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Scientists use drifters to track the movement of ocean currents in the Gulf of Mexico. The more that is known about the currents, the better prepared we will be to predict how oil or other toxins will move throughout the Gulf of Mexico in the future.

### WHAT IS THE OCEAN DRIFTER PROJECT?

This innovative project provides an opportunity for Florida high school students to assist scientists in designing, building, and deploying drifters that will be used for important research being conducted in the Gulf of Mexico. Students will work with a researcher to design and create ocean drifters for release during a CARTE coastal experiment in December. Drifters will be outfitted with a GPS unit and students will be able to track their progress as well as the data collected. For more information, follow the [Deep-C Blog](#).



*MAST Academy students test their ocean drifters in Biscayne Bay.  
Source: <http://everitas.univmiami.net/2013/10/11/budding-scientists-design-and-build-ocean-drifters-to-help-um>*

**WHO IS INVOLVED?** This is a collaborative effort between CARTE and the DEEP-C Consortium to connect high school students with current research in the Gulf of Mexico. Participants will include scientists from DEEP-C and CARTE, as well as students and teachers from three high schools (MAST Academy in Miami, FL; South Broward High School in Hollywood, FL; and Rickards High School in Tallahassee, FL).

**WHEN:** Student drifter design and testing will take place in November and December (launch date TBA).

**WHERE:** The experiment will be based at John Beasley Park, Okaloosa Island, FL. Most of the drifters will be deployed from the beach. We will also release dye into the water to visually track the currents (see this video from a similar experiment - <http://waterlust.org/RIP.html>). Some drifters will be taken out past the surfzone by boat or jetski and released in slightly deeper water to see how the currents bring oil into the beach.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- [http://www.miami.edu/index.php/news/releases/ocean\\_drifters\\_designed\\_by\\_high\\_school\\_students\\_could\\_help\\_researchers/](http://www.miami.edu/index.php/news/releases/ocean_drifters_designed_by_high_school_students_could_help_researchers/)
- <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/follow-the-journey-of-carthe-drifters-in-the-gulf/>
- <http://deep-c.org/research-areas/physical-oceanography>
- <http://deep-c.org/research-areas/modeling>

### CONTACTS:



Amelia Vaughan  
Deep-C Ocean Science Educator  
[www.deep-c.org](http://www.deep-c.org)  
[amelia@deep-c.org](mailto:amelia@deep-c.org)



Laura Bracken  
CARTE Outreach Manager  
[www.carthe.org](http://www.carthe.org)  
[lbracken@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:lbracken@rsmas.miami.edu)