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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***  
**\*\*\*PHOTO OPPORTUNITY\*\*\***

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**FAU Harbor Branch Partners with 4Ocean, Navocean, and GCOOS to Monitor Algae in Lake Okeechobee with First Autonomous Sailboat**

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (February 1, 2019)** – Harmful algal blooms (HAB) on both coasts of Florida are increasing in number and duration, pressuring local resource managers to find solutions to protect people and nature. Scientists with Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute are partnering with 4Ocean to learn more about HABs in Lake Okeechobee through the deployment of the Navocean “Nav2” vehicle, the first autonomous sail-driven surface vehicle to be used for in-land algae monitoring.

**The vessel will be deployed from the Pahokee Marina, 190 N. Lake Ave., in Pahokee, on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 10:30 a.m. The media is invited to speak to experts about its use in Lake Okeechobee and capture photo/video of the vessel in action.**

The device will send chlorophyll and particle data collected from onboard sensors via satellite to the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observation System (GCOOS), a NOAA certified regional office in the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOSS). GCOOS will validate and publish the data online in real-time on the Gulf AUV Network and Data Archiving Long-term Storage Facility (GANDALF).

For media attendance, contact Lynda Figueredo Rysavy at 561-475-0960 or [lfigueredo@fau.edu](mailto:lfigueredo@fau.edu).

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***About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:***

*Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu/hboi](http://www.fau.edu/hboi).*

**About Florida Atlantic University:**

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [fau.edu](http://fau.edu).*

**About 4 Ocean:**

*4ocean is a sustainability brand started by two surfers with a vision of cleaning the ocean and coastlines, one pound at a time. Their global cleanups are funded entirely through the sale of their bracelets and sustainability products, where every item purchased funds the removal of one pound of trash from the ocean. By creating jobs, utilizing the latest technology, and raising awareness about the impact of trash in the ocean, the company is building the first economy for ocean plastic and creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for the ocean.*