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BULLETIN

FALL 2011

Harbor Branch at 40: History of Accomplishment Points to Promising Future



After four decades, one-of-a-kind research experiences continue to inspire the next generation of marine scientists and engineers

Edwin A. Link and his Sea Diver II research vessel first entered what would become the Harbor Branch canal to seek shelter from an approaching hurricane in 1965. In the late 1920s, Link invented the flight simulator that would train countless World War II pilots, but his interests had since shifted to ocean exploration. Envisioning the site as the location for a marine science center he hoped to establish, Link purchased land along the canal's south edge in 1969.

Link invited his friend and colleague from the board of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, J. Seward Johnson, Sr., to see the property. Johnson, son to a Johnson & Johnson healthcare company founder, would form endowments to fund Link's submersible research and to establish a Smithsonian Institution station for marine research at the site. He also bought hundreds of acres of surrounding land and, in 1971, teamed with Link to create a marine science and technology organization that

(Story continues on next page)

40 YEAR TIMELINE

Harbor Branch founded with Marine Science and Engineering Divisions;

First Johnson-Sea-Link submersible christened, establishina a program that, with the Johnson-Sea-Link II and Clelia, will achieve 9,407 dives over the next 40 years

First major research project, the Indian River Lagoon Coastal Zone Study, begins

Summer Intern Program that will host 500 students over the next 40 years begins assumed the name of Johnson's funding entity: Harbor Branch Foundation.

The two initial divisions, Marine Science and Engineering, reflected the "what" and the "how" of the institution. Much of the early science, including the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Coastal Zone Study, was done in collaboration with the Smithsonian and another of Link's on-site partners, the Florida Institute of Technology. Engineering and technology were directed by Link, whose Man-In-Sea program had generated new exploration platforms including the Submersible Decompression Chamber and the Deep Diver lockout submersible, both of which are on display next to the canal that has become the main artery of the campus. This program also built the



Edwin A. Link and his Submersible Decompression Chamber

Johnson-Sea-Link submersible, which positioned scientists in a clear sphere for unprecedented visibility.

Education also was a priority for Link, and his Link Foundation began funding a Harbor Branch summer intern program that continues to this day. In 1965, the Link Foundation had set the stage for the first undergraduate engineering program in the country at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) by funding scholarships for this new field.

Link did not live to see the 10th anniversary of Harbor Branch, and

Johnson passed away less than two years later, but the legacy continues in the vibrant programs and discoveries they inspired.

EXPANSION, DIVERSIFICATION

Before his death, Johnson began to transfer leadership to his son, J. Seward Johnson, Jr. One of

the younger Johnson's first initiatives was creation of the Biomedical Marine Research program, which is inspired by the ocean's great biodiversity as a source of medical treatments. With its unique collection of more than 35,000 samples of marine organisms and 19,000 microbial cultures, the program has characterized more than 100 compounds with significant therapeutic potential. Other mid-1980s divisions included Marine Science, Ocean Engineering, Applied Biology (known today as Aquaculture and Stock Enhancement) and Marine Operations. To better reflect its work, the organization became known as Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution.

It was in the 1980s that the potential for Harbor Branch to serve as an agent of environmental conservation began to be realized. A major finding of the IRL Coastal Zone Study was spectacular stretches of deepwater Oculina varicosa, a slow-growing tree coral that can reach 100 feet in height and serves as habitat for countless species of fish and other marine life. These reefs are highly vulnerable to trawling and other commercial fishing practices, and after years of documentation and advocacy spearheaded by Harbor Branch scientists, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council established the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, the world's first deep coral reef area to receive protection from damaging fishing practices.

This combination of basic and conservation-oriented research was extended during the 1990s with founding of the Marine Mammal Research and Conservation program. The program began with a photographic identification study to document the social structure of IRL dolphins, and is a member of the NOAA Southeast Region Marine Mammal Stranding Network that responds to assist sick and injured animals.

As Harbor Branch grew in size and complexity, its status as a privately operating foundation became increasingly difficult to maintain. In recognition of this evolution, Johnson resigned his leadership and the institution became a charitable organization in 2004.

