



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Our Mission

To serve Monmouth University and the public as a forum for **research, education, and collaboration** in the development and implementation of science-based policies and programs that support stewardship of healthy, productive, and resilient coastal ecosystems and communities.

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Monmouth University President Emeritus

Fisheries and Ocean Conservation Fellow

Jay Odell

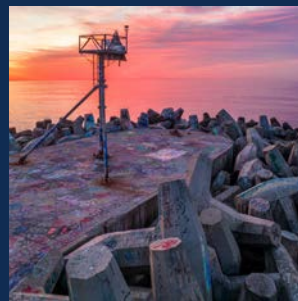
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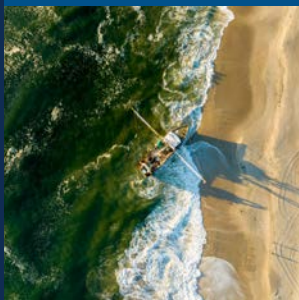
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A Second Decade Draws to a Close

When the Urban Coast Institute (UCI) launched in 2005, it was initially more an aspiration than a fully formed operation – a recognition that Monmouth University was in a unique place to leverage the expertise of our faculty and the passion of our students to work with other partners who share our love for the oceans, and to take advantage of our location on the Jersey Shore. It’s amazing and gratifying to look back on how far we’ve come. As the pages of this report show, times certainly have changed. While the UCI staff is still modest in size, we like to say that we’re a group that punches well above its weight class. Take a quick glance at the infographic summarizing some of our current our work on pages 6-7, and I think you will agree.

Shortly after I arrived on campus as the UCI’s first director, we launched our future with the inaugural Champion of the Ocean awards event. Our distinguished honorees were Admiral James Watkins and the Hon. Leon Panetta, who had respectively chaired the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Ocean Commission. Former Monmouth President Vice Admiral Paul Gaffney had been a member of the U.S. Ocean Commission. The UCI also formed a close working collaboration with School of Science Assistant Dean and Director of the Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program John Tiedemann. We surveyed the landscape (or should I say seascape?) to see where the opportunities were in New Jersey and to identify how the UCI could address some of the challenges identified in the Ocean Commission reports. One of the wisest decisions we made early on was to use subsequent grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to hire Marine Scientist Jim Nickels, who supported a variety of research projects and managed the University’s research vessels. Jim recently retired after 16 outstanding years. The priorities we set out in these early days still guide our work today.

Through an initial grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the University had already acquired one small vessel and was beginning to expand its marine research efforts. Thanks to the generosity of a University



donor, the UCI Ocean Future Symposium Ocean Champion Awards is now an endowed annual event. Our external and sponsored research has been consistently expanding over the years. In 2023 alone, the UCI was managing and supported by nearly \$5 million in external research and project funding. In 2018, the UCI secured the transfer of a 49-foot research vessel at no cost from NOAA to Monmouth and raised funds to restore and equip it. With another generous gift a few months later, the vessel was christened as the R/V Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe.

There were several other signature events over the years that galvanized the UCI’s efforts. Superstorm Sandy in 2012 sharpened our focus on climate change, sea level rise and resilience issues. As seen in this report, our resilience work continues to be a major priority. A successful 2014 challenge grant campaign raised \$5 million, which among other things established an endowed professor of marine biology position, held by Jason Adolf, and supported a five-year collaboration with the Rockefeller University Program for the Human Environment, significantly enhancing the UCI’s ability to

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Please enjoy this glimpse at some highlights of the UCI's activities 2023. We invite you to get involved with the UCI and ask for your continued support as we chart a course for the future, as the UCI celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025 and enters its third decade.

impact science and policy. It also greatly expanded the UCI's capacity to fund student and faculty research projects and programs, which remain a top priority for annual fundraising.

As reflected in these pages, Professor Peter Jacques, who is conducting influential research on sustainability, Indigenous approaches to the environment, and the politics of climate change, was hired in 2023 as the second UCI/Rechnitz Family endowed chair of marine and environmental law and policy. Grant and contract funds also supported the hire of Jay Odell as a UCI fisheries and

