

# HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

## FOUNDATION

Supporting Meaningful Oceanographic Research at FAU Harbor Branch  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

### ABOUT

The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) was founded in 1971 by Founder J. Seward Johnson, Sr. to fulfill his vision of preserving the environment through a deep, scientific understanding of the ocean. Famed Inventor Edwin A. Link furthered the founder's vision with his passion for sea exploration and engineering expertise.

Together, Johnson and Link produced countless innovations through partnerships with many of the world's most talented scientists. That work, and the intellectual curiosity of Johnson and Link, propelled HBOI to become one of the world's foremost leaders in oceanographic research.

Today, Johnson's legacy is carried on by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (HBOIF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, through its grant-making to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Harbor Branch.

### OPERATIONS

HBOI has existed independently as a nonprofit since its inception, with its Board of Directors overseeing research operations, a unique campus boasting the largest privately owned deepwater channel in Florida and a substantial endowment. In 2007, the State of Florida funded FAU's acquisition of HBOI. The Board of Directors turned its attention away from governing the Institute and the Foundation pledged to continue to leverage its considerable assets to support FAU Harbor Branch.

The Foundation's Board of Directors retains sole discretion over grant-making to FAU Harbor Branch. This ensures HBOIF retains the necessary oversight over the distribution of funds, which are to be used to further its mission of supporting meaningful oceanographic research at FAU Harbor Branch.

### FULFILLING HBOIF'S MISSION

HBOIF has been diligent in fulfilling its mission with a long history of providing grants and other funding totaling over \$25 million since 2007 to FAU Harbor Branch:

#### GIVING TO MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS

HBOIF's grants are conditional, which means they are made based on FAU's agreement to, and fulfillment of, specific conditions relating to the use of the funds. The Foundation's commitments have supported many important FAU Harbor Branch initiatives, including:

**New Faculty Hires Grant** – \$5,481,051

toward support for eight new faculty hires (*salary and start-up packages*)

**Faculty Incentive Awards Grant** – \$1,865,000

## Ensuring Faculty Excellence Salary Grant – \$1,734,870

### High Impact Research Project Grants

- \$559,295 - Purchase of the Land-Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory for intensive, real-time water quality sampling in the Indian River Lagoon
- \$320,000 - Applying new technologies to transform marine natural products discovery
- \$330,795 - Detection and characterization of fish spawning aggregations using a novel, persistent presence robotic approach

### Development Staff Grant – \$890,100

#### Love Your Lagoon Event Net Proceeds Grants

Over \$500,000 since 2012 granted to support an annual Indian River Lagoon Symposium, a national Estuary Workshop and a local Workshop on the Indian River Lagoon (designated an Estuary of National Significance), a Sea Grass Nursery Restoration Program, and the Indian River Lagoon Graduate Research Fellows Program.

In addition, HBOIF's specialty license plate program focuses on four key areas to further oceanographic research and preserve the environment at FAU Harbor Branch. The four plates include:

1. Save our Seas Specialty License Plate: Enacted in 2007, research conducted as a result of funding from the "Save our Seas" specialty license plate has primarily focused on links between water quality and its impacts on coral reef health, and understanding how that affects the environment's resources – both for recreational and commercial use.
2. Aquaculture Specialty License Plate: Enacted in 2004, funding generated by the "Aquaculture" specialty license plate goes toward promoting research of aquaculture and advancing technology for use by Florida farmers to challenge the current 91 percent of the seafood consumed in the US originating abroad.
3. Protect Wild Dolphins License Plate: Enacted in 1998, the "Protect Wild Dolphins" specialty license plate allows researchers to study the wild dolphins in the Indian River Lagoon, which, for 20 years, has provided invaluable insight into the ecosystem.
4. Protect Florida Whales License Plate: Enacted in 2002, proceeds generated by the "Protect Florida Whales" license plates go toward a stranding response team and educational efforts. Florida is part of the Southeastern region stranding network and these programs are critical in helping Florida whales.

## OUR COMMITMENT – YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

HBOIF looks forward to continuing to serve FAU Harbor Branch by realizing the founder's vision of fostering meaningful oceanographic research and by ensuring that FAU Harbor Branch remains the premier leader for Ocean Science for a Better World®.