beached itself near the Juno Beach Pier Wednesday afternoon and died after being sedated during the rescue. The calf was too young to have been without its mother and no adults were seen offshore. The whale was brought back to FAU Harbor Branch where a necropsy was completed. The goal is to use the data that's collected to help prevent future strandings.

Thanks to FAU Harbor Branch staff: Wendy Marks, Adam Schaefer, Steve Burton, Dr. Annie Page-Karjian, Jessie Stevens and Dr. Laurie Alexio; FAU Volunteers: Sarah Cielinski and Amanda Hudon and FAU Graduate Students: Danielle Ingle, Cameron Luck and Grace Roskar.

Special thanks to Harbor Branch's marine mammal rescue partners: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), MARS Stranding group, Juno Beach Pier Ocean Safety and the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center.

Stranding response, care and research of Florida whales is supported by funds from the [Protect Florida Whales specialty license plate](#).

Research

FAU Harbor Branch and Scientists from South Africa Team Up on Study to Save Endangered African Penguins

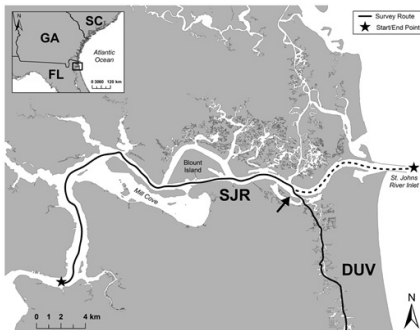


FAU Harbor Branch's Adam Schaefer, M.P.H. is an author on a paper recently published in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. The research, performed in partnership with the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, is a first-of-its-kind study on prognostic health indicators in African Penguins that will provide invaluable information to preserve and rehabilitate them.

With less than 25,000 breeding pairs in existence today, it is an uphill battle for the African Penguin, which calls South Africa home. Competition with fisheries, oil spills, climate change, diseases and predators are all contributing factors in their dramatic population decline, which has been as high as 80 percent in some South African colonies. Until now, limited data existed on the factors contributing to their successful rehabilitation.

Read the [press release here](#) and the [journal article here](#).

Nekolny Research Paper Publishes in Current Zoology



Samantha Nekolny, FAU Harbor Branch Photo ID Research Assistant, was an author on a paper published in *Current Zoology*. The paper is titled "Effects of study area size on home range estimates of common bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus*."

Read the full paper [here](#).

Lapointe Publishes Paper in Harmful Algae

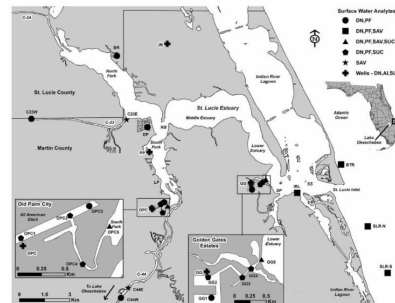


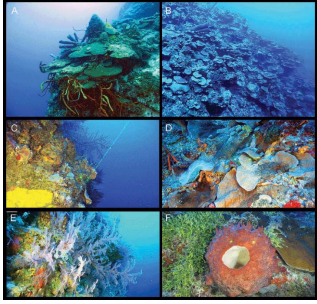
Fig. 2. Martin County watershed to reef project site map with subarea showing the Old Palm City (OPC) and Golden Gate Estates (GGE) residential communities. Analyses performed at each site are represented by shapes as indicated by the key. (OPC=Old Palm City, GGE=Golden Gate Estates, SAR=St. Augustine River, T/SUC=Trinity/SUC, AK/SUC=Alachua/SUC, DNP=Deer Park, DNP-T/SUC=Deer Park/Trinity/SUC, DNP-AK/SUC=Deer Park/Alachua/SUC, SAR=St. Augustine River, Wells-DKALSUC=Wells/DKALSUC). Martin County Department of Health monitoring stations are indicated: LP=Langford Park, BR=Brookwood Bridge, SP=Sandspur Park, and SR=Shore Landing.

Brian Lapointe recently published a paper in *Harmful Algae* entitled, "Septic systems contribute to nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms in the St. Lucie Estuary, Southeast Florida, USA."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Cruise Report Available for joint Cuba-U.S. Expedition

A cruise report for this summer's joint Cuba-U.S. Expedition is now available.



Lead by the Cooperative Institute of Ocean Exploration, Research, and Technology at HBOI-FAU, the cruise provides, for the first time, data on the extent and health of mesophotic coral reefs around the entire coast of Cuba, covering nearly 2,778 km (1,500 nmi). The research cruise is of special significance to understanding the distribution of the deep reefs and the basic oceanographic, biological and ecological processes that take place in MCEs around Cuba and at local and regional levels. The cruise report provides a preliminary overview of the oceanography, habitats, geomorphology, biozonation, biodiversity, and health of these reefs.

Further analyses of the specimens, along with quantitative analyses of the video and photo data, will allow a more precise characterization of the diversity and relative abundance of the mesophotic communities of Cuba, as well as a better understanding of the connectivity of Cuban reefs with the Sister Sanctuaries in the U.S. and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Also these data may lead to expanding or adding new Marine Protected Areas. In addition, Appendix 6 provides a detailed characterization of each dive site which will provide benchmark data for comparisons with future studies and the effects of climate change.

Read the full paper [here](#). Click [here](#) to view the caption for the above image.

Events

Graduate Student Bob Halstead Attends Workshop in Japan



FAU Harbor Branch graduate student Bob Halstead is currently attending a conference in Japan on advances in Japanese eel culture. As a graduate student, Bob is working on the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust sponsored Bonefish Restoration Research Project. For the past two and a half weeks he has been working side-by-side with eel farmers and researchers to learn eel culture methods first hand.

Japanese eels, like Bonefish, have an unusual larval cycle that include a leptocephalus larvae. FAU Harbor Branch was invited to send Bob to Japan by one of their preeminent researchers, Katsumi Tsukamoto of the Laboratory of Eel Science at Nihon University, as a first step in establishing a collaborative relationship to study reproductive and evolutionary biology of the fishes in the superorder Elopomorpha.

FAU Harbor Branch NSF REU Scholar Presents at a 2017 NSF EEC Grantees Conference



Sophie Waxenberg, a 2017 National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) ([SNMREC Site](#)) Scholar, was one of ten Engineering Education and Centers (EEC) REU students selected to attend and present at the 2017 NSF [EEC Grantees Conference](#). Each EEC REU Site was allowed to nominate one student for this opportunity.

Sophie participated in the REU program at Harbor Branch where her ten-week project focused on research related to a novel underwater LiDAR imaging instrument developed at the Ocean Visibility and Optics Laboratory at FAU Harbor Branch. The multi-year project, Unobtrusive Multi-static Serial LiDAR Imager is funded by the US Department of Energy.

More information on the SNMREC REU can be

found [here](#).

[View a PDF of this newsletter here.](#)

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