

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Florida Institute of Oceanography, Keys Marine Laboratory, Legislative Budget Request

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. A total of \$1,800,000 in recurring and non-recurring funds are requested for the Florida Keys Marine Laboratory.

The request includes \$800,000 in recurring funds that will allow Keys Marine Laboratory to:

- Have FIO as the sole operator of the Keys Marine Laboratory as well as retain and hire the appropriate personnel needed to maintain all operational systems;
- Support and expand marine education programs;
- Assist with the development of research and commercialization methods for the invasive lionfish population;
- Create a new education and outreach coordinator position at the Keys Marine Laboratory to initiate and implement new programs directed at expanding and enhancing STEM education;
- Develop and offer, in partnership with industry, certified scientific diving courses to undergraduate and graduate students;
- Develop a STEM undergraduate program.

The request includes \$1,000,000 in non-recurring funds that will allow FIO to:

- Introduce advanced video and satellite-enabled communication and IT systems for research and education purposes;
- Purchase holding tanks and other necessary equipment to leverage the unique salt water system at the Keys Marine Laboratory that helps conduct controlled experiments on various marine species;
- Maintain the state-of-the-art laboratory to support research and education;
- Provide funds for upgrades, on-going maintenance, system upgrades, and infrastructure expansion to ensure that academic, research, and safety standards are met.

The total amount of funds requested for the Keys Marine Laboratory is \$1,800,000.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Legislative Budget Request Forms I & II

Facilitators/Presenters:

Provost Gary Perry
Provost Ralph Wilcox