

# Coastal Ocean Research & Monitoring Program

Sustaining research that protects coastal Carolina waters and ecosystems

Since 1999 UNCW has conducted a sustained, long-term program of coastal ocean observations and research off North Carolina shores. The Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP) is located at the UNCW Center for Marine Science (CMS) and is an interdisciplinary program that includes specialists in areas such as physical oceanography, geology, biology and marine biology, environmental science, and chemical oceanography. CORMP, whose research is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), collaborates with both NC State University and the University of South Carolina to study and monitor the dynamic environment of the coastal Carolina ocean and the Cape Fear River Plume. The mission of the program is to promote sound public policy, supported by research, which leads to wise coastal use, sustainable fisheries and improved health of the ecosystem.

Presently eleven faculty researchers from four academic

departments and CMS work with nine full-time researchers on projects associated with water quality, nutrient pollution and ecosystem health, ocean optics and remote sensing, physical oceanography, fisheries, and sediment transport.

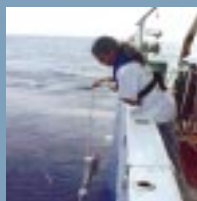
UNCW students directly benefit from first-hand experience in this research. Since the program began, CORMP has supported over 40 undergraduate and graduate student researchers, nine masters' theses and one Ph.D. dissertation.

CORMP serves not only the regional scientific research community but also a growing network of public service and local citizen groups dedicated to the management of coastal resources and marine ecology.

Current outreach endeavors include a year-long professional development pilot program for middle and high school educators and expanding partnerships with state and federal agencies and local citizens dedicated to preservation and wise coastal management.



Students from the *Cruise or Field Sampling* course work together to remove water samples taken via a carousel water sampler that is used by researchers to help determine the health of the coastal ocean ecosystem. The students enrolled in this course participate in the planning and sampling phases of major marine or environmental research programs.



UNCW offers students unique opportunities: Andrea Quattrini monitors coastal ecosystem health under the direction of UNCW professor Thomas Lankford Jr., biological sciences. As part of its interdisciplinary research endeavors, CORMP creates opportunities for students to work with professors on cutting-edge research. "Distribution of larval fishes in shelf and gulf stream waters in Onslow Bay, North Carolina" was the title of Andrea's master's thesis.

Lynn A. Leonard, Ph.D., professor, earth sciences

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