(Story continues on next page)

40 YEAR TIMELINE CONTINUED

Deepwater Oculina reefs
discovered 30 miles offshore
from Ft. Pierce using the
Johnson-Sea-Link submersible

Aquaculture Division
created to develop
sustainable seafood
and restoration species

Biomedical Marine Research
program created to discover and
develop marine natural products
with disease-fighting potential

Deep-sea sponge responsible for discodermolide, a potent inhibitor of tumor cell growth, is discovered in the Bahamas

Program to teach clam farming to fishermen displaced by
Florida net ban is established

Engineers begin installing
 systems to prevent manatee
 deaths at inland navigation
 and water control locks

Marine Mammal Research
and Conservation Program
established

40 YEARS, CONTINUED.

ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

In 2006, Harbor Branch and FAU, a member of the Florida State University System, began discussing how best to capitalize on a growing research and education relationship fostered by a shared, FAU-funded, 40,000 sq. ft. marine science building at Harbor Branch. At the end of 2007, Harbor Branch became the northernmost of FAU's seven campuses, and was renamed Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at FAU. The union would close the circle that began with the Link Foundation ocean engineering scholarships.

The effect of the union on the Harbor Branch campus has been transformational. Building funds provided by the state legislature have enabled renovation of aging infrastructure and construction of new laboratories. Researchers from across FAU have been collaborating on a variety of projects, such as an initiative involving Harbor Branch and other FAU engineers to generate electricity using Florida's Gulf Stream current. Harbor Branch faculty now teach a variety of FAU graduate courses, and faculty from other colleges are co-mentoring Harbor Branch postdoctoral investigators.

Forty years after Harbor Branch emerged on Florida's Treasure Coast, the institutional DNA remains unchanged: an amalgam of technology, science, education and community engagement operating for the benefit of marine ecosystems and the planet that depends upon them.





Margaret S. Leinen, Ph.D.

In November it will be 40 years since J. Seward Johnson, Sr., with the help of Edwin A. Link, founded Harbor Branch, sparking a quest for knowledge that only grows in relevance and importance as more is discovered.

Just over a generation into this quest, the realization began to dawn that increasing human impacts on the oceans were transforming the mission at Harbor Branch from understanding the world of natural resources to documenting, understanding, and trying to reverse rapid humancaused change.

Today, belonging to Florida Atlantic University, we are looking ahead to new challenges. This includes advancing a vision of what an oceanographic research institute should do. There is still much left to explore in the oceans, but we are also responding to ecosystem changes that are taking place at a pace that is perhaps greater than nature's ability to adapt. Still, we remain steadfastly optimistic that the pulse of inquiry and innovation established by Johnson and Link is the rhythm of great things to come. Join us for the adventure.

margarer Leinen

Harbor Branch becomes a research institute of Florida Atlantic University

► Harbor Branch-led consortium selected to host NOAA Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology

■ More than 23,000 square miles of U.S. southeast deepwater coral habitat designated as Habitat Area of Particular Concern based on Harbor Branch efforts;

Four-week expedition assesses Gulf of Mexico habitats in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill



With its broad range of habitats and species, the Indian River Lagoon is considered North America's most biodiverse estuary

Indian River Lagoon Research Expands Through Observatory

Harbor Branch may have "oceanographic" as a middle name, but it also has the brackish waters of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) drifting along its eastern edge and up the canal that first appealed to Edwin A. Link and J. Seward Johnson, Sr., as the right spot for a new marine science institute. And just as Harbor Branch researchers have forged an outstanding reputation for marine science and technology innovation through oceanic endeavors, so too will an expansion of IRL work earn for Florida Atlantic University (FAU) a name for estuarine research leadership and a signature program of environmental research, education and outreach. The effort is funded primarily from sales of the Save Our Seas and Protect Wild Dolphins Florida specialty license plates.

