## Coastal and Marine Sciences

Investing in North Carolina's research enterprise where it starts.

## **Ensuring Safe Seafood**

## A diagnostic test rapidly detects harmful contaminants

In the coming decade, three major industries (clinical diagnostics, water quality, and food security) will be revolutionized by rapid "molecular diagnostics," or the ability to quickly and definitively identify contaminants. Armed with this nearly real-time information, public health officials and medical professionals can better prevent and stop outbreaks of disease. This research project aims to develop validated, user-friendly diagnostic kits for rapid (less than 2 hours compared to current time of 24 hours) determination of dangerous bacteria and viruses that can be present in marine water and seafood. It will position North Carolina as a leader in the economically valuable marine waters, shellfish, and aquaculture sectors.









Erin D. Hopper, PhD Research Director erin.hopper@northcarolina.edu roi.northcarolina.edu Christopher S. Brown, PhD Vice President for Research and Graduate Education csbrown@northcarolina.edu