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Why does an Oceanography Institution have a Particle Accelerator?

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The National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (NOSAMS) facility at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution provides analyses of 14C at natural abundance levels to the ocean sciences research community. Details of NOSAMS’s two AMS systems and applications of the 14C AMS technique will be presented. Applications range from studies of circulation in the ocean to dating of pirate ships. Additionally, recent work to provide an alternative measurement of the 14C half-life will be discussed.