The IRL long has been a topic of Harbor Branch interest, as noted in an early 1970s pamphlet: "In the local Indian River area, studies are being made to catalog the indigenous species and to chart their life histories." This effort has continued in varying capacities ever since, including more than a decade of intensive bottlenose dolphin photo identification, behavioral ecology and health and environmental risk assessment studies. The new

initiative, the Indian River Lagoon Observatory, represents not only an expansion of research, but also a consolidation and integration of historic data and ongoing projects. Its goal is to produce a more comprehensive understanding of the ecosystem and the effects of human development within its watershed. (Story continues on next page)



Marilyn Mazzoil will be leading an effort to study Florida manatees



Dr. Brian Lapointe will be looking at excessive algal blooms

Essential to achieving this goal is fostering engagement among the many other IRL research entities in Florida, which is the aim of the Indian River Lagoon Symposium, a yearly event set to debut at Harbor Branch in February. Organizers led by Research Professor Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., will facilitate development of a comprehensive five-year research plan for the IRL.

MICRO TO MACRO

The current slate of IRL work, which includes continuations and extensions of established research as well as entirely new endeavors, is perhaps the largest integrated research initiative in Harbor Branch history. Several of the studies are tied to water quality, which is sensitive to the effects of population growth. Harbor Branch researchers for years have been using six data collection sites between Fort Pierce and northern Vero Beach to monitor IRL water quality and characterize the impact of freshwater inputs and other variables. This data is a foundational asset of the IRL Observatory.

Two new projects are focusing on the causes and effects of harmful algal blooms: macroalgal blooms, which have become more prominent than native seagrasses as land-based discharges into the IRL have increased, and cyanobacterial blooms, which produce toxic, tumor-promoting, immune-suppressing and skin-irritating compounds. Leading these efforts are Research Professors Brian Lapointe, Ph.D., and Amy Wright, Ph.D., respectively. The work will complement Dr. Hanisak's ongoing IRL seagrass studies.

Other new research targets pathogens that pose risks to IRL residents and humans. Research Professor Peter McCarthy, Ph.D., is directing a study of microbial species commonly found in contaminated waters, such as fecal coliforms, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria that have become associated with marine mammals. Epidemiologist Adam Schaefer is leading an effort to pioneer laboratory culture of a fungal organism that infects humans and IRL dolphins, which is essential to learning how to manage the pathogen.

One larger IRL species getting a closer look is the bull shark, which can survive the salinity spectrum from ocean to IRL tributaries. FAU Ph.D. graduate student Gabby Barbarite is studying bull shark sensory systems to help explain how the species may or may not be able to adapt to human-caused water degradation. Even larger is the Florida manatee, which uses the Harbor Branch canal as a warm water refuge during colder months. Research Associate Marilyn Mazzoil is leading an effort to create an integrated system of photo identification and remote sensing to continuously monitor behavior and habitat of this endangered species.

"The connection of these systems – from land to estuary to ocean – underscores the importance of understanding the IRL ecosystem in a more comprehensive fashion," said Dr. Hanisak. "Beyond protecting what is arguably this region's most important natural resource, we expect that the IRL Observatory can become a model for estuarine research worldwide."



The IRL Observatory continues a long history of Harbor Branch research in, on and around the lagoon

Postdoc Updates

POSTDOCS MAKING PROGRESS

The members of the FAU Harbor Branch postdoctoral investigator class of 2012 are about halfway through their two-year appointments, which provides a good opportunity to get caught up on their work.

Gero Nootz, Ph.D.

Under the direction of Assistant Research Professor Fraser Dalgleish, Ph.D., director of the Ocean Visibility and Optics Lab, and Professor William Rhodes, Ph.D., of the FAU College of Engineering and Computer Science, Dr. Nootz recently had the opportunity to go to sea and try out some of the technology that he is helping the team develop. They spent two weeks at sea on University of Miami's RV Walton Smith, working in the waters off Florida and the Bahamas (see related story on page 11), and Dr. Nootz's main responsibility was a system that measures optical turbulence in the water column. Optical turbulence occurs when light passes through layers of water that differ in salinity and/or temperature. The tests involved a laser-based device that he designed and helped build, and the results will advance efforts to mitigate the effects of optical turbulence on optical imaging.

Holly Nance, Ph.D.

