



Friday Harbor Laboratories

The Friday Harbor Laboratories offer an ideal setting to study the marine world. Scientists from all over the globe come to the Labs to study oceanography, embryology, biology, ecology, and other disciplines related to the sea. Beyond that, the Labs give students the opportunity to immerse themselves in research and coursework, connecting what they learn in the classroom to the rich ecosystems that thrive throughout the San Juan Archipelago.

SAILING THROUGH A SEASCAPE of pristine marine waters, forested islands big and small, swirling tidal currents and eddies, and a visibly thriving ecosystem with marine birds and mammals everywhere is a telltale sign you're in the San Juan Islands. The Islands lie at the apex of Puget Sound, where both the salt and fresh waters of the Pacific Ocean and the region's big rivers mix together. The fusion of all these elements makes the islands an ideal place to learn about the marine environment and how it connects to humans.

The Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL) —part of the University of Washington's College of the Environment—sit on a 490-acre mixed-conifer wilderness preserve on the northern shoreline of San Juan Island's Friday Harbor. Perfectly situated for studying science, the property has research buildings, labs, dorms, a dining hall, computer lab, community meeting hall, and housing for visiting scientists. The bordering waters and beaches serve as a preserve, offering sanctuary for many marine animals and plants, including long-lived rockfish species that dwell among the reefs and kelp forests. Researchers have access to the diverse marine environment beyond the shores of FHL via the research vessel *Centennial* and a cadre of smaller boats.

FHL is a powerhouse for research, education, and outreach. The Labs community swells during the summer season as scientists from around the world use its facilities for research. Groundbreaking discoveries are made that advance the field of marine ecology; developmental, neuro- and cell-biology; and physical, chemical and biological oceanography. Students—both graduate and undergraduate—participate in numerous course offerings that dive deeply into the marine sciences. FHL also fosters numerous nodes of outreach, including the Friday Harbor Labs K–12 Science Outreach Program and the San Juan Nature Institute, which help shape public sentiment and policy about how we connect with and utilize our oceans.

Research remains at the very core of FHL. Current projects include mapping the genome of mankind's closest marine

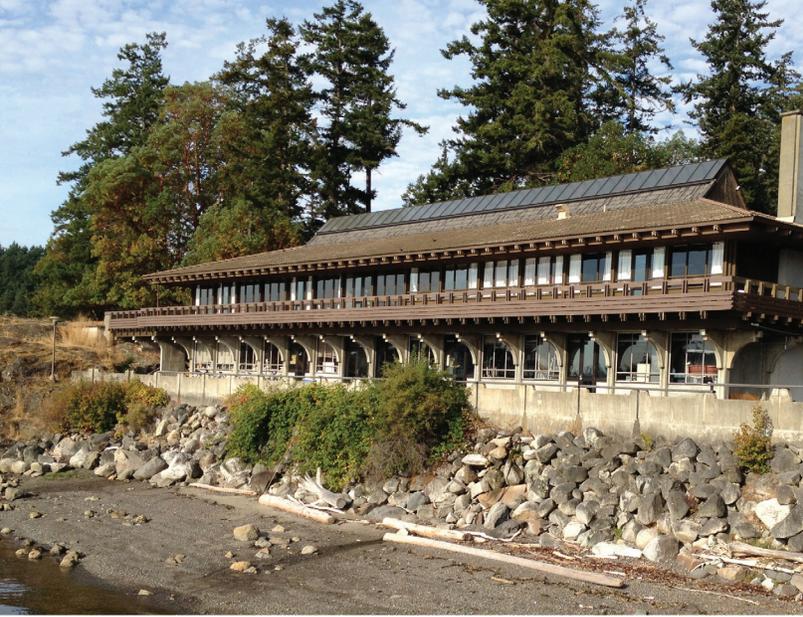
ancestors, examining how marine predators shape ecosystems, figuring out how special adaptations—like the suckers found on local fishes—can translate to medical solutions, and showcasing how the highly-productive near-shore environment can help fuel the productivity of the deep sea.

Another newly developed feature of FHL is the Ocean Acidification Environmental Laboratory, which includes a chemistry lab, an indoor lab for manipulating seawater conditions, and a field-based lab for running experiments closer to a real-world setting. The combination of these three abilities provides a unique niche for FHL in researching ocean acidification, a topic of critical importance to the Puget Sound and Salish Sea, as well as the global ocean.

The Labs are not always about actively doing science. The Whiteley Center located on the campus serves as a retreat for scholarly and creative activities. Scholars can use their time at the Center to write poetry, create artwork, or synthesize years' worth of data, among other things.

From naturalists to neurobiologists, oceanography students to artists, it is the diversity of people working at FHL who make it the unique place that it is, and drive its world-class research connected to the marine world.





Key contact

Billie Swalla, Director
bjswalla@uw.edu

College of the Environment
coenv@uw.edu

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/>

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