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NOSAMS: Welcome

The National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility (NOSAMS) was established with support from the National Science Foundation in 1989 at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. NOSAMS provides analyses of ^{14}C at natural abundance levels to the ocean sciences research community.

Applications include dating of sedimentary deposits, studies of the sources of carbon-bearing materials in sediments and in the marine water column, studies of paleocirculation and ventilation (comparison of ^{14}C differences between planktonic and benthic foraminifera, time series in corals), and detailed studies of circulation and carbon cycling in the modern ocean (three dimensional map-ping of the distribution of ^{14}C in dissolved inorganic carbon).

Our routine, reported precision for the Fraction Modern of samples containing greater than 250 micrograms carbon and of modern age is 5-7 per mil.

Related Links

» NOSAMS graduate student internship program

» Client Web Portal
Submit samples, check status and results.

» NOSAMS Research Database
The MBL/WHOI library has put together a searchable database of publications using data from NOSAMS.

» NOSAMS featured in NOVA interactive about radiocarbon dating.

NOSAMS accepts samples from all qualified research laboratories and charges fees that vary according to the difficulty of analysis and the nature of the project. Samples from federally supported research programs receive the lowest rates. Overall, the objective of this facility is to support research in all studies of global change.

Photograph of Bob Schneider loading samples into the tandetron accelerator ca 1997.

NOSAMS operates at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution with National Science Foundation sponsorship.

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