

HISTORY OF THE GRICE MARINE LABORATORY

The George D. Grice Marine Laboratory, named in honor of the 14th president of the College, is located at Fort Johnson, on James Island, across Charleston Harbor from downtown Charleston. The facility houses classrooms, student laboratories, research laboratories, faculty offices, an aquarium room, and a research collection of marine invertebrates and fishes. It has combined its extensive marine science library holdings with the holdings of the Marine Resources Research Institute of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to form the Cooperative Marine Resources Library at Fort Johnson.

The Fort Johnson property has historic associations dating back more than 200 years. Among the remains of fortifications from the Revolutionary War period are a brick powder magazine and, from a later period, the foundations of a Martello tower. The opening rounds of the bombardment on Fort Sumter that began the Civil War were fired from these fortifications.

Since 1955, the Grice Marine Laboratory has served as the core facility in support of the undergraduate and the graduate programs in marine biology of the College of Charleston.

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

GRICE MARINE
LABORATORY



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Grice Marine Laboratory Walking Tour



STOP #1 – ROOM 101

This is a lecture classroom where most of the undergraduate and some of the graduate courses are taught. This is a “smart” classroom with computer projection and internet capability.

STOP #2 – POSTERS IN HALLWAY

Please review the posters in the hallways. These will give you an idea of the type of research being conducted by students and faculty members. Also note some recent publications of students and faculty.

STOP #3 – ROOM 106 CONFERENCE ROOM

Please take a moment to notice the view of Fort Sumter through the windows.

STOP #4 – ROOM 108 COMPUTER LAB

This computer lab is used by both undergraduate and graduate students.

STOP #5 – ROOM 105 COLLECTION ROOM

This is the systematics collection room. The specimens housed in the collection are used in research projects, as a reference base for the research community, and play a significant role in undergraduate and graduate instruction. Numerous publications and graduate theses have resulted from study of material in this collection.

STOP #6 – ROOM 107 AQUARIUM ROOM

This is the aquarium room. Students and faculty use this room to keep live animals for research. Please do not touch any animals, tanks, or experiments in this room.

STOP #7 – RESEARCH LABS

Please proceed up the stairs at the end of the hallway to view some of the research labs in the building. Please do not enter these labs.

STOP #8 – ROOM 201 FISH LABORATORY

This room serves as a teaching lab for undergraduate and graduate courses in fish biology.

STOP #9 – ROOM 202

This is a lecture classroom where most of the graduate and some of the undergraduate courses are taught. This is a “smart” classroom with computer projection and internet capability.

STOP #10 – POWDER MAGAZINE

Please continue down the stairs and exit the building through the front doors. You will see the powder magazine to your left. It is made of brick with walls between four and five feet thick. The powder magazine is believed to have been built at Fort Johnson circa 1793. Fort Johnson was used by the colonists in the Revolutionary War. The first shot of the Civil War was fired from near this powder magazine. Continue up along the tree line past the magazine to see a marker commemorating this historical event and place.

STOP #11 – BOAT SLIP

Please walk down to the main street and take a right towards the harbor. Follow the road up to the boat slip. The large boats are operated by the SC Dept. of Natural Resources and are used for research and education. CofC students get the chance to make brief trips on these vessels. The Grice Marine Lab has four small boats in our fleet that are used for teaching and research.

STOP #12 – MARINE RESOURCES LIBRARY

The MRL is located in the Marine Resources Research Institute at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. This building is located directly across from the Grice Lab. If you are in front of the Grice Lab and look across the road to the SCDNR you will see a ramp on the left side of the building. Enter through the doors above the ramp and the Marine Resources Library will be directly in front of you. Established in 1972, the collection's strengths include marine biology, marine ecology, fisheries science, ichthyology, invertebrate zoology, toxicology, marine forensics, biotechnology, ecotoxicology, phycology, and biochemistry. The Marine Resources Library is supported financially by the College of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Resources Division, and the NOAA CCEHBR - Charleston Laboratory. The library provides resources and services to the staff, faculty, and students of the three supporting institutions.