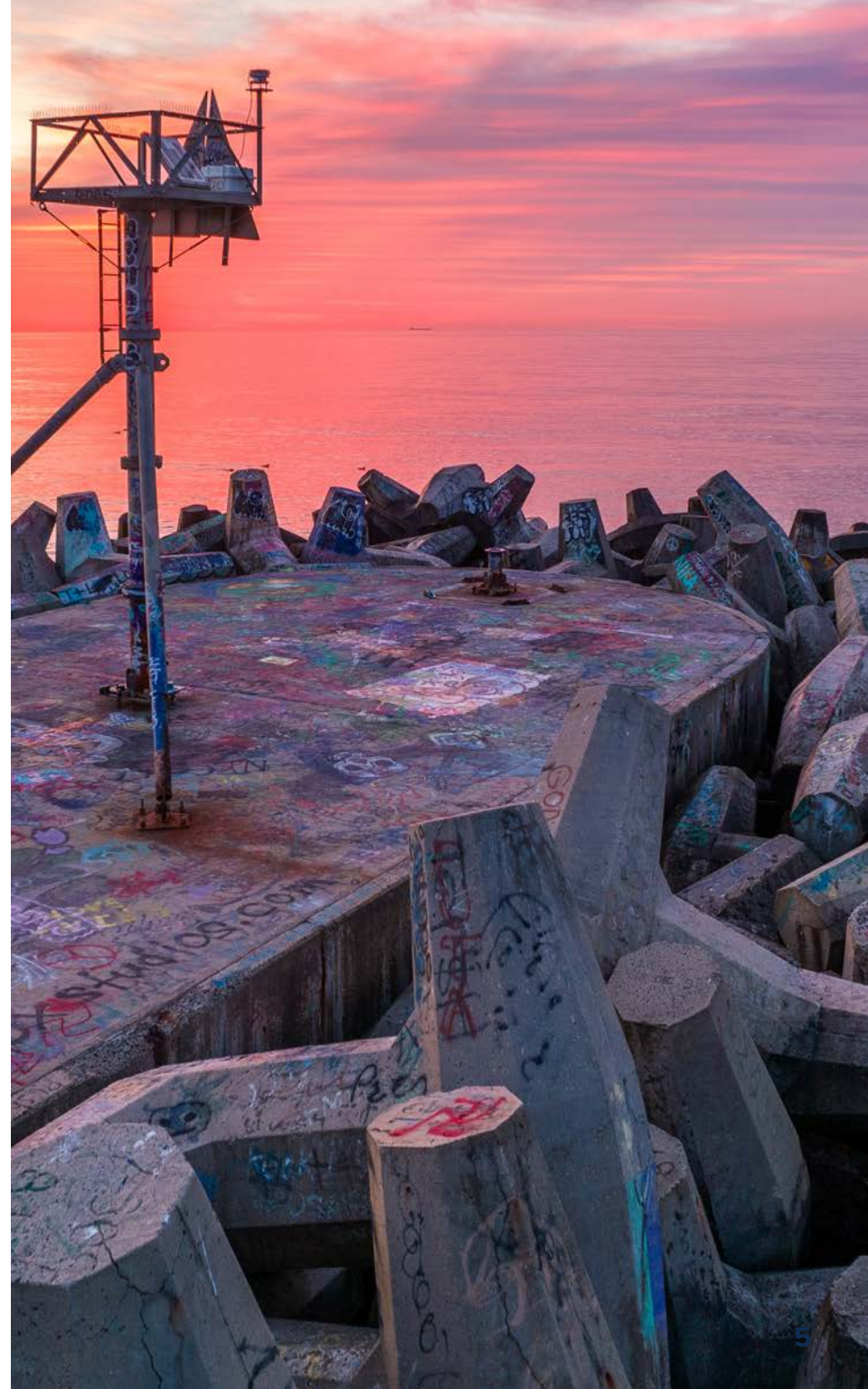
conservation fellow and Meredith Comi as our coastal resilience and restoration practitioner. Jay, while in his previous job at The Nature Conservancy, was the original co-principal investigator with me on the UCI project to develop the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, which received very generous support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for many years. The Portal has proven to be an essential tool to help minimize conflicts and inform potential siting of offshore wind farms. The project is now managed by UCI Communications Director Karl Vilacoba with support from the five-state Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean.

Please enjoy this glimpse at some highlights of the UCI's activities 2023. We invite you to get involved with the UCI and ask for your continued support as we chart a course for the future, as the UCI celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025 and enters its third decade.



TONY MACDONALD

Director, Urban Coast Institute



2023 UCI Priorities & Work

- **Projects**
- **Research**
- **Academic Engagement**

The Urban Coast Institute (UCI) staff is small in number, but its work is far-reaching and impactful. To the right is a snapshot of the UCI's activities in 2023, organized under three themes: resilient communities, campus support and engagement, and healthy oceans and coasts. The features in this report offer a closer look at the UCI's accomplishments in these areas last year.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Improving Resilience at Naval Weapons Station Earle and Surrounding Communities

Coordinate N.J. Coastal Resilience Collaborative and Research Partnership with State Universities

CAMPUS SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Scholars and Faculty Enrichment Grants

UCI Endowed Scholarships

HEALTHY OCEANS AND COASTS

Coastal Lakes Observing Network (CLONet)

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and Support for MARCO Ocean Planning

Strategies for
Restoration of
New Jersey Bay
Islands

Coastal Resilience
Planning Support
for Environmental
Justice
Communities

N.J. Sea
Grant Coastal
Community
Resilience
Education and
Outreach

Naval Weapons
Station Earle
Living Shoreline/
Oyster Reef

Future of
the Ocean
Symposium and
Champions of the
Ocean Awards

Global Ocean
Governance and
Marine Science
& Policy Lecture
Series

NOAA Inclusive
Fisheries
Internship (IN
FISH) Program
Support

NY/NJ Harbor
Contamination
Assessment and
Reduction Project

Northeast
Regional
Fish Habitat
Assessment,
Climate-Ready
Fisheries
Research

Global Ocean
Forum Partnership
and U.N.
Ocean Policy

2023 Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Scholars

The **Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Scholars Program** supports students and faculty of all disciplines in pursuing their passions for marine and coastal issues through experiential research. The program provides grant opportunities for student researchers and faculty mentors to conduct projects of their own design that advance the UCI's mission and Monmouth's strategic plan. The program also provides support for projects administered through the Monmouth University **School of Science Summer Research Program (SRP)** that advance the goals and objectives of the UCI.

