

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

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**FAU Harbor Branch Scientists to Explore Local Oculina Reefs**  
*Media Invited to View Manned Submarine Dives*

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (June 19, 2015)** – FAU Harbor Branch scientists and students will have a unique opportunity to explore Oculina reefs off the St. Lucie Inlet in manned submersibles, thanks to a partnership between HBOI and Project Baseline.

**The dives will take place on Thursday, June 25 and Friday, June 26 from 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. This also will provide an opportunity for members of the media to accompany researchers on the ship and photograph/video submersible work.**

Under the direction of HBOI assistant research professor Joshua Voss, Ph.D., technical scuba and manned submersible dive teams will be conducting operations with Project Baseline on the ship the *Baseline Explorer*. The primary goal of the project is to relocate and map two Oculina sites near the St. Lucie Inlet to determine the potential effects of bottom fishing.

Members of the media interested in participating can reserve a time slot with Carin Smith at 772-242-2230 or [carinsmith@fau.edu](mailto: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.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 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](http://www.fau.edu).

**About Project Baseline:**

*Project Baseline, supported by Global Underwater Explorers and the research vessel “Baseline Explorer,” was founded in 2009 to empower a global network of highly skilled scuba divers (more than 275 and growing) in 25 countries to create a lasting visual legacy of underwater conditions in oceans, lakes, rivers, springs, and caves all over the world, one picture and video at a time. For more information, visit [projectbaseline.org](http://projectbaseline.org).*