

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

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FAU Harbor Branch Donates Fish to Harvest Food & Outreach Center

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (April 4, 2014) – What began as a project to test sustainable aquaculture methods is turning into meals for local families in need. FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute’s (HBOI) aquaculture program received a grant from the Aquaculture Review Council to produce a market-sized crop of pompano in a sustainable, land-based system. The project objectives were met, and researchers have decided to donate the crop of more than 6,000 pompano to the Harvest Food & Outreach Center in Indian River County.

The fish will be loaded onto Harvest’s refrigerated truck on Tuesday, April 8, from noon to 2 p.m., at HBOI’s aquaculture facility, 5600 U.S. 1 North in Fort Pierce, for delivery.

“This project successfully produced safe, healthy seafood,” said Paul Wills, Ph.D., associate director for research and project manager. “We are happy to see that the fish will be donated to a good cause while collecting data critical to the development of a new job-creating industry for Florida farmers.”

Marine aquaculture in the United States contributes to seafood supply, supports commercial fisheries, enhances habitat and at-risk species, and maintains economic activity in coastal communities and at working waterfronts in every coastal state. The FAU Harbor Branch Aquaculture and Stock Enhancement program works to advance seafood production, ecosystem restoration and development of techniques for the aquaculture industry in the United States and globally.

The mission of Harvest Food & Outreach is to provide a hand for those in need, helping them to break free from poverty by offering hunger relief, crisis care, transformative education and employment training opportunities.

For more information, contact Carin Smith at 772-242-2230 or carinsmith@fau.edu.

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About FAU's 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.hboi.fau.edu.

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 three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

About Harvest Food & Outreach Center:

Harvest Food & Outreach Center, founded in 2003 by Austin and Ginny Hunt in Indian River County, provides a holistic, multi-component approach that provides a hand up to those living at or under the 200% federal poverty level. Harvest's unique model offers a comprehensive three-tiered approach to lifting people out of poverty through: 1) a Hunger Relief Program that includes an Emergency Food Box and Cost Share Grocery Program, 2) a Crisis Center that stabilizes people in crisis through counseling and active referrals to services, and 3) Education and Employment Opportunity Programs that address the source of the problem and provides long term solutions for those in need toward self sufficiency. For more information about programs, donations, and volunteer opportunities, call 772-778-3977 or visit www.harvestfoodoutreach.org.