The hands-on research positions supported by the program provide real-world experience to students while helping make a positive impact in coastal communities. In 2023, the UCI provided funding for eight students and their faculty mentors to conduct five summer research projects on topics ranging from the development of an app that can simulate the risk of hurricane property damage in communities to threats faced by turtle populations in densely populated suburbs.



Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Scholars Summer Research Projects

Evaluating the Predation Risk of an Eastern Box Turtle Population Inhabiting a Suburban Island

Student Researcher and Major: Madison Patterson, biology

Faculty Mentor: Sean Sterrett, Ph.D., assistant professor of wildlife ecology, Department of Biology/Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program

Building on previous research by the Sterrett Lab, the team studied the risk posed by predatory birds and mammals to Eastern box turtles using baited camera traps and artificial turtle nests deployed in a Monmouth County open space area surrounded by commercial and residential development.

Flood Designation Relative to Residential Real Estate Pricing

Student Researcher and Major: Julianna Rubinetti, information systems (graduate student)

Faculty Mentors: Geoffrey Fouad, Ph.D., associate professor of geography, Department of History and Anthropology; and Tjeerd Boonman, Ph.D., specialist professor, Department of Economics, Finance, and Real Estate

The researchers investigated the effect of three prominent risk designations (Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zones, First Street Foundation modeling, and National Flood Insurance Program claims) on property pricing in coastal and inland waterfront communities in Monmouth County.

Programming Application Development for Hurricane Risk-Based Assessments of Coastal Residential Communities

Student Researcher and Major: Johnathan Williams, computer science and software engineering

Faculty Mentor: Tom Herrington, Ph.D., UCI associate director

The student developed a program for evaluating the risk of hurricane-related structural damage to residential building structures within a particular community and assessing the impacts in terms of financial loss estimates. The application allows users to enter data to explore how mitigation measures can reduce these risks and ultimately improve the community's resilience.

School of Science Summer Research Program Projects

Field Site Assessments and Sediment Transport Analysis for Tidal Marsh Island Restoration

Student Researchers and Major: Tyler Barkey, Alexis Baumgartner, and Nicole Cappolina, marine and environmental biology and policy

Faculty Mentor: Tom Herrington, Ph.D., UCI associate director

The researchers collected data on waves, tides, and currents adjacent to a tidal salt marsh in Barnegat Bay to determine how natural sediments move within the system and how effective depositing sediments on marsh islands can be for protecting nearby communities from sea level rise.

Suburban Turtle Ecology and Conservation

Student Researchers and Major: Adriana Simancas and Richard Robinson, marine and environmental biology and policy

Faculty Mentor: Sean Sterrett, Ph.D., assistant professor of wildlife ecology, Department of Biology/Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program

The researchers investigated the spatial ecology and density estimation of a suburban box turtle population using radiotelemetry and spatial capture-recapture techniques with the aid of a working scent dog.

Faculty Enrichment Grant

E.F. Schumacher and Ecological Economics

Faculty Researcher: Robert Scott III, Ph.D., Arthur and Dorothy Greenbaum/Robert Ferguson/NJAR endowed chair in real estate policy

Prof. Scott visited a Massachusetts library holding the works of mid-1900s economist E.F. Schumacher and wrote a paper detailing his influence on the development of ecological economics and the issues that have worsened (e.g., climate change) and still need development and new economic thinking.



2023 Assistants and Ambassadors

Student Assistants

The UCI also offers paid positions to students to assist with research and ongoing projects. **Richard Kane**, a graduate student seeking a certificate in geographic information systems (GIS), served as a marine field assistant in 2023, working with UCI Marine Scientist Jim Nickels aboard Monmouth's research vessels.

Brooke van de Sande and **Alexis Baumgartner**, both marine and environmental biology and policy students, served as UCI coastal research assistants. The students assisted UCI Associate Director Tom Herrington with ongoing research on strategies for restoring New Jersey's tidal marsh islands and making them more resilient to climate change.

Sustainability Ambassadors

The UCI provided funds in 2023 for student sustainability ambassadors to support the University's Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and promote environmental initiatives on campus. Ambassadors also work to build a University-wide network that includes students, faculty, and staff who advocate sustainability on campus through teaching, research, engagement, and operational improvements. The position was held by **Riya Ajmera**, who reported to Herrington, co-chair of the SAC.

