THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Coastal & Marine Laboratory

About the FSUCML

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COASTAL & MARINE LABORATORY (FSUCML) is located on Apalachee Bay in the Gulf of Mexico in a part of Florida known as The Big Bend, a remarkably undeveloped region that links peninsular Florida with the rest of the state. The name of the lab reflects the acknowledged connectivity between terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems as well as the realm of research conducted here at the lab.

THE MISSION of the FSUCML is to conduct innovative, interdisciplinary research that contributes to solving ecological problems and providing the scientific underpinnings for informed policy decisions.

The area of research focus is primarily the Wider Caribbean (including the large marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and Northwest Atlantic coast of the southeastern United States)-- a region that is both enormously under-served and of high economic and geostrategic value.

THE VISION is to become one of the premiere laboratories in the country addressing marine and coastal conservation issues at scales ranging from the organismal to the ecosystem.

FSUCML faculty, staff, and students work tirelessly to make this happen.

Research

THE RESEARCH PROGRAM at the Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory emphasizes basic science, management, and conservation of living marine resources. This kind of program at this time is critically important because the region faces increased population growth, intense fishing pressure and nutrient pollution, climate change, and oil and gas development.

And yet, the mosaic of habitats surrounding the lab itself is relatively pristine, offering exceptional sites for study, from saltmarshes and oyster reefs to sand dunes and hardbottom habitats.

The research conducted is interdisciplinary in nature, based on an ecosystem-level approach, and reflects the strengths of the faculty. This includes studies of coral reef habitats and conservation in cold seep communities, food-web interactions, salt marsh and seagrass community ecology, and life history studies of invertebrates and fishes from the rivers, coast, and slope to the deep sea.

Those conducting research at the FSUCML include resident faculty, post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students as well as those from campus-based departments in biological science, earth sciences, and geography. In addition, the lab attracts researchers and collaborators from other institutions across the country and throughout the world.

Visit our website at:
www.marinelab.fsu.edu

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Marine Operations

The FSUCML Marine Operations Program provides scientists access to the facilities, study sites, and support services that they need to conduct research and education programs in coastal and marine environments. Resources include the RV Apalachee, a 65-ft flagship vessel used for nearshore and offshore research; a fleet of small boats; and a scientific diver training and support facility (approved by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences).

Education and Outreach

Scientists at the FSUCML are deeply engaged in providing education and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, training young scientists today who will address the ecological questions and societal concerns of tomorrow.

Education and outreach go hand in hand as FSUCML faculty and staff introduce the community at large--from primary and secondary school students and their teachers to natural resource managers and policy makers--to the wonders of discovery and the importance of marine ecosystems to their daily lives. This is accomplished through public lectures, short courses, and direct interactions in the policy arena to such special events as FSUCML's Biennial Open House and the Annual Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta.

Stay Connected

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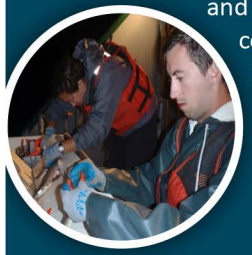
"FAR AND AWAY, THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE OCEAN, AND THUS TO OURSELVES, IS IGNORANCE. BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT."
- SYLVIA EARLE

The northeastern Gulf of Mexico marine ecosystem within which the **Florida State University Coastal & Marine Lab (FSMCML)** is embedded, is among the most biologically diverse and productive systems in the United States.

The lab is surrounded by 1.2 million acres of conservation lands, and allows easy access to a mosaic of oyster reefs, seagrass meadows, and salt marshes, nearshore sponge reefs, and offshore drowned patch reefs, providing scientists with a living laboratory.

Partnerships and collaborations with neighboring institutions, including the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, NOAA Fisheries, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, and the Nature Conservancy, attest to our common interests in the conservation and management of the region's natural resources.



Become A Friend

Be a part of the excitement by making a gift to the FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory. Private support provides us with tremendous flexibility to respond rapidly to new opportunities and to plan for long-term development.

Our strategic plan for the future of the lab includes building new research facilities, a new auditorium, new housing, and an education center. In addition, the plan includes providing equipment for our fleet of research vessels and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate research. Already under construction are educational kiosks that support self-guided tours of the lab.

Join a group of dedicated people who support our mission. Gifts of any amount are important, whether it is for our general operations, or to endow scholarships to create research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

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