

Greetings,

It is a great honor to be serving as the newly appointed Director of the Darling Marine Center. I have been familiar with the DMC since I was very young, fishing on the Damariscotta River and fascinated by the prospect of being part of such an important seaside facility with a collaborative group of people focused on coastal and marine science education, research, and communication in Maine.

I am eager to work on solutions to the challenges confronting our coastal areas, marine ecosystems, and surrounding communities. I look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with the dedicated DMC staff, University of Maine students and faculty, and partnering stakeholders and institutions. The opportunity to help prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers, and resource managers through exciting research learning experiences is particularly inspiring to me and I feel fortunate to be involved.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year,



Sean M C Smith

Sean M. C. Smith, Ph.D.
Director, Darling Marine Center

2024

Connecting people to the ocean



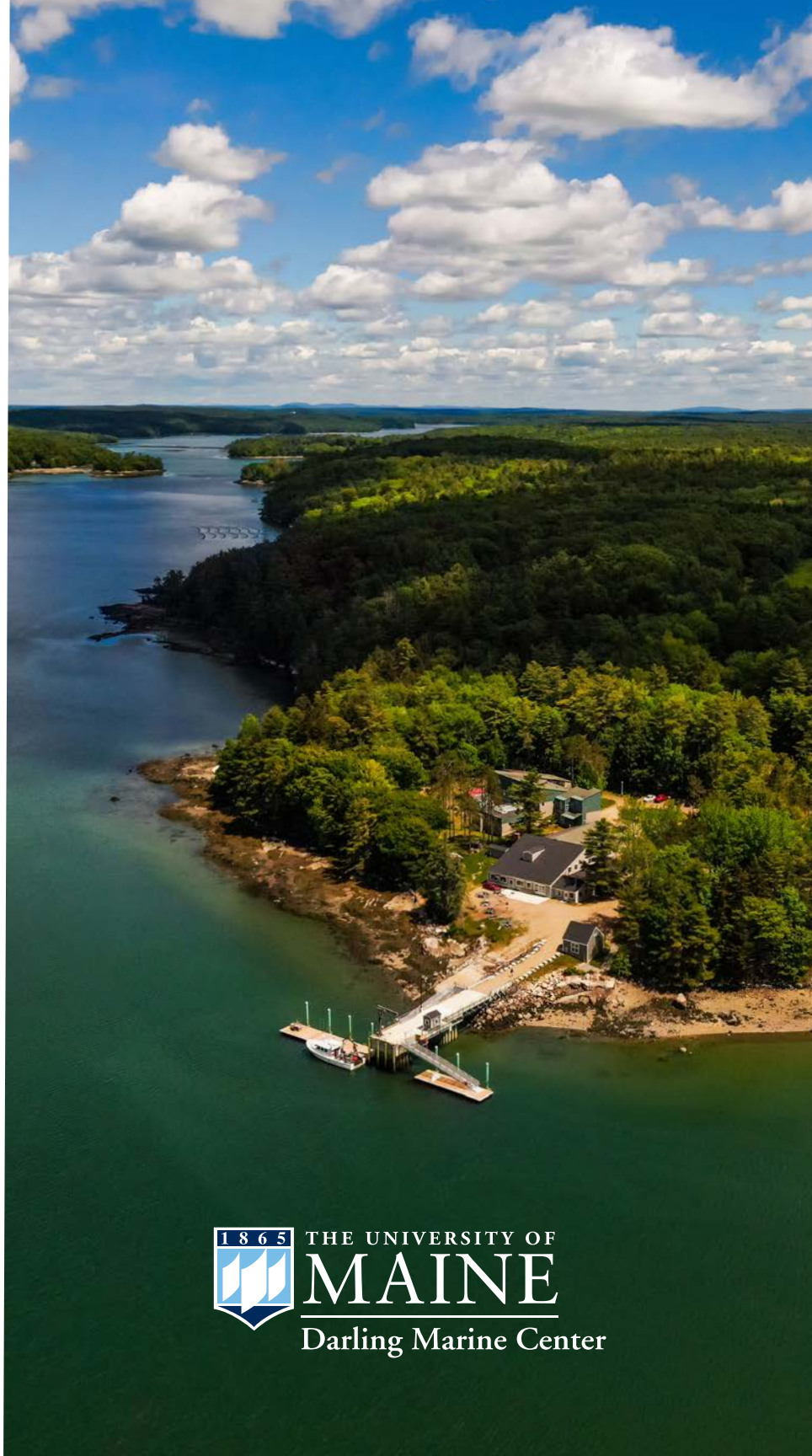
Darling Marine Center
193 Clarks Cove Road
Walpole, ME 04573
207.563.8144
dmc@maine.edu

