Organizations:

University of Texas at Austin
College of Natural Sciences

Marine Science Institute at Port Aransas

Education and Research:
- Department of Marine Science
- National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Beaufort Lagoon Ecosystem LTER
- Fisheries & Mariculture Laboratory
- Center for Coastal Ocean Science

Public Outreach and Ocean Literacy:
- Patton Marine Science Education Center
- Wetlands Education Center
- Bay Education Center at Rockport
- Fennessey Ranch at Refugio

Response:
- Amos Rehabilitation Keep & GLO Oiled Wildlife Facility
Faculty, Graduate Students & Staff ~130

- 6 Leadership positions
- 20 Administrative, Communications & Professional
- 13 Staff Service (IT, Buyer, HR etc.)
- 28 Research Scientists, Associates & Fellows
- 21 Faculty
- 15 Ancillary Service (Cook, Guard, Etc.)
- 22 Graduate Students
- 9 Maintenance
- 52 Volunteers
Undergraduate Students

For AY 2020-2021 (fall 2020, spring 2021 & summer 2021):

~145 lower division undergraduates in Austin.
~174 upper division undergraduates in Austin.
~319 Undergraduate students studied Marine Science in Austin

“Semester by the Sea” undergraduates this spring (8 in residence / 18 in Austin)

“Intersession” undergraduates this summer (17 in residence)
Discovery Starts Here
from Polar Oceans to Tropical Seas
Significant Research Programs

The National Science Foundation “Beaufort Sea Lagoons” Long-Term Ecological Research awarded in 2018

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, awarded in 2006, celebrating its 15th year

Smithsonian Marine Global Earth Observatory network awarded in 2019 in partnership with TAMU-CC
Erosion releases ancient carbon from Arctic permafrost

Changing the Code: New Taxonomic System for Microbes

Deep sea viruses infect Asgard Archaea, related to eukaryotes

Comprehensive study of fish assemblages near oil platforms

Using lipids to understand food chains

Membrane steroid receptor involved in treatment of epilepsy

Weddell seals primarily use sight to find obscure breathing holes

Two Major Reviews – Archaea & Red Snapper Fishery
Regional Engagement

Environmental Impact Studies of Harbor Island Industrial Development

- Model Salinity Change from Desalination Brine Discharge in Ship Channel
- Investigate Toxicology of Desalination Brine & Anti-Scaling Additive Discharge
- Model Change in Seawater Exchange, Circulation & Larvae Recruitment with Ship Channel Deepening
- Model Change in Storm Surge with Ship Channel Deepening
- Model Impact of Oil Spills at proposed VLCC Terminal

https://utmsi.utexas.edu/blog/entry/literature-for-desal-deepening
Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory (FAML)
Fennessey Ranch, Refugio, TX
3,300 Acre Conservation Easement, Aransas River and Copano Bay
Education and Outreach

K-Grey
Estuarine Research Center and Main Laboratory Labs
Reconstructed from floor to ceiling – completed 2018-19
2017 Hurricane Harvey Damage
15-acre Port Street Campus
Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory, Port Street Campus
Large Tank Lab – Ed Rachal Foundation
UTMSI Research Pier – Under construction estimated completion spring 2022
Reconstruction of the UTMSI Boat Basin (Marina) completed 2020
Center for Coastal Ocean Science, Port Street Campus
Rebuild supported by the Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
Patton Marine Science Education Center –
Under construction – estimated completion summer 2022
Bay Education Center, Rockport – K-12, Public Education - Completed 2021
Wetlands Education Center – K-12, Public Education
Completed 2020
Seawater supply, filtration & distribution systems
Freshwater (rain) capture and distribution system
Estuarine Research Center Dormitory in Bidding / Contract Phase
Residential Housing – 30 Students & Postdocs
In bidding/contract phase
Lund House Visiting Scientist Residence
Under construction and near completion fall 2021
Monument Sign Cotter Avenue Entrance – Completed fall 2021
7’ Bronze Marlin Sculpture donated by Kent Ullberg
Monument costs donated by MSAC members

Monument Sign Port Street Entrance
6’ Bronze Sailfish Sculpture donated by Kent Ullberg
Monument costs donated by MSAC members
Transition to presentation on thoughts about dealing with adversity >>
2020 COVID UPDATE – MSI ALL-HANDS

MSI is working at 40% capacity with rotating shifts to maintain continuity of research operations.

We are operating under a firm COVID-19 daily protocol to reduce risk using self-health assessments, staggered entry, hand sanitation, masking, gloving and body temperature checks. Daily, our support staff sanitize all high touch surfaces and MSI provides disinfectant and PPE supplies to maintain our safety posture.

MSI campuses and facilities will remain closed to the general public and all public-facing programs and activities remain suspended until further notice.