2023 Endowed Scholarships



The UCI awarded endowed scholarships to seven outstanding Monmouth University students for the 2023-24 school year, including three who received support for the first time: **Christopher Meehan** (Rita Mangan UCI Endowed Scholarship), **Adriana Simancas**, and **Brooke van de Sande** (both Ann and Alfred L. Ferguson '13HN UCI Endowed Scholarships).

In addition, the UCI renewed an Ann and Alfred Ferguson '13HN Scholarship for 2021 recipient **Riya Ajmera**, who is pursuing a double major in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry and communications with a concentration in journalism and public relations; MacDonald Family UCI Endowed Scholarships for **Jasmine Barzin** and **Nicole Cappolina**, both marine and environmental biology and policy (MEBP) students; and an Urban Coast Institute Endowed Scholarship for MEBP student **Jessica Maguire**.

The UCI established endowed scholarships at Monmouth to support undergraduate students with a demonstrated interest in coastal, marine, and environmental studies. The scholarships are intended to encourage Monmouth students to become active, global citizens while fostering an understanding of the coastal and marine environment and communities, legal studies, public policy, and research methods.

The Ann and Alfred L. Ferguson '13HN UCI Endowed Scholarship and **MacDonald Family UCI Endowed Scholarship** have been available since 2020 and the **Urban Coast Institute Endowed Scholarship** was established by the UCI Advisory Committee in 2021. **The Rita Mangan UCI Endowed Scholarship** was made available for the first time in 2023.

2023 New Recipients



CHRISTOPHER MEEHAN

Class and Major: Senior, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy

In His Own Words: “In my life, I aim to inform the general public to not only care for the environment but to understand how to be a better ally to the environment. I hope to contribute to research that will help inform policymakers to implement sustainable and proactive laws that will help maintain the appeal of New Jersey’s coast while keeping its inhabitants safe.”



ADRIANA SIMANCAS

Class and Major: Senior, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy

In Her Own Words: “Growing up in New Jersey not too far from the coast, I have always had an interest in marine, coastal and environmental studies. The MEBP program at Monmouth has made me curious to know more about how to conserve and manage not only coastal communities, but other threatened and endangered species. I have always been passionate about helping animals, but now I am more interested in helping animals through conserving and observing their ecosystems and their interactions with the environment.”



BROOKE VAN DE SANDE

Class and Major: Junior, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy

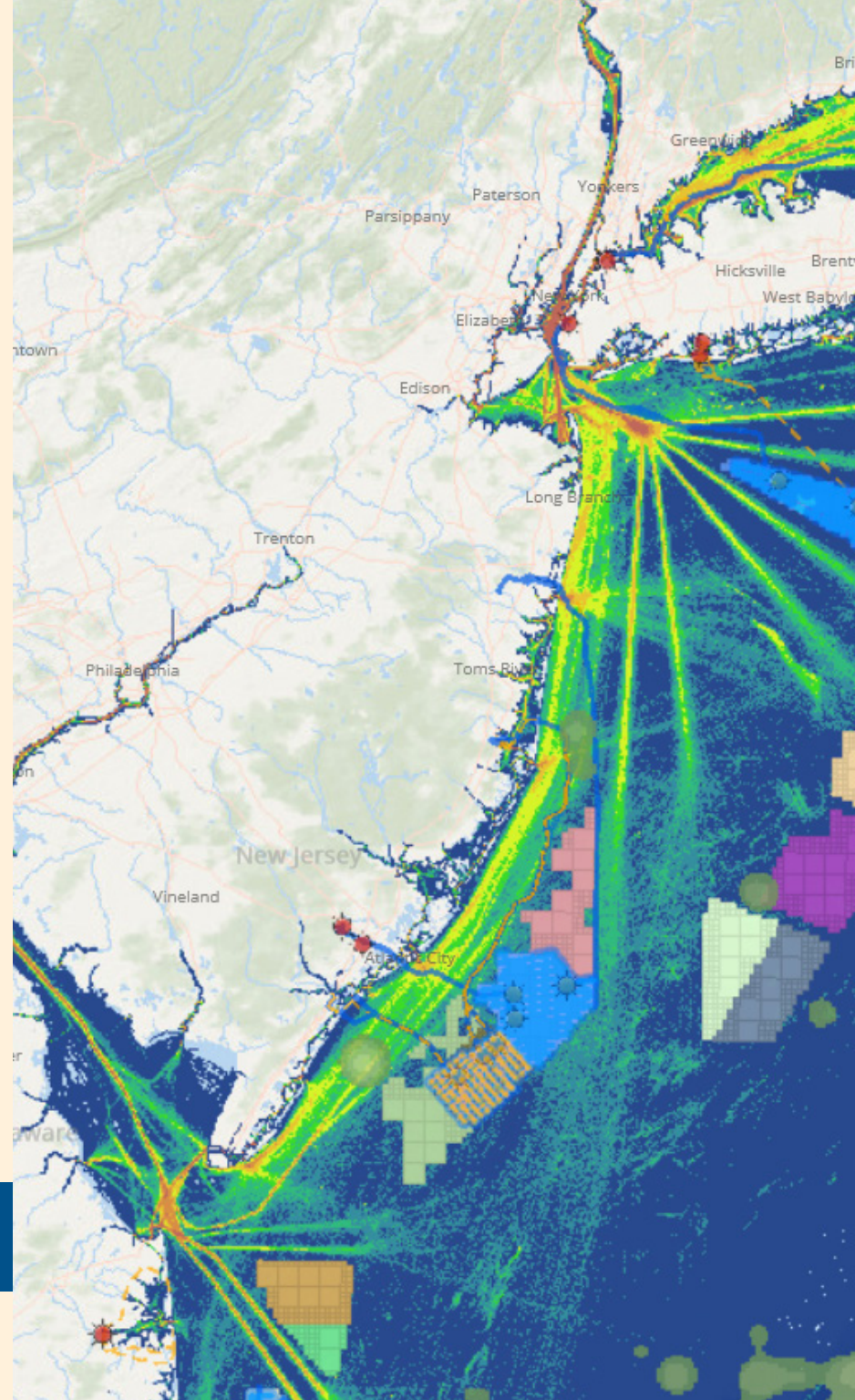
In Her Own Words: “My life has been spent living right down the block from the beach. As a child, I had a strong love for the ocean and knew I wanted to study it when I grew up. Now, as a young adult, that love for the ocean turned into a powerful passion to conserve and protect all marine ecosystems and their inhabitants. I specifically have always been interested in the research and protection of endangered or threatened marine mammals, like humpback whales. These amazing creatures help maintain the ecological integrity of marine ecosystems. I want to dedicate my life’s work towards advocating for and protecting these species.”