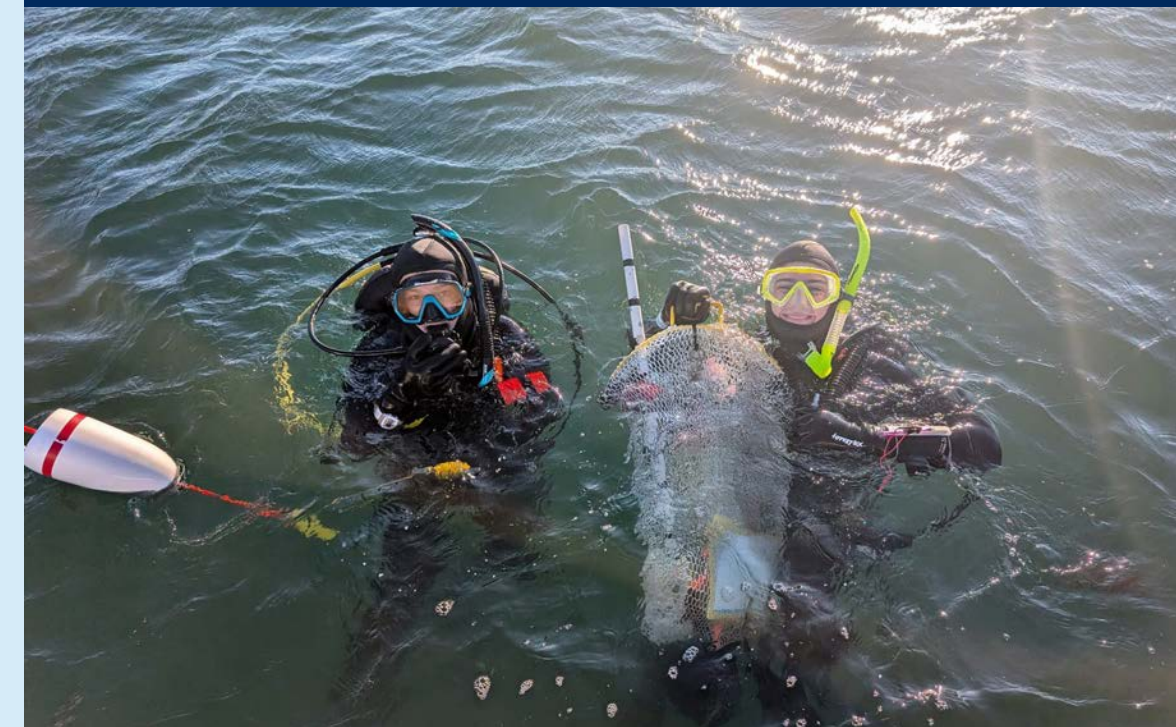
The Darling Marine Center is a proud part of the University of Maine. Our mission is to connect people to the ocean by generating and sharing knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystems, and the human communities that are part of them.

dmc.umaine.edu

Photo Credit: Ilana Bardini, Hattie Stiles, Sean Smith, Michelle Staudinger, Caleb Hodgdon, Colby Johns, Margaret Estapa, Bea Van Dam, Katherine Burnham, and the UMaine Marketing Team

The University of Maine is an EEO/AAE institution and does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity, 101 Boudreau Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5754, 207-581-1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System).





RESEARCH

Hosted 15 visiting scientists this past summer

Conducted research activities involving DMC students, staff and faculty:

- New observations of shifts in lobster demographics and habitat in Maine
- Development of technology to examine particle dynamics in the ocean to better understand carbon flux and microplastic pollution
- New collaborations to review marine resource monitoring programs and develop climate adaptation strategies

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Public summer seminar series with 11 speakers and over 400 attendees

Hosted an “Aquaculture Boot Camp” to inform emerging and practicing sea farmers with hands-on knowledge of shellfish and seaweed husbandry, skills, techniques, equipment, and technology

Maintained partnerships with dozens of businesses and schools in the region for K-12 programming with over 2,000 student participation days

Invited local high school students to campus to engage with DMC scientists and research activities

RESEARCH LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Enrolled 29 students in the fall Semester by the Sea, a residential program for UMaine undergraduates

Hosted 7 visiting college groups and employed 11 research and laboratory interns this past summer

Offered courses for diver certification, training, and underwater sampling

Ran monthly research cruises on DMC vessels with students, faculty, and visiting scientists

Hosted USDA sponsored fellowships for undergraduates learning about sustainable aquaculture through the lens of indigenous knowledge

CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Sustained management capabilities by filling critical positions, including director, boat captain, maintenance personnel, and program manager

Maintained accommodations for over 1,000 researchers, staff, students, postdocs, and visitors through upkeep and repairs to buildings, waterfront infrastructure, vessels, and campus grounds

We are grateful for the efforts of our team of managers, administrators, coordinators, maintenance personnel, and Sodexo catering staff who have made this year successful to the benefit of students and society in Maine and beyond.



2024 Connecting people to the ocean



The Darling Marine Center invites you to invest in the DMC Student Research and Experiential Education Fund. Gifts will support student research and experiential education programs at the center.

We welcome financial gifts of any amount and appreciate any support you can provide. You can give by:

- Using the University of Maine Foundation’s online portal, and specifying the Darling Marine Center as the recipient at dmc.umaine.edu/giving
- Mailing a check to the University of Maine Foundation, designating Darling Marine Center on the memo line and mailing to:

University of Maine Foundation
Two Alumni Place
Orono, ME 04469

If you would like to discuss additional giving options, please contact the DMC by calling 207.563.8144 or emailing us at dmc@umaine.edu.