

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN RESEARCHERS TO RELEASE  
WATER TRACING DYE INTO ALTAMAHA RIVER  
OUTFLOW ON OCTOBER 16-18, 2009**

**RELEASE DATE:  
OCT. 9, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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**Statesboro, Ga.**--Researchers from Georgia Southern University will team up with Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary to release 50 gallons of a non-toxic fluorescent red dye (rhodamine WT) into the Altamaha River outflow during the weekend of October 16-18, 2009.

The plume of dye that results will be monitored visually, with instrumentation, and by taking water samples as it flows from the release point (just south of Wolf Island) along the Georgia coast and offshore. Tracking the path of the dye will provide an initial estimate of the extent to which the Altamaha River delivers dissolved substances north and south along the Georgia coast and to hard-bottom reefs, such as Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, occurring up to 20 miles offshore.

Rhodamine WT is highly visible because of its ability to fluoresce light. During this study, waters with a red tint may appear at various points along the southeast Georgia coast as well as in marinas, bays, and estuaries. If the dye is sighted in any of these locations, there is no reason for concern. Rhodamine WT is non-toxic to humans and aquatic organisms, such as fish and shellfish, and will not cause damage to watercraft.

If you have additional questions about this project contact the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University at 912-478-5487.