Mapping Site Helps Agencies Resolve Conflicting Ocean Uses, Improve Regional Coordination

For the average beachgoer, the vast, calm view of the ocean can be a great source of relaxation. But looks can be deceiving, as the Mid-Atlantic's waters are getting busier all the time, with activities like port traffic, commercial fishing, and recreational boating booming, and new uses like offshore wind energy development on the way.

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal shows how all of these ocean uses overlap with each other, as well as wildlife habitats and other natural features, helping industries and those in ocean management roles make better-informed decisions. The UCI has long been a member of the Portal's technical team, working under the direction of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) to grow it into a publicly available resource featuring over 6,000 interactive map layers.

UCI Communications Director **Karl Vilacoba** serves as project manager of the technical team, which includes investigators from Duke University, Rutgers University, Ecotrust, the New York State Department of State, and MARCO.



Visit the MARCO Portal Online:
portal.midatlanticocean.org



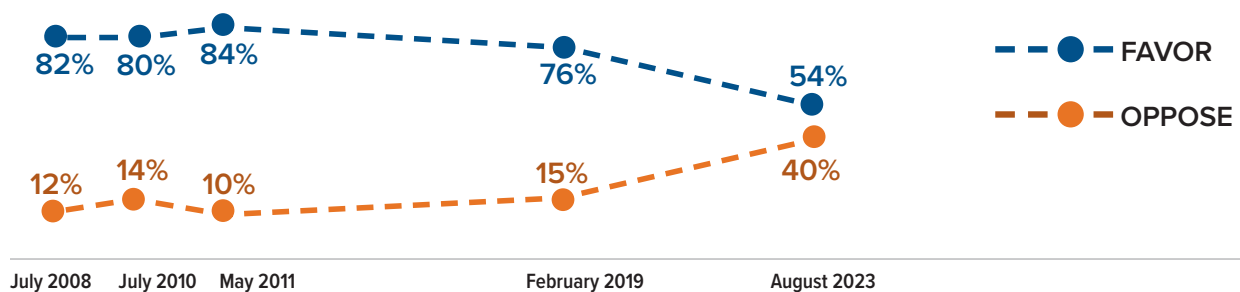
The UCI also advanced ocean planning and data development in the Mid-Atlantic last year in the following ways:

Mid-A OPC Facilitation: UCI Director **Tony MacDonald** and staff facilitated MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Committee (Mid-A OPC), organizing meetings, public events, and webinars, and assisting with work groups dedicated to ocean conservation, offshore wind collaboration, maritime commerce and navigation safety, and other topics. The Mid-A OPC is comprised of state and federal agencies, Tribes, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