Dr. Nance is working with FAU Associate Professor Ed Proffitt, Ph.D., Research Professor John Scarpa, Ph.D., and Assistant Research Professor Susan Laramore, Ph.D., to unravel the mysteries of oyster genetics in populations from Naples (Fla.) to Alabama. Overall, the objective is to determine the genetic diversity that exists in oysters along this stretch of the Gulf of Mexico; Dr. Nance and Dr. Proffitt are also fitting in a study to assess the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on Florida's oyster populations. Naturally, this requires lots of field work, which she and her collaborators are still doing, followed by many hours in the lab to process samples and work up results. Once all the data have been collected, Dr. Nance will have to park herself at the computer to carry out statistical analyses to glean answers about genetic diversity. Assuming that greater genetic diversity is good for the population as a whole, this work will shed important light on the potential for these oysters to thrive and adapt to a changing environment.



Dr. Gero Nootz, right, and Ben Metzger take a moment to relax after a successful deployment of the optical turbulence measuring equipment



Dr. Holly Nance measures oysters growing on mangroves

Postdoc Updates



Dr. Georgios Kallifatidis uses an eight-tip pipetter to simultaneously dispense anti-inflammatory extracts into an entire column of reservoirs on a 96-well plate



Dr. Mikki McComb and one of her research subjects: a snook (Centropomus undecimalis) from the Indian River Lagoon

Georgios Kallifatidis, Ph.D.

Dr. Kallifatidis earned his doctorate studying how pancreatic cancer can be contained and/or disrupted. At Harbor Branch, his work is guided by the theory that mast cells—the same cells that play a role in allergic reactions enable tumor formation and His research, which relies on Harbor Branch's extensive library of marine natural compounds that have been collected from shallow to deep water, has two objectives. First, he will screen for compounds that inhibit early cancer cells from attracting mast cells in the first place so that the disease progression is disrupted. Second, he will screen for compounds that inhibit degranulation, which occurs when mast cells release compounds to the tumor cells, some of which are used to promote tumor growth and spread to other organs. Dr. Kallifatidis is working with Assistant Research Professor Esther Guzmán, and Associate Professor Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu, Ph.D., of the FAU Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

Mikki McComb, Ph.D.

Dr. McComb has a keen interest in sharks, but currently she is studying the visual systems of fish with a particular emphasis on snook and tarpon, which are popular with anglers. She is working to determine how changes in Indian River Lagoon (IRL) water clarity and color affect the ability to hunt. It is believed that fish visual systems are optimized for the portion of the visual spectrum that is most prevalent in their environment. Thirty or more years ago, the water in the IRL was clear, probably making the blue end of the spectrum most useful to vision-based predation. Since then, human input has caused these waters to turn green and brownish, which made Dr. McComb wonder if snook and tarpon have adapted to seeing better in these parts of the spectrum, or if they compensate by relying more on other senses. She is working with former Harbor Branch Research Professor Tammy Frank, Ph.D., who is now at NOVA Southeastern University, and FAU Associate Professor Steve Kajiura, Ph.D.



The new 40,000 sq. ft. Marine Science Building provides 18 additional laboratories and accompanying offices

Named Sponsorships Maximize New Marine Science Building Potential

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University has named three laboratories in memory of John and Andreija Robertson. These labs, which are located in the new Marine Science Building, will house the Robertson Coral Reef Research and Conservation Program.

The Robertson Coral Reef Program was made possible by a \$1 million gift in 2004 from the Banbury Fund, formerly led by William Robertson, and now by Katherine Robertson-Ernst, John's sister. The Robertson brothers became involved with Harbor Branch in 1999. Due to the noticeable decline in coral reefs in the Florida Keys, they quickly homed in on supporting coral reef research, and the gift to establish the coral research program.

"The Robertson funds are making a significant difference at Harbor Branch," said Margaret Leinen, Ph.D., executive director of Harbor Branch. "Our researchers are identifying and protecting previously unknown deep-water coral reefs and developing new ways to assess coral health. We are also able to foster the development of new scientists who will devote their careers to this important research."

The new 40,000 sq. ft. Marine Science Building ushers in a new era of ocean science research at Harbor Branch with 18 separate laboratories for faculty and staff. Equally exciting is the new landscaped area adjacent to this building that provides a unique viewing area to watch manatees, water fowl, dolphins and other wildlife.

You can be a participant in this effort and support the important work at Harbor Branch through a gift in any amount. Naming opportunities are available for benches, seating areas and landscaped areas or, as the Robertson Family has done, by underwriting labs, equipment and other important spaces in the new building. For more information, contact Janet Alford at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation at 772-466-9876 or jmalford@hboifoundation.org.



