

# pressrelease



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 2, 2008

**RE: Underwater Ocean Research Technology to be Deployed July 9 in Long Bay**

Underwater vehicles will help scientists determine causes of “flounder jubilee”

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*Charleston, S.C.*— As part of an effort to understand the causes of a low dissolved oxygen event that resulted in an exceptionally high flounder catch in 2004, Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, or AUVs, will be deployed on July 9, 2008 in nearshore and offshore waters along the Myrtle Beach area of Long Bay, South Carolina.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is sponsoring a collaborative effort to deploy two types undersea robots: the Pelagia Glider and the REMUS, an acronym that stands for Remote Environmental Measuring UnitS. Both AUVs have no connection to a ship and survey the ocean waters and seafloor on their own. Participating in this effort are S.C. Sea Grant Consortium researchers from the University of South Carolina and Coastal Carolina University, along with researchers and co-sponsors from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Undersea Research Centers at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (UNCW) and Rutgers University and the UNCW Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program.

The Pelagia Glider will collect data offshore, such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, dissolved organic matter and chlorophyll, in areas running perpendicular to Long Bay at depths of 49 feet to 328 feet. The REMUS, deployed in nearshore waters, will collect data including dissolved oxygen, current speed and direction, temperature and salinity. REMUS operates parallel and perpendicular to the shoreline at depths of 10 feet

to 66 feet. Both AUVs will move back and forth between the surface of the water and the bottom of the ocean floor in order to take measurements in the entire water column.

Data from the AUVs will complement a series of ongoing research projects sponsored by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control-Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and S.C. Department of Natural Resources which are researching physical, biological, chemical and geological coastal ocean processes in an effort to understand how coastal ocean processes and upland influences, such as stormwater runoff, contribute to hypoxic events. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to develop tools for use in forecasting hypoxic events in the coastal ocean, and the results will be of interest to coastal and fishery managers and local communities.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, a university-based state agency, seeks to enhance the practical use and conservation of South Carolina's coastal and marine resources to foster a sustainable economy and environment. The Consortium is a member of the nationwide network of 31 Sea Grant Programs that are sanctioned through the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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On the Web:

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium: [www.scseagrant.org](http://www.scseagrant.org)

Coastal Carolina University: [www.coastal.edu](http://www.coastal.edu)

University of South Carolina: [www.sc.edu](http://www.sc.edu)

NOAA Undersea Research Center at UNC-Wilmington: [www.uncw.edu/nurc](http://www.uncw.edu/nurc) Contact Lance Horn, N.C. operations director, (910) 962-2443

NOAA Undersea Research Center at Rutgers University: [www.marine.rutgers.edu/nurp/mabnurc.html](http://www.marine.rutgers.edu/nurp/mabnurc.html) Contact Rose Petrecca, technical director, (609) 296-5260, ext. 238

UNCW Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program: [www.cormp.org](http://www.cormp.org)

S.C. Department of Natural Resources Apache Pier Cooperative Research Program: [www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/coopresearch/apache](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/coopresearch/apache)

To track the Pelagia Glider on-line: [www.uncw.edu/nurc/auv/pelagia](http://www.uncw.edu/nurc/auv/pelagia)

Information about Pelagia Glider: [www.webbresearch.com/electric\\_glider.htm](http://www.webbresearch.com/electric_glider.htm)

Information about REMUS: [www.hydroindinc.com](http://www.hydroindinc.com)

**Note to media:** If you are interested in attending the REMUS deployment or retrieval, please contact Susan Ferris Hill at (843) 817-6589 or Denise Sanger at (843) 513-0525 on Monday, July 7 or Tuesday, July 8.