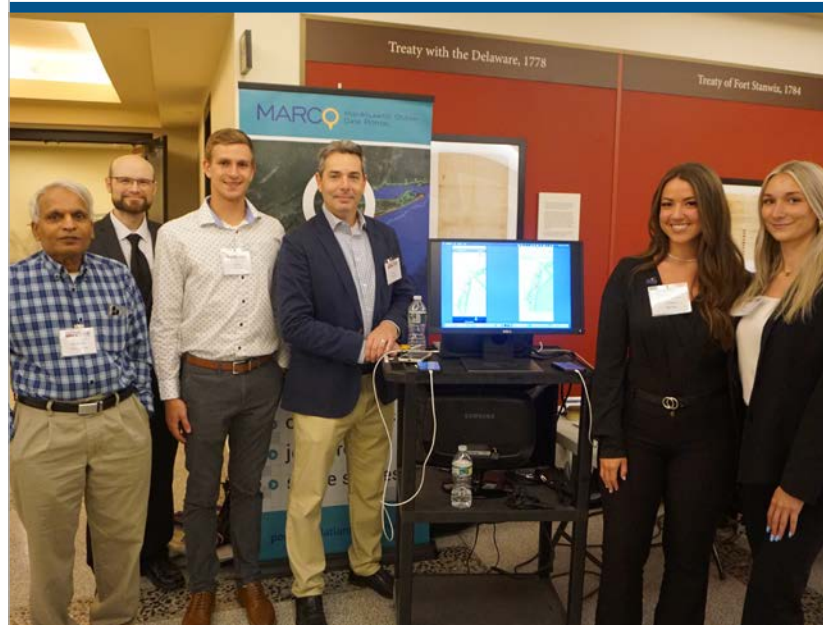
Fisheries and Conservation: Last year, the UCI welcomed aboard Fisheries and Conservation Fellow **Jay Odell**, who is conducting policy research on climate change's impacts on ocean ecosystems and fisheries management systems.

Habitat Assessment Study: UCI Postdoctoral Researcher **Chris Haak** and fellow members of a research team led by the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Fishery Management Councils completed a Northeast Regional Fish Habitat Assessment that modeled habitat use by commercially and ecologically important fish species across the continental shelf. Data from this project is now being developed into maps for the Portal.

New Jersey Offshore Wind Opinion



THE UCI COLLABORATED WITH THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY POLLING INSTITUTE in August to conduct its first poll of New Jerseyans' views of offshore wind farm development since 2019. It found that residents continued to favor the construction of renewable energy-generating turbines off their coast, although support has fallen from the widespread backing it received in polls over the prior 15 years.



(l-r) Raman Lakshmanan, Ryan Hodges (Ecotrust), Nolan Beagell, Karl Vilacoba, Chelsea Spencer, and Ava Taylor at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum.

Students Design Portal Mobile App

Monmouth University students **Nolan Beagell**, **Chelsea Spencer**, and **Ava Taylor** developed a mobile app version of the Portal as a capstone project for a course taught last year by Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering Specialist Professor **Raman Lakshmanan**. The group unveiled a beta version of the app and invited attendees to test it at the fifth annual Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum in New York City.

The team's mission was to create a scaled-down version of the Portal's mapping application (Marine Planner) that would be more compatible with mobile devices. With MARCO funding support, Lakshmanan and a student team will complete the app and publish it for download in 2024.

'The Water Is Fine?' Monmouth Researchers Are Finding Out



Surfers at beaches where stormwater pipes drain into the ocean risk catching more than waves on a rainy day. Monmouth University Professors Jason Adolf and Jeff Weisburg completed a study in 2023 that found that within six to 24 hours of moderate rainfall, enterococcus bacteria levels exceeded state health safety standards about half the time at these beaches. While rain is a known driver of illness-causing microbial pollution at New Jersey beaches, this was the first peer-reviewed study to formally investigate the linkage.

The study, funded by the Surfers Environmental Alliance, Monmouth University School of Science, and UCI, was just one of the innovative research initiatives Adolf led last year to determine the health of coastal waters and developing pollution solutions.

Among them, Adolf and the UCI coordinate the Coastal Lakes Observing Network (CLONet), a partnership of Monmouth scientists, students, and community volunteers dedicated to monitoring water conditions at a dozen seaside waterbodies. Through CLONet, community members regularly sample their local lakes and file their readings to an online database for analysis. Since the effort's launch in 2019, the community scientists have recorded over 1,700 samples, helping reveal the likely drivers of harmful algal blooms (HAB) and other issues in the lakes. The work was supported in 2023 with funding from the Jules L. Plangere, Jr. Family Foundation and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

A study authored by Adolf in the “Urban Naturalist” concluded that April showers bring July HABs in Deal Lake. The study reported that New Jersey’s largest coastal lake is locked in a seasonal cycle that sees the system loaded with nutrients in the cold winter and early spring months, fueling bursts of cyanobacteria growth in the summer and early fall.

Top: Professor Jason Adolf uses a Secchi disc to measure the clarity of Takanassee Lake in Long Branch.
Bottom: Professor Jeff Weisburg discusses the surf beach water quality study with NBC News.



Leadership for a More Resilient Coast

The UCI significantly expanded its work last year to make coastal communities in New Jersey more resilient to rising seas, extreme coastal storms, and other mounting impacts of climate change.

With grant funding from the Office of Naval Research, the UCI is studying natural resilience solutions and conducting innovative oyster reef research in the waters off **Naval Weapons Station Earle** in Monmouth County to advance facility and community resilience. Additional grant funding from the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is supporting the design of resilience projects and green infrastructure improvements to help control flooding and water quality impairments in Aberdeen Township, Highlands, and Sylvan Lake, located in Bradley Beach and Avon. The projects are being led by UCI Associate Director **Tom Herrington** and Coastal Resilience and Restoration Practitioner **Meredith Comi**.