The new building is designed to adhere to U.S. Green Building Council LEED® Gold Standards

Foundation News



We are pleased to announce that Wells Fargo has provided two grants totaling \$40,000 to develop and construct an educational demonstration project featuring aquaculture. This funding will spur construction of an interactive working exhibit demonstrating sustainable aquaculture methods that Harbor Branch has perfected – specifically, how to grow a variety of fish and Florida apple snails. The exhibit will illustrate distinct purposes of fish farming, including food production and cultivation of

WELLS FARGO GRANTS

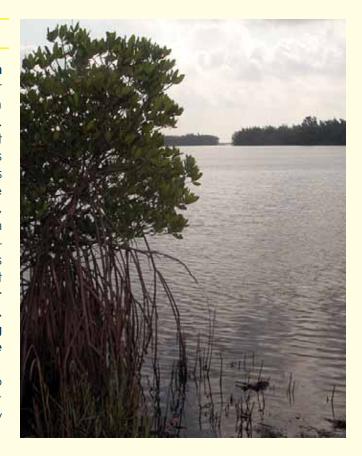
species for resource conservation and stock enhancement. Beyond providing an interactive and informative visitor experience, the objective of this new exhibit is to show the necessity of farming aquatic organisms and the imperative to do so in a sustainable way. The experience will include opportunities for visitors to gather and record data. Construction will begin late fall with a projected spring opening.

The support from Wells Fargo is vital to our current and future success as a world leader in aquaculture. Visit our Ocean Discovery Center, a public educational center serving a diverse population of school-age through adult visitors. The facility is open free of charge and provides information on ocean science, research and other important scientific work underway at Harbor Branch.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now for the inaugural Indian River Lagoon Symposium sponsored by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation on Thursday, February 9 and Friday, February 10, 2012. The symposium will provide a forum to discuss current research and monitoring in the lagoon and its management, foster opportunities for collaborations among scientists and decision makers, promote the participation of university students and new scientists, promote avenues for interactions and mentoring with senior scientists, inform policy related to the management of the lagoon, and increase public awareness of the lagoon and its importance. The two-day event will culminate with a gala dinner event: "Love Your Lagoon" on Friday, February 10 at Harbor Branch. Dine and dance under the stars and enjoy a dining experience expertly prepared using sustainable seafood and locally-sourced produce.

For information about ticketing and sponsorship packages, please contact Janet Alford at jmalford@hboifoundation.org or 772-466-9876, or any HBOI Foundation board member.



Work At Sea

STOP AND ENJOY THE FLOWER GARDENS

During the first week of August, FAU's Harbor Branch participated in an expedition to the Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBN-MS) in the Gulf of Mexico. Assistant Research Professor Joshua Voss, Ph.D., studied the coral habitat and collected coral tissue samples for molecular health studies, while fellow scientists conducted visual and acoustic surveys to estimate

fish abundance. The mission, a partnership between Harbor Branch's Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology, FGBNMS and NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, was the latest in support of a proposed experimental fishing closure within the sanctuary.

MORE OCULINA CORAL FOUND IN HAPC

In June, the Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology joined forces with other NOAA program partners to explore areas of the 23,000 sq. mi. Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) off Florida during the Extreme Corals 2011 (http://cioert.org/xcorals2011) expedition. Research Professor John Reed and colleagues performed sonar mapping that revealed an area containing nearly 100 deep-sea coral mounds more than 200 meters wide and up to 25 meters tall with live Oculina covering. The finding will help guide upcoming decisions regarding the size and continuation of the HAPC.



Now Available: Wild Dolphins app for iPad

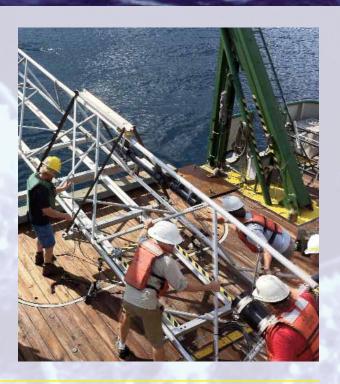
GET IT TODAY!



