



Blue Action Lab and FAU Harbor Branch launch the first on-land Queen Conch breeding and egg farm in The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean.



(i) Students from The Island School and Cape Eleuthera Institute, Dr. Megan Davis, FAU. Photo Credit: Rewild Brands Bahamas.

GRAND BAHAMA – Blue Action Lab (BAL), in partnership with Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (FAU HBOI), is proud to announce the launch of the **first on-land queen conch breeding and egg farm in The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean**. Located in Conservation Cove, Grand Bahama, this pioneering project is set to revolutionize queen conch restoration and sustainable aquaculture across the region.

This project is part of a four-year initiative funded by **Builders Vision**, running from **January 2023 through December 2026**, and builds on FAU’s prior success with partnership hatcheries in Puerto Rico, Curaçao, Jamaica, and Great Exuma.

The initiative combines cutting-edge research with local engagement to **pilot-test queen conch aquaculture for restoration, sustainable seafood production**. By working closely with the Grand Bahamian community, the project aims to generate new economic opportunities while helping to **replenish declining conch populations**.

In a major breakthrough for the region's first on-land conch egg farm, the first egg masses were successfully laid, with **over 20 egg masses** recorded in the first week, each containing approximately **500,000 eggs**. Almost **10 million eggs** have been released at **Banana Bay, West End, and Lucayan Beach**, while others are being **incubated in the hatchery**, where hatching has begun.

Globally, on-land aquaculture systems have been shown to **diversify income for fishermen communities and provide jobs for career seeking Bahamian scientists**, a key driver for exploring conch farming in Grand Bahama.



(i) Sasha Collie and Marie Humes, Bahamas National Trust, and Rupert Hayward, Founder, Blue Action.
Photo Credit: Rewild Brands Bahamas.

“As The Bahamas builds out its blue economy, this first-of-its-kind on-land conch egg farm is a bold model for what’s possible when science, community, and environmental leadership converge,” said **Rupert Hayward, Founder, Blue Action.**

Additional collaboration partnerships include **Coral Vita**, University of the Bahamas, The Nature Conservancy, **Pinder’s Paw**, and **CIBNOR (Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste S.C.)**. Students from the **University of the Bahamas** will engage in research internships, contributing to scientific studies and monitoring. The **Bahamas National Trust** is engaged in **conch aquaculture in marine national parks**, while **The Nature Conservancy** is assisting with **habitat mapping for restoration support**.

“This is a groundbreaking step not only for The Bahamas, but for the entire Caribbean,” said **Dr. Megan Davis, world-renowned aquaculture expert and lead researcher at FAU Harbor Branch Queen Conch Lab.** *“It’s the first time queen conch are breeding and laying egg masses on land at this scale in the region this technology will help to close the life cycle and ensure a steady supply of eggs for growing queen conch for restoration ”*

The hatchery will serve as a model for other island nations facing similar challenges, showcasing the potential of **science-based restoration** paired with inclusive partnerships. Plans for the innovation hub include facilities for aquaculture, research, education, and sustainable enterprise development.

As The Bahamas continues to invest in blue economy solutions, the Grand Bahama Queen Conch Mariculture Center stands as a bold example of what can be achieved through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to ocean health.

About Blue Action Lab

Blue Action Lab is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing climate and nature-based solutions specifically for low-lying islands that are severely affected by rising sea levels and extreme weather events. By utilizing innovative science and technology, we aim to enhance the resilience of these vulnerable islands, protecting their ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure from the negative impacts of climate change. We leverage our collective knowledge and expertise to create a positive environmental impact while also providing educational programs and job opportunities for local communities. We believe that grassroots transformation at the local level can drive global change.

www.blueaction.eco

About Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students across six campuses located along the southeast Florida coast and is ranked as a top public university by U.S. News and World Report. FAU is an energetic and fast-growing institution, determined to propel itself to the forefront of innovation and scholarship. In recent years, the University has doubled its research expenditures and outpaced its peers in student achievement rates. Our students are bold, ambitious and ready to take on the world.

www.fau.edu

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