



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NOAA in the District of Columbia

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then [district-wide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in the District of Columbia

[National Systematics Laboratory](#) DC

[NOAA Headquarters](#) DC

[Sant Ocean Hall](#) DC

[Science On a Sphere at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#) DC

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) / Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Projects](#) DC

The District of Columbia also has eight NOAA Headquarters Offices and one Science on a Sphere® exhibition.

DC

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 miles offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles). The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast "multispecies complex" (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are North Atlantic right whales, leatherback, loggerhead, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon.

NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance. The Northeast Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories, the Center uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regional Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Systematics Laboratory](#)

The National Systematic Laboratory conducts specimen-based research on crustaceans, squids, sponges, jellyfishes, and corals. Embedded within the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, its major research activity is to characterize marine biodiversity by describing new species, classifying groups of marine organisms, and deriving genetic data from museum specimens. Staff are affiliates of the National Museum of Natural History and curate parts of the fish and invertebrate collections, by far the world's largest, with over 50 million specimens, respectively.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#)

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is a competitive grants program that provides funding for locally relevant environmental education projects for K-12 audiences. The [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#), a division of [NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation](#), administers B-WET grants for the Chesapeake Bay watershed on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. The Chesapeake B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Chesapeake B-WET regional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities and are supportive of partnerships between school districts and community organizations and institutions that are run by and/or serve marginalized groups, particularly minority communities. Please see the funding opportunities for specifics.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the District. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Although Prescott grants have been awarded to recipients in DC in previous years, no grants were awarded in FY20. Nationwide, 43 competitive grants were awarded for a total of \$3.7 million.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and NOAA General Counsel - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources. DARRP assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species, and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species, and recreational uses nationwide. This Program collaborates on an ongoing basis with federal, state, and tribal entities, including in the District of Columbia. The Program also works with cleanup agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to protect coastal and marine natural resources; respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances; assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits. Washington, DC is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in DC. For more information about our work in DC, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Maryland & Washington, DC") and this [interactive map](#).

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Woodford, Virginia serving the Mid-Atlantic region including Washington D.C. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)

NOS operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in Washington, DC, which provides data and information on tidal data and relative sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land. Station data feeds into many CO-OPS products that are used to support safe navigation, mitigate coastal hazards, and protect communities. Such products include:

- Coastal Inundation Dashboard - view water levels in real-time and during storms
- High Tide Flooding Outlooks
- Sea level trends and maps
- Real-time current measurements
- Hydrodynamic models

- Tidal and water level datums

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey - [Navigation Manager](#)

OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with a variety of navigation related challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Washington, DC. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Washington, DC and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Norfolk, VA to support mariners and stakeholders in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey - [NOAA Survey Vessel Bay Hydrographer II](#)

The Office of Coast Survey operates the NOAA Survey Vessel *Bay Hydrographer II* to [acquire hydrographic survey data off the U.S. Atlantic coast, concentrating primarily in the Chesapeake Bay](#). The vessel is home-ported in Patuxent, Maryland. The *Bay Hydrographer II* is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic and navigation equipment to detect submerged wrecks and obstructions are used to update NOAA's nautical charts in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Office of Coast Survey also uses the *Bay Hydrographer II* as its primary platform to test and evaluate new and emerging hydrographic survey technologies like uncrewed systems —multiplying the amount of data NOAA's survey fleet collects. This vessel is also able to serve as a navigation response team when required.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [OR&R Preparedness, Response, and Restoration Coordinators](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, disasters, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, OR&R provides scientific and technical support to prepare for and respond to environmental threats that coastal communities face; determines damage to natural resources from those releases; protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

- Eleven regionally based **Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC)** harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental trade-offs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC for the District of Columbia is based in Point Pleasant, New Jersey at the USCG Station Manasquan.
- OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of **Regional Resource Coordinators** work with multidisciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. The RRCs serving the Northeast/Great Lakes region are based in Boston, Massachusetts and New York, New York.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in the District of Columbia](#)

