

PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH AT HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

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Since its inception in the 1970s as Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc.'s (HBOI) Aquaculture Division, partnerships in research have played an important role in advancing research and development for the aquaculture industry. During this early period through 2007 when HBOI was a nonprofit research institution many private partners were hosted for active research and commercial enterprise in its 60+ acre Aquaculture Development Park. Some activities that took place in the Park included HBOI assisting with development of a new aquaculture industry in Florida by retraining fishers to be clam farmers after the net ban took effect. HBOI also started for profit subsidiaries in marine ornamentals, clams and shrimp. HBOI also developed and taught aquaculture industry workshops and started an aquaculture degree with a local state college. In 2007 HBOI merged with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to become FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (FAU-HBOI) or Harbor Branch for short. The Aquaculture Development Park, now 30 acres, is still a vibrant and active research entity which hosts what are now called Public Private Partnerships (3Ps). The flavor of these partnerships at has changed from what it was prior to 2007. In the past HBOI hosted commercial ventures and activities to assist in development of the aquaculture industry. Whereas today Harbor Branch requires a strong research component to any 3P that is established; still with the goal to advance the aquaculture industry. How these current 3Ps are structured and examples of 3Ps that are ongoing will be discussed.