Comi, an expert in designing, implementing and directing aquaculture, oyster restoration and living shoreline projects, joined the UCI in the summer following two decades with NY/NJ Baykeeper. Comi will continue to guide and build upon a portfolio of projects she previously led as director of the organization's Coastal Restoration Program, which transitioned to Monmouth's management.

Herrington continued his work as the principal investigator of the **New Jersey Coastal Consortium for Resilient Communities** (NJCCRC), a partnership between six universities and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. With \$1.5 million in state funding, the group is now studying how climate change is impacting salinity changes and the natural movement of sediments and currents in the Barnegat Bay and determining



the effectiveness of resilience efforts such as the restoration of tidal marshes in densely populated areas.

The UCI began new collaborations with The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey and government, academic, and nonprofit entities on projects in **Newark, Ventnor, Camden, Long Beach Township**, and salt marsh areas around the state with National Coastal Resilience Fund grant support provide by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Elevating Awareness of Climate Change and the Oceans



The UCI kicked off 2023 by convening the **Future of the Ocean Symposium** with a panel of leading voices on the climate-ocean nexus, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator **Rick Spinrad** and Scripps Institution of Oceanography Director **Margaret Leinen**. It concluded, appropriately, with UCI Director Tony MacDonald at the United Nations COP28 climate change summit in Dubai, engaging leaders from around the globe to ensure issues raised at the Symposium were considered during negotiations.

Broadcast journalist **Jack Ford** moderated the Symposium's conversation on where the nation is succeeding and falling short in its efforts to catalyze innovation and action to address climate change's impacts to our oceans, as well as how oceans can help to mitigate those impacts.





Following the event, the UCI honored Spinrad and Leinen with National Champion of the Ocean awards and presented State, Coastal, and Ocean Leadership awards to New Jersey State Sen. **Bob Smith** and American Littoral Society Executive Director **Tim Dillingham**.

The UCI's capacity to serve as a forum for dialogue on ocean-climate issues will be bolstered through a 2023 Memorandum of Agreement with the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) that will make Monmouth its host institution. The agreement paves the way for collaborations including joint research, planning events focused on climate and other issues, and opportunities for Monmouth students to serve as GOF interns and research assistants. The UCI and GOF have already partnered on several initiatives, such as co-organizing side events at COP 28, COP27 in Egypt, and the 2022 U.N. Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

Adding to the UCI's international focus, Director Tony MacDonald serves as a member of the U.S. National Committee for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, hosted by the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board. The group is dedicated to promoting scientific initiatives across the globe needed to ensure sustainable use of marine resources and long-term ocean health.

Above: Attendees at the Future of the Ocean Symposium. **Left:** From l-r, Emmy Award-winning journalist Jack Ford interviews NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad and Scripps Institution of Oceanography Director Margaret Leinen.

Expert in Politics of Climate Change Joins Monmouth

Peter J. Jacques, Ph.D., was named Monmouth University's Rechnitz Family/Urban Coast Institute endowed chair in marine and environmental law and policy in 2023. Jacques serves as a tenured professor in the Political Science and Sociology Department and an affiliated faculty member with the UCI, teaching undergraduate courses and conducting research on the politics of sustainability and global environmental change, including coastal, marine and climate policy and politics, and Indigenous thought.

He has over two decades of experience teaching political science connected to environmental issues, and is the author of seven books. He is currently writing a book that makes a case for incorporating Indigenous approaches toward sustainability into world political theory.

Jacques is nearing completion of a 15-year research project on the core political reasoning of climate change denial. The work has entailed an in-depth analysis of English language books by deniers to determine what messages have been consistent and which arguments have changed over time.



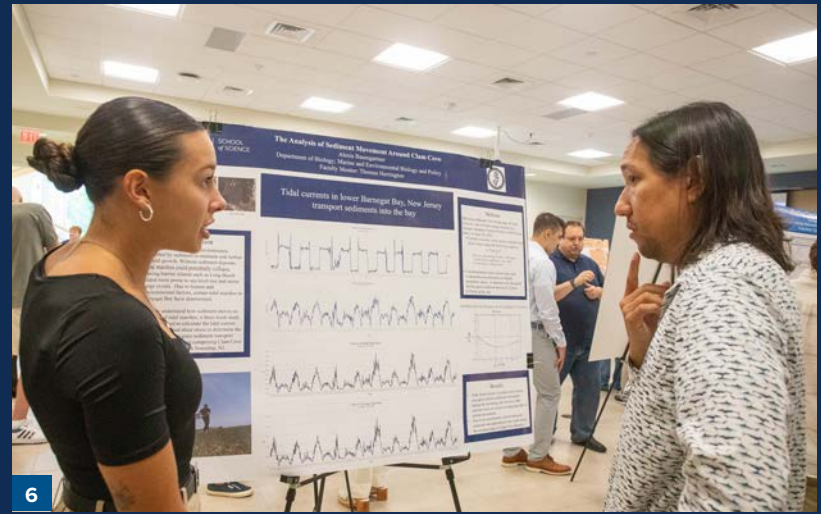
2023 in Pictures

2023 Future of the Ocean Symposium and Champion of the Ocean Awards





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Congratulations to Jim Nickels, who recently retired following 16 years as the UCI's marine scientist and vessel captain. Here Nickels demonstrates scientific equipment for Inclusive NOAA Fisheries Internship Program students aboard Monmouth's research vessel Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe.