Work At Sea

OVOL LOOKS GREAT IN AT-SEA TESTS

In July, the Ocean Visibility and Optics Lab took part in a successful two-week Navy cruise off Palm Beach and the Bahamas to better characterize how natural underwater turbulence affects the performance of long-range laser sensors. Primary components of the work included a Harbor Branch-built, 10-meter-long structure to enable sensor tests, three 1,500-meter-rated ocean gliders and underwater LIDAR (light detection and ranging) equipment. Also tested for the first time was the LISST-Stokes (laser in situ scattering and transmissometry) sensor developed by Research Associate Anni Dalgleish, Ph.D., in collaboration with Sequoia Scientific of Bellevue, Wash. Among other uses, the sensor permits classification of marine particles in the water column by measuring how polarized light is altered during scattering.



DOLPHIN PHOTO ID PROGRAM LOOKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

It's baby season! The Population Biology and Behavioral Ecology photo-ID team is celebrating the arrival of a third generation of dolphin calves born in the Indian River Lagoon since the inception of the program in 1996. Ten females that have been followed since birth have now given birth. Mothers typically deliver from April to September, after a 12-month gestation period. The baby is born tail-first and is 3.5-4 ft. and weighs about 40 lbs. Females give birth at approximately eight years of age and will nurse each calf for 2-3 years.



protectwilddolphins.org

HARBOR BRANCH PARTNERS

with Private Aquaculture Company to Build a Better Bait Shrimp

This past July, aquaculture research scientists from FAU Harbor Branch began working with commercial aquaculture venture Scientific Associates, LLC, on a collaborative shrimp culture project underway at the Harbor Branch aquaculture park.

Rather than growing a food product, the emphasis of this six-month study is on producing smaller animals for use as bait for the recreational fishing industry. Florida's native pink shrimp is the target of the current project. Although the spawning and rearing requirements of this typical food species are well understood, work is still needed to optimize

growth rates and harvest yield. The current research is aimed at determining optimum stocking densities for this species as well as assessing the value of providing extra high-surface area structure (in the form of "shrimp condos") to the growout systems.

Harbor Branch Associate Research Professor Paul Wills, Ph.D., is serving as Principal Investigator on the project. Co-Principal Investigators John Scarpa, Ph.D., and Susan Laramore, Ph.D., are providing shrimp culture and animal health and biosecurity expertise. Harbor Branch aquaculturists Chris Robinson and Helen Lopez are carrying out daily operation of the experimental systems.

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Florida Atlantic University, a member of Florida's State University System, was established by legislative act in 1961. in addition to its original 850-acre campus in Boca Raton, FAU has campuses in Fort Lauderdale, Davie, Dania Beach, Jupiter, Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce. Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, FAU is currently servicing 28,000 regularly enrolled, degree-seeking students through its 10 colleges.

FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is dedicated to exploring the world's oceans—integrating the science and technology of the sea with the needs of humankind. Harbor Branch is involved in research and education in the marine sciences; biological, chemical, and environmental sciences; marine biomedical sciences; marine mammal conservation; aquaculture; and ocean engineering.

hboi.fau.edu

Visit the Harbor Branch Ocean Discovery Center! Giff Shop and Frien



Gift Shop and Friends of Harbor Branch program office located on site.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone: 772-242-2293 • For group tours, please call 772-242-2417 for scheduling.

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HELP US HELP THEM.

See what your support of Dolphin research and conservation can do!

Just days before Christmas 2005, staff from Harbor Branch helped rescue a baby dolphin entangled by its tail fluke. Alone, severely injured and near death, she was transported to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) for treatment. Harbor Branch veterinarian Juli Goldstein, Ph.D., and Steve McCulloch, Program Director and lead marine mammal care specialist, joined CMA and Harbor Branch staff to

provide around-the-clock care. Despite valiant efforts, the dolphin named 'Winter' lost her tail fluke due to her injuries. Questions arose: Could a dolphin live without her tail fluke? Would it be possible to develop a prosthetic? Come and see the new feature film Dolphin Tale in theaters now and find out how this dolphin has brought inspiration to millions. We also need your help to do more. Purchase the Protect Wild Dolphins specialty license plate that made Winter's rescue possible at ProtectWildDolphins.org.