

about HML

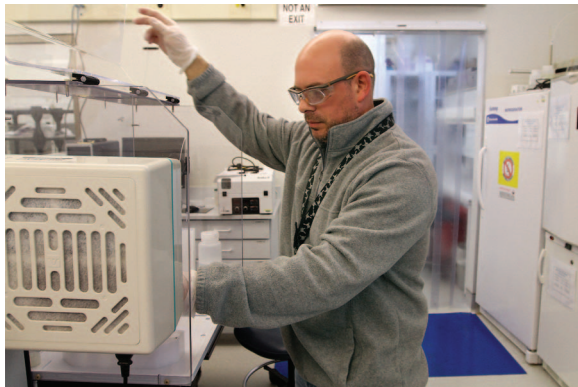
The Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML), a 103,000 square-foot facility in Charleston, South Carolina, was established in 2001. HML assesses environmental impacts on marine ecosystems and potential linkages to human health and well-being through collaborative research efforts by our multi-institutional, multidisciplinary science partners. NOAA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are federal agencies located at the facility.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is a state agency, and the two academic partners are College of Charleston (CofC) and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

Benefits of the Partnerships

Studies of marine environments, aquatic organisms and their integral connections to human health have become increasingly complex, and this requires a multidisciplinary approach in order to achieve success. The scale, diversity and connectivity of issues suggest that no single organization possesses the breadth of scientific expertise needed to address these problems completely. The partnership structure at HML allows scientists to address these multi-faceted, science issues by combining expertise to conduct research they could not otherwise accomplish. The resulting synergy produces exciting and innovative approaches that address issues of immediate concern to coastal, marine, health and civic professionals.



Research

Research at HML includes diverse topics such as wildlife epidemiology and health assessments for sentinel species, development of molecular diagnostic tools, toxin discovery, aquaculture, fisheries science, pollution chemistry, and the valuation of human dimensions of coastal ecosystems and communities. Collectively, these and other disciplines at HML have contributed greatly to coastal preparedness and resiliency in South Carolina, the Southeast, and United States. Moreover, HML's principal investigators are also integrating science and services to provide public and private decision makers with more actionable information. HML researchers focus on studies of sentinel species and sentinel habitats with a goal of identifying early warning signals and developing tools for detecting environmental threats, which then can be incorporated into coastal management decisions. By informing these decisions with new data and innovative tools, HML researchers will continue to serve as essential partners for improving coastal communities and preserving aquatic resources.