1. Monmouth University President Patrick F. Leahy (l) and UCI Director Tony MacDonal (r) present National Champion of the Ocean Awards to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator Rick Spinrad and Scripps Institution of Oceanography Director Margaret Leinen.
2. The UCI's 2024 Future of the Ocean Symposium.
3. A crowd watches the Champion of the Ocean Awards presentation at Monmouth University's Erlanger Gardens.
4. Leahy and MacDonal present State, Coastal, and Ocean Leadership Champion of the Ocean Awards to New Jersey State Sen. Bob Smith (l) and American Littoral Society Executive Director Tim Dillingham.
5. MacDonal speaks during the panel "Investing in Ocean Nature-based Solutions to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate" at the U.N. COP28 climate summit in Dubai.
6. Alexis Baumgartner discusses her analysis of sediment movement in the lower Barnegat Bay with Monmouth University Environmental DNA/Marine Fisheries Senior Scientist Sam Chin at the 15th Annual School of Science Summer Research Symposium.

2023 Grants and External Funding Sources

GRANTS AND FOUNDATION WORK

Coastal States Stewardship Foundation: Support for ocean planning actions including development of Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and stakeholder outreach for Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Committee/Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council: Northeast Regional Fish Habitat Assessment research

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Restoring Bay Islands for Community Resilience: Phase 2 Final Design & Permitting - Long Beach Township, NJ (sub-award from Long Beach Township)

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Creating a pipeline of shovel-ready salt marsh restoration projects in New Jersey (sub-award from the Nature Conservancy in New Jersey)

Naval Weapons Station Earle: Cooperative agreement to provide installation resiliency in support of Naval Weapons Station Earle through the Department of Defense: Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Cooperative Agreement

NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Ongoing support for multiyear zooplankton study in Barnegat Bay

NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Offshore wind farm regional environmental and ecological monitoring (sub-award from Rutgers University)

NJ Department of Transportation: NY/NJ Harbor Contamination Assessment and Reduction Project (CARP II) sediment sampling and contaminant modeling in NY Harbor

NJ Sea Grant Consortium: Coastal community resilience specialist to provide education and outreach services to coastal communities

NOAA Climate Program Office: Coastal Resilience Planning Support for environmental justice communities

NOAA Sea Grant Coastal Adaptation & Resilience: Coordinating support and management of the New Jersey Coastal Resilience Collaborative, a network established to foster resilient coastal communities

Office of Naval Research: Development of a natural and nature-based feature testbed for advancing U.S. Navy and coastal community resilience to future climate threats

Office of Naval Research: Development of a coastal adaptation monitoring and modeling system for Navy facility resilience in urban waters

State of New Jersey: Coastal Consortium for Resilient Communities, research partnership among New Jersey universities

Jules L. Plangere, Jr. Family Foundation & NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Coastal Lakes Observing Network, working with communities to improve management and restoration of lakes

MISCELLANEOUS AND UCI VESSEL CONTRACT WORK

Aqua Survey Inc.: Vessel sampling and current profiling support

AKRF: Vessel support for Hudson River Park Pier 26 Oyster Study

NOAA Sandy Hook Laboratory: Lower Passaic River White Perch Collection Study

Empire Wind: Vessel support for wind farm project

Rutgers University: Vessel and hydrographic survey support for coastal New Jersey projects

UCI Faculty Advisory Council

- **Jason Adolf, Ph.D.** | endowed associate professor of marine science, Department of Biology
- **Tjeerd Boonman, Ph.D.** | specialist professor, Department of Economics, Finance, and Real Estate
- **Kimberly Callas, MFA** | associate professor, Department of Art and Design
- **John Comiskey, Ed.D.** | associate professor, Department of Criminal Justice
- **Michael Cronin, Ph.D.** | LCSW, associate professor, School of Social Work
- **Kevin Dooley, Ph.D.** | associate professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology
- **Scott Jeffrey, Ph.D.** | associate professor, Department of Management and Leadership
- **Jeanne Koller, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW** | assistant professor, School of Social Work
- **Golam Mathbor, MSS, MSW, Ph.D., RSW** | professor, School of Social Work
- **Lindsay Mehrkam, Ph.D., BCBA-D** | associate professor, Department of Psychology
- **Michelle Schpakow, Ed.D.** | science education lecturer, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- **Claude Taylor, M.A.** | director for academic transition and inclusion, Center for Student Success
- **Laura Turner, Ph.D.** | associate professor, Department of Mathematics

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