

THE DARLING MARINE CENTER is a proud part of the University of Maine, the state's Land and Sea Grant University. Since its founding in 1965, the Darling Marine Center has been an active center of marine research, education, community engagement, and outreach.

The mission of University of Maine's Darling Marine Center is to connect people to the ocean by generating and sharing knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystems and the human communities that are part of them.

The Darling Marine Center (DMC) brings unique strengths and opportunities to University of Maine (UMaine) by virtue of its waterfront facilities, resident expertise, and partnerships with marine businesses and local communities. As the university's marine laboratory, the DMC welcomes scientists and students from UMaine and around the world throughout the year.

In addition to supporting university research and education, the DMC also actively engages with fishermen, aquaculture entrepreneurs, citizen scientists, and other community members through collaborative research and education, workforce development, and business incubation programs.

As we look ahead to our next 50 years, we envision that the Darling Marine Center will continue to be an internationally recognized center for marine research, education, and engagement. The DMC will enable scientific discovery and help sustain coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies in Maine and beyond.

Through strategic investments in infrastructure, programs, and people over the next 10 years, the DMC will expand its impacts on the scientists, students, and communities that we serve. Our highest priorities include modernization and expansion of key waterfront infrastructure, including building a new Marine Science Education Center. We also will renovate and construct other facilities to enable us to achieve our strategic research, education, and engagement goals. We will invest in the people and programs that make UMaine and the DMC renowned centers of excellence in the marine realm. Building pathways that enable our diverse constituents—students, researchers, community members, and industry—to access the science and education resources available through the DMC and UMaine will be a particular focus.



Together, we can deepen the DMC's contributions to knowledge of how our oceans work and to the health of coastal ecosystems and economies in Maine and beyond. Access the full DMC Strategic Plan at dmc.umaine.edu, or contact the DMC Director at heather.leslie@maine.edu or (207) 563-3146 to learn how you can contribute to the future of the Darling Marine Center.



Goals for the next 10 years (2018-2028)

GOAL 1: RESEARCH

The Darling Marine Center will provide facilities that support cutting-edge research of UMaine faculty and students, and attract researchers and students from near and far who seek access to coastal and ocean ecosystems for research and education.

GOAL 2: EDUCATION

The Darling Marine Center will contribute to training the next generation of marine researchers and industry professionals, and enhancing the skills and opportunities of the current generation.

GOAL 3: ENGAGEMENT

The Darling Marine Center will connect people to the ocean in collaboration with research, government, and community partners in order to help sustain coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies in Maine and beyond.

To achieve these strategic goals, we have identified three priority investment areas: Infrastructure, Programs, and People.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT 1: INFRASTRUCTURE

Priorities:

- Replace the large pier and update the flowing seawater system, including the pumphouse and the DMC's oldest flowing seawater laboratory.
- Construct a new Marine Science Education Center to replace aging and scattered infrastructure.
- Construct a new maintenance facility and revitalize the vessel operations center.
- Replace the large vessel used for research and education.
- Increase high quality housing options for students and visiting researchers.
- Enhance connectivity to enable collaborative teaching, learning, and research across the state and beyond.
- Construct a new Community Engagement Center to serve as the administrative and public gateway to the campus.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT 2: PROGRAMS

Priorities:

- Enhance academic and research collaborations with other UMS campuses in ways that leverage the unique setting and capabilities of the DMC.
- Develop and/or host graduate and professional-level short courses in areas of identified need where the location and facilities of the DMC offer particular advantages.
- Catalyze knowledge synthesis, communication, and application by UMaine researchers, students, and our partners in research, education, industry, government, and local communities.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT 3: PEOPLE

Priorities:

- Ensure a strong core of faculty, staff, and students are in residence year-around.
- Promote and expand access to the DMC by graduate students, junior faculty, and other early career investigators.
- Develop shared technical support for DMC-based research and education activities.
- Enhance capacity for community engagement to ensure our science is accessible to communities and industries throughout the state and beyond.