

### Upcoming Events

**Thu Sept 22**

#### **Special Lecture at the Elliott Museum**

Presented by Bill Baxley, Chief Engineer for FAU's Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center. Elliott Museum, 825 N.E. Ocean Blvd., 7 p.m. Call 772-225-1961 for more information.

**Sat Oct 22**

#### **IRL Science Festival**

Co-sponsored by FAU Harbor Branch. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park at the River Walk in Fort Pierce. Click here for more information.

**Thu Oct 27**

#### **Special Lecture at the Elliott Museum**

Presented by Dr. Shirley Pomponi, Executive Director of NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology. Elliott Museum, 825 N.E. Ocean Blvd., 7 p.m. Call 772-225-1961 for more information.

#### **DATE CHANGE**

The Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center will reopen to the

## August, 2016

### Ajemian Featured in Wall Street Journal for Work with OCEARCH



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Professor Matt Ajemian of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University takes notes on the juvenile dusky shark the team caught, tagged and released. BENJAMIN HOSTE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



FAU Harbor Branch Assistant Research Professor Dr. Matt Ajemian and Research Coordinator Mike McCallister are part of the research team currently working together with OCEARCH to tag sharks off the coast of New York. This week, Ajemian was featured in an article on the project in the Wall Street Journal ([click here](#) to view it). The team was also featured in a story that appeared on the CBS affiliate in New York ([click here](#) to view it).

The expedition got under way last week, and is the first time the organization has conducted work in these waters. Scientists involved in the project chose to explore the area because they suspect that the nearby south shore of Long Island may serve as a nursery area for Great White Sharks, a hypothesis stemming from the migratory patterns of five adult Great Whites previously tagged by OCEARCH collaborating scientists and other preliminary reports. This week, they were able to tag nine juvenile Great Whites, lending credence to that hypothesis. [Click here](#) to view a CBS This Morning story that shows those sharks being tagged.

### FAU Harbor Branch Scientists Publish Research Results in International Journal of Cancer

public on December 6, 2016. The facility will be closed through December 5, 2016 for renovations.

*Mission: Ocean Discovery* public outreach programming, including Immersion Tours, Lectures, the Brown Bag Lunch Series and Children's Camps, will also be on hiatus. Stay tuned for more info on upcoming events!

If you enjoy our programs at FAU Harbor Branch, [please consider making a donation.](#)

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Scientists at FAU Harbor Branch found that a deep-water marine sponge collected off of Fort Lauderdale's coast contains leiodermatolide, a natural product that has the ability to inhibit the growth of cancer cells as well as block cancer cells from dividing using extremely low concentrations of the compound. This work resulted in the award of a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office protecting the use of the compound against various forms of cancer. Sea sponges are an ancient group of animals that appeared more than 600 million years ago that have many of the same genes as humans. These scientists are taking advantage of this similarity in human and sponge genomes to isolate marine natural compounds from these organisms to develop medicines useful in the treatment of human diseases such as cancer. The researchers are expanding on their original findings, recently showing that leiodermatolide can reduce pancreatic tumor size in vivo, publishing the results of this study in the *International Journal of Cancer (IJC)*.

Lead author Dr. Esther Guzmán, associate research professor at FAU Harbor Branch, along with colleagues and co-authors Dr. Amy Wright, research professor; Tara Pitts, biological scientist; and Dr. Priscilla Winder, research associate; as well as collaborators from Eisai Pharmaceuticals and the University of Central Florida, have been able to show that leiodermatolide induces programmed cell death in pancreatic cancer cells, and inhibits the growth of other cancer cells such as metastatic melanoma, colon cancer, lymphoma, and glioblastoma, a rare and deadly form of brain cancer.

[Click here](#) to read more.

(\*story written by Gisele Galoustian\*)

Chérubin Partners with NOAA on Fish Aggregation Research Project



FAU Harbor Branch Associate Research Professor Dr. Laurent Chérubin is working on a project that utilizes The [Liquid Robotics, Inc. SV3 wave glider](#) to study fish aggregations in the [NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#). The wave glider was successfully deployed recently off NOAA Ship Nancy Foster, remotely piloted by Chérubin and Florida Atlantic University Engineer Bill Laing.

The project builds on past research and monitoring in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) with the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. It focuses on connectivity between the network of marine reserves in the Dry Tortugas region, including the connections between populations of fish in the waters of the Florida Keys, Marquesas, Dry Tortugas National Park, the Tortugas Ecological Reserve North and spawning habitat at Riley's Hump, located within the Tortugas Ecological Reserve South, and surrounding reef habitats including areas such as Warsaw Hole.

The goal of the wave glider mission was to record ambient noise, fish and marine mammal sounds and record oceanographic conditions in the vicinity of spawning grounds for snappers (Cubera and Mutton) in the summer and groupers (Black) in the winter. The new robotic sensing technology is assisting researchers with important conservation measures and making data collection easier and less costly than ever before. The purchase of the Harbor Branch wave glider and the engineering efforts to develop and test the sensor package was funded by a grant from the [Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation](#).

## Partnership Allows Florida Drivers to Purchase Harbor Branch's Specialty Plates Online Through Local Office



FAU Harbor Branch's specialty license plate (SLP) program, granted through the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation, is now teaming up with the Indian River County Tax Collector's Office to

offer online sales of [Protect Wild Dolphins](#), [Save Our Seas](#), [Protect Florida Whales](#) and [Florida Aquaculture](#). This new partnership allows Florida drivers the convenience of buying from home, without having to physically go to a tax collector's office to purchase a plate. Potential buyers can now go through the [Harbor Branch website](#) to complete and submit an online inquiry form that goes directly to the IRC Tax Collector's Office, where the sale can be completed and the plate can be shipped, without a service fee. [Click here](#) for more information on the research projects these plates support.

## Marine Mammal Rescue Teams Assists with Turtle Stranding



This week, FAU Harbor Branch's Marine Mammal Rescue Team assisted the [FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute](#) with rescuing a female loggerhead turtle that was found stranded on a local beach. She was transported to [SeaWorld](#) for critical care and rehabilitation. All activities were conducted under FWC marine turtle permit number MT-16-139, which was recently secured by [Dr. Annie Page-Karjian](#), Assistant Research Professor and Clinical Veterinarian at FAU Harbor Branch.

## Harbor Branch Ocean Technology Exhibit Moves to Elliott Museum



FAU Harbor Branch's *Mission: Ocean Discovery* program is partnering with the Elliott Museum in Stuart to provide a view into the innovative technology being developed by Harbor Branch scientists and engineers to explore the ocean. The "Sight, Sound and Dynamics in the Sea: The Role of Technology in Ocean Exploration" exhibit is now on display at the Elliott through November 27. The rotating exhibit made its debut at the Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center in January and moved to the Elliott this summer.

Oceanographic technology plays an integral role in opening up worlds that would otherwise remain unknown to us. The exhibit provides a rare up-close look at the devices that allow Harbor Branch scientists and engineers to create their own underwater laboratories and effectively conduct their research.

The partnership will also include two lectures at the Elliott - one presented on September 22 at 7 p.m. by Bill Baxley, Chief Engineer for FAU's Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center and another on October 27 at 7 p.m. by Dr. Shirley Pomponi, Executive Director of NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology, headquartered at Harbor Branch.

The Elliott Museum is located at 825 N.E. Ocean Boulevard in Stuart and is open daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Regular museum admission prices apply. For more information, call 772-225-1961.