Marine & Aquatic Science Classes at San Francisco State University’s Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies

Taking marine and aquatic science classes at SF State’s marine and coastal research center can be a fun and rewarding part of your undergraduate studies. You have the opportunity to learn from accomplished marine scientists and excellent instructors, use the unique resources for marine research at the Center, work with outstanding graduate students, and lay the foundation for advanced research in graduate school, or a career in the sciences. Many of the skills you will learn are transferable to other fields, as well. See the list of classes offered at RTC here. See below for suggestions for how to get to RTC, and other perks of taking classes at SF State’s marine laboratory on the Bay!

How to get here:

Driving
RTC is approximately 20 miles north of the SF State campus, in Tiburon, Marin County. If you do not have a car or wish to reduce your driving expenses, casual carpools are easily arranged after the first class meeting. Carpool formation or joining options can be found here and here. Alternatively, you can look into RideMatch and ZipCar options from SF at http://parking.sfsu.edu/ridematch-zipcar

Option 1: From Highway 101 north or south take the Tiburon/East Blithedale exit. Go east onto Tiburon Boulevard and continue 1.7 miles to Trestle Glen Blvd. Make a left turn onto Trestle Glen Blvd, and continue 0.6 miles until you get to Paradise Drive. Make a right turn onto Paradise Drive. If the class location is Building 39, continue 2.9 miles on Paradise Drive to the Bay Conference Center entrance at 3152 Paradise Drive. If the class location is Building 36, continue to the scientific laboratories and administration offices entrance 0.5 mile down the road at 3150 Paradise Drive.

Option 2: From Highway 101 north or south take the Tiburon/East Blithedale exit. Go east onto Tiburon Boulevard and continue on this road 4.3 miles to the city of Tiburon. At the traffic circle in downtown the road name changes to Paradise Drive. Stay on Paradise Drive by continuing through the traffic circle. Go another 2.4 miles to the Building 36 classrooms and labs at 3150 Paradise Drive, or to the Building 39 classrooms 0.5 miles down the road at 3152 Paradise Drive.

Public Transportation
Golden Gate Transit Buses and the Blue and Gold Ferry provide service from SF to downtown Tiburon. However, you will need to arrange to be picked up, take a taxi, ride a bicycle or walk the remaining 2.4 miles to reach RTC itself. Half-price ferry tickets can be purchased on morning trips from SF, and the Clipper transit card provides a discount on Golden Gate Transit. Uber, Lyft, and taxis cost around $10 from the ferry to RTC.

- Blue and Gold Ferry http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com/
- Golden Gate Transit http://www.goldengatetransit.org/schedules/pages/Bus-Schedules.php
- Clipper Card https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/index.do
- Taxi service-we suggest http://maringreencab.com/about/
Cycling
Cycling to RTC on Paradise Drive is popular and enjoyable, as long as both bikes and cars share the road safely. Cycling to RTC can be combined with the Blue & Gold Tiburon ferry, or Golden Gate Transit from San Francisco or North Marin. To find the best routes, use BikeMapper (http://gis.mtc.ca.gov/btp/) or Google Maps.

What else can I do at RTC?
RTC is in a beautiful location right on San Francisco Bay. During lunch and breaks, you can sit on the waterfront and enjoy the view complete with wildlife and boats of all kinds, take a walk to the “North Dock,” play a pick-up game of noncompetitive volleyball, hike in the Tiburon Uplands Nature Reserve across Paradise Drive, or chat with the lunch crowd of staff, researchers and students. RTC is also home to the headquarters of the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center’s West Coast Invasions Lab, so you also have the chance to talk to professionals working on a diversity of marine science topics, including wetland science, effects of sea level rise on salt marshes, and the ecological impacts of invasive species.

We hope you take advantage of the special courses we offer at RTC and explore other opportunities to engage in marine and coastal research at the Center. Please get in touch with us if you have any other questions.

Erin Blackwood
Outreach Coordinator
erin70@sfsu.edu