

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Support for the Florida Institute of Oceanography, Keys Marine Laboratory

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For Information and Consideration of the Support for the Florida Institute of Oceanography, Keys Marine Laboratory Legislative Budget Request

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Keys Marine Laboratory in Layton, Florida is operated by the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO). It is a platform that provides unique opportunities for short- and long-term field and laboratory experiences and research for undergraduate and graduate students, academic and non-academic faculty and researchers from throughout the U.S. and internationally. The Keys Marine Laboratory, through a Federal grant, recently has installed the most advanced saltwater system to expand the capacity to conduct laboratory experiments and manipulate water quality and hence allow on-site research not previously possible.

The requested \$475,000 in recurring funds will allow FIO to:

- Provide a 2-week field intensive certification course at Keys Marine Laboratory to state certified K-12 teachers to provide them with marine science teaching techniques that keeps them current in emerging ocean research and technologies so they can apply that knowledge in the classroom.
- Ensure the Keys Marine Laboratory's fleet maintains its Research Vessel designations to meet the new technical standards, and comply with safety provisions set by the U.S. Coast Guard, which are not optional and are expensive.
- Maintain the Keys Marine Laboratory as a teaching laboratory visited by over 121 different user groups around Florida, nationally and internationally, including countries like Germany and Poland.
- Hire and retain critical personnel to support the increasing demands and usage trends at Keys Marine Laboratory and maintain the newly installed seawater

system and small research vessels.

The requested \$600,000 in non-recurring funds will allow FIO to:

- Procure advanced satellite communication (e.g. Mondo pads for Skyping abilities) and equipment systems to support interactive remote instruction from ship to shore or remotely from the Keys Marine Lab to classrooms. Day to day operation costs associated with the purchases would be covered through normal accounts and through grants received by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation (GHOF).
- Increase inventory of scientific equipment available at Keys Marine Laboratory for researchers.
- Purchase holding tanks and other necessary equipment to leverage the unique salt water system at Keys Marine Laboratory to conduct controlled experiments on various marine species.
- Purchase a remote operating vehicle (ROV) to enable real-time observations without disturbing habitat, which can be used to assess stocks, broadcast back to classrooms and public areas, and streamed online for outreach purposes.

The total funded requested is \$1,075,000.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Legislative Budget Request Forms I and II

Facilitators/Presenters:

Provost Ron Toll, Provost Ralph Wilcox