[PHOTO ATTACHMENTS]

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FAU Harbor Branch Website Provides Scientists and Public with Important Lagoon-Related Data

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (November 5, 2013) –FAU Harbor Branch researchers have been able to track important real-time data, including nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the IRL, since the installation of the first Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory (LOBO) in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) four months ago.

The public website (http://fau-hboi.loboviz.com/) is accessible and available 24 hours a day, and allows scientists and the public to keep track of water quality and compare patterns and relationships among the different types of data over time. Researchers at FAU Harbor Branch have tracked nitrogen and phosphorus levels for the past four months and found a strong inverse relationship to salinity changes that are related to rainfall and freshwater discharges from Vero Beach.

"Through this user-friendly website, you are able to see a variety of water measurement interactions by plotting various charts," said Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., director of the HBOI Indian River Lagoon Observatory program. "The data produced by LOBO technology provides baseline data that can help local community leaders make decisions about reducing nutrient loads and to also follow changes in the IRL as projects to improve the condition of the IRL take place."

The LOBO was developed by leading scientists with competitive funding provided by the National Science Foundation and is used in several estuaries in Florida, and the east and west coast of the United States. The LOBO was selected by FAU Harbor Branch for use in the IRL because it is the only technology that has been scientifically proven over time by oceanographers and estuarine researchers to produce the highest caliber needed for oceanographic and coastal data.

A primer on how to access and use the Harbor Branch LOBO data, with examples from these first four months, can be found at www.fau.edu/hboi/meh/LOBO.Primer.pdf

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

Photo Captions: Plots of nitrates vs. salinity and phosphorus vs. salinity over a four month period show elevated nutrient levels at lower salinities.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:
Founded in 1971, Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute 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.

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.