NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center

The mission of NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center is to prepare students from traditionally underrepresented and historically excluded communities, for careers in marine and fisheries sciences, and to be eligible for the future NOAA mission workforce, through exemplary academic and research collaborations. The vision of the NOAA LMRCSC is to be a national center of excellence for the development of a diverse body of professionals in marine and fisheries sciences through education and research of the highest quality.

Outcomes resulting from NOAA Funding

Accomplishments from 2016 -2022:

- 146 students trained in NOAA Mission Sciences
- 57 degrees awarded (25 B.S., 21 M.S., 11 Ph.D.)
- 44 publications in peer reviewed journals, 36 of which included student authors
- 198 conference presentations; 174 by student presenters
- Collaborations with 64 NOAA scientists including 38 Center-funded research projects

LMRCSC Fellows onboard a commercial fishing vessel during LMRCSC Cohort Experience Workshop, April 2019.

Capacity Built

The NOAA LMRCSC-II institutions are building capacity in NOAA mission research priority areas, especially at the minority serving institutions. New faculty members with expertise in the study of marine protected species and application of 'omics in marine science and aquaculture have been hired. Additionally, the LMRCSC award has been used to enhance marine science/fisheries labs, purchase field sampling equipment, and retrofit a research vessel *RV Aquaria III*. The Center leverages available faculty expertise and infrastructure center-wide to conduct research needed for the conservation and management of living marine resources, and to prepare students for entry in NOAA-mission enterprise workforce.

LaTreese S. Denson, Ph.D., a University of Miami LMRCSC alumna, is a Stock Assessment Analyst at NOAA SEFSC, Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Branch.

The NOAA LMRCSC offers training and professional development to students through coursework, seminars, workshops, and internships, including the NOAA Experiential Research and Training Opportunities (NERTO), to prepare them for entry in NOAA-mission enterprise workforce. Since 2016, 61 graduate students have participated in 12 weeks NERTO at NOAA Labs, and 33 Center alumni have entered the NOAA mission workforce, including 11 working for NOAA or NOAA contractors.

Significant Contributions to NOAA Mission Enterprise

LMRCSC II collaborates with NOAA and NOAA stakeholders in support of NOAA Fisheries research priorities infour thematic areas:

- Climate impacts on marineecosystems
- Stock assessment support
- Habitat research and protection
- Safe seafood and aquaculture

More than 64 NOAA scientists have collaborated with LMRCSC students and faculty to conduct research and training, and valuable tools have been developed, such as the web-based Essential Fish Habitat Mapper, since 2016. The Center has leveraged about $25.5 million in the past six years to support research. Nine Center graduate students have received prestigious fellowships, of which 6 were NOAA Knauss Fellows.

LMRCSC Faculty and Fellows gather at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, August 2022.

Stephanie Martinez-Rivera, Ph.D., a University of Maryland Eastern ShoreLMRCSC alumna, is a Fish Biologist at NOAA SEFSC, Caribbean Fisheries Branch

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