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) leads national and international efforts to reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local

audiences. In Washington, DC the MDP is working with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, using funding provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to conduct removals of abandoned and derelict vessels and other large debris along the tidal Anacostia River in Washington, DC and Maryland. The Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan, covering the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and New York, was published in 2021. This plan is facilitated by the MDP with the participation of 96 organizations, including the District of Columbia government and stakeholders. The plan establishes a road map for strategic progress in making the Mid-Atlantic, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#) and [Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, providing an easy-to-use common operating picture for environmental responders and decision makers. In the fall of 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Common Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey waters. In addition to ERMA, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) offers a suite of [tools](#) to support emergency responders dealing with oil and chemical spills. From Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and data which provide concise summaries of coastal resources including biological resources and sensitive shorelines to GNOME, a trajectory and fate model that predicts the route and weathering of pollutants spilled on water, and so much more, these tools provide easy-access to critical data that support a wide range of needs for emergency responders, ultimately supporting our coastal communities.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Station](#)

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There is one ASOS station in the District.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers. The Digital Coast Act authorizes the Digital Coast as a standing national program and supports NOAA's efforts to increase access to authoritative data, tools, and training that enable coastal communities to plan for long-term resilience, manage water resources, and respond to emergencies.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Fellowship](#)

This program matches postgraduate students with state and territory coastal zone programs to work on two-year projects proposed by the state or territory. The Coastal States Organization is hosting a fellow from 2023-2025 who is helping support coastal states' and territories' ability to integrate the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and

accessibility across the National Coastal Zone Management Program by providing technical assistance, capacity, and relationship building support.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership effort between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife. In the District of Columbia, the NCRF awarded a project in FY19 to conduct an environmental assessment and develop preliminary designs for over 16,000ft of restored stream and wetland creation for Oxon Run.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitter](#)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.

In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states and the District of Columbia, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There is one NWR transmitter in the District.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Financial Officer](#)

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) serves as the principal financial manager. The CFO's Office has the responsibility under the CFO act to provide the leadership necessary for NOAA to obtain a yearly-unqualified opinion in the audit of its consolidated financial statements. The areas under the direction of the CFO are the Budget and Finance Offices.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Communications and External Affairs](#)

The Office of Communications and External Affairs coordinates media relations, stakeholder relationships, and select internal communications at the corporate NOAA level and also organizes messaging and promotion by working closely with the Line Offices. Products provided by the Office of Communications include news releases, news conferences, web editorial management, video presentations, and editorial articles. Some of the services provided by the Office include media training, constituent relations, and exhibits management.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Education](#)

NOAA's Office of Education provides advice and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in matters pertaining to education. The office, in conjunction with the Education Council, coordinates educational activities across NOAA and develops NOAA's Education Strategic Plan and policy. These efforts help to ensure that NOAA's education programs and activities are based on the best science available and support the agency's cross-cutting objective of an engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions. The Office of Education directly implements and manages scholarship programs aimed at fostering American competitiveness in science by providing quality educational opportunities for the next generation. The Office of Education also offers competitive grant programs at the national and regional level to promote environmental literacy efforts through collaboration with external partners. Such competitive education programs managed by the Office

of Education include the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program and the Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of General Counsel](#)

The Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel for NOAA. The General Counsel is appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, with the approval of the President. The Office of the General Counsel provides legal service and guidance for all matters that may arise in the conduct of NOAA's missions and is comprised of a team of professionals advancing the mission and objectives of NOAA by delivering legal services of the highest quality.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Information Officer \(OCIO\)](#)

Washington, DC is one of five NOAA Trusted Internet Connection Access Points which provide the security analytics required to ensure secure communication with untrusted networks. TICAPs are NOAA's first line of defense for protecting NOAA's mission from external cyber-attacks.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of International Affairs](#)

NOAA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) engages internationally to support, promote and advance national policies and interests on the international scale. Through building international partnerships, NOAA is able to leverage important foreign resources and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities. To ensure that NOAA is able to respond effectively to its global challenge, the international affairs of the agency is coordinated through an International Affairs Council (IAC). The office, in conjunction with the IAC, coordinates international activities across NOAA. OIA also advises senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials on critical international matters.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) coordinates all NOAA contacts with the United States Congress and is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating legislative programs that are of concern to the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administration. As the official liaison between the NOAA and the Congress, the OLIA communicates the Administration's views and is proactive in notifying Congress of important NOAA developments. Conversely, the OLIA keeps senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials informed of critical congressional information and activities.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Under Secretary](#)

The Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator is located in downtown DC in the Department of Commerce's Herbert C. Hoover Building. The Office of the Under Secretary oversees all NOAA Line, Staff, and Program office and activities and also houses the offices of other members of NOAA's senior leadership team. The Office is also supported by the Program Coordination Office (PCO), which is staffed by participants in the PCO-LDP (a competitive, approximately year-long NOAA leadership development program). The program provides an intense training and learning experience for mid-career NOAA employees who have high potential for assuming greater leadership responsibilities in the agency.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Leadership and Staff Support](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations a host of officers in the District of Columbia in various leadership roles and staff support roles. The range of assignments includes liaisons to the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy, the Director of the NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive Director to the Deputy Undersecretary, and various aide positions within the organizational structure. As such, NOAA Corps Officers form an integral part of the administrative framework within NOAA.

NOAA-wide - [Sant Ocean Hall](#)

NOAA has worked with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History to create the Sant Ocean Hall to engage, educate, and inspire the public through state-of-the-art displays. The Ocean Hall is one component of NOAA's Ocean Science Initiative intended to educate and inform the public and expand our understanding of the Earth's oceans.

NOAA Office of Education - [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

The Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by NOAA's Office of Education, provides grants and support for formal (K-12) and informal education to advance the agency's mission. In the District of Columbia, [ELP funded a project by the Rockson Community Development Corporation](#). The project aims to build the environmental literacy of children, youth, and adults so that they can become knowledgeable about ways to increase their community's resilience to extreme weather, climate change, and other environmental hazards, and be involved in achieving that resilience. To achieve this goal, the project integrates relevant state and local resilience plans and collaborates with stakeholders who are actively implementing these plans. The [F.H. Faunteroy Community Enrichment Center](#) (Rockson Community Development Corporation project) employs NOAA resources and educational methods to promote community-level environmental literacy, enabling participants to better comprehend threats and implement solutions that build resilience to extreme weather, climate change, and other environmental hazards. Environmental literacy includes the knowledge, skills, and confidence to 1) reason about the ways that human and natural systems interact globally and locally; 2) participate in civic processes; and 3) incorporate scientific information, cultural knowledge, and diverse community values when taking action to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from environmental hazards, including mitigating and adapting to climate change.

NOAA Office of Education - [NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology](#)

The NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology (NCAS-M) is led by Howard University in collaboration with its partner institutions Jackson State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Maryland College Park, San Jose State University, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. This Center is supported through a cooperative agreement award from NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI) and is a future workforce investment to support NOAA's mission enterprise. The purpose of the award is to expand participation in NOAA mission-aligned education, training, capacity building, and collaborative research focusing on expanding participation of groups traditionally underrepresented and historically excluded in NOAA mission aligned careers. NCAS-M focus on Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), atmospheric sciences and meteorology - specialized numerical weather predictions and earth systems modeling technical skills. Research and education in social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) disciplines and its alignment with the NOAA mission is also conducted at NCAS-M of NOAA. NCAS-M, in joint collaboration with the NOAA's Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (CESSRST), and NOAA subject matter experts, will design and implement a Joint Collaborative Research and Development Project (JCRDP) that supports NOAA's strategic goals and missions, while directly aligning with each of the Center types. NCAS-M conducts research that improves the accuracy of weather and climate forecast models, studies atmospheric chemical processes and their effects on local, regional, and global scales. The Center's primary collaborator at NOAA is the National Weather Service (NWS). The Center's research is also aligned with the needs of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR).

NOAA Office of Education - [Science On a Sphere® at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#)

[Science On a Sphere](#) (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated

images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program](#)

Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about [America's underwater treasures](#) and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research - [UrbanNet](#)

UrbanNet is a research effort designed to support urban climate and greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring in and around the Washington D.C. area with the goal of improving urban climate monitoring. There are three towers located in DC including two on the Herbert C. Hoover Building and one at Howard University. UrbanNet is a revitalization of a previous similar network (DCNet) which was established during the post-9/11 time period in 2002 in order to assist with better understanding wind patterns in the event of the release of hazardous materials (e.g., radiation) in the DC area. Sensors on the UrbanNet platform collect data such as air temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, heat stress, atmospheric pressure, solar radiation, wind speed and direction and some limited observations of greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide and methane. These high resolution measurements are crucial for advancing our understanding of weather, how urban areas retain heat and the effects of climate change in urban areas. In addition, these observations are used to evaluate and improve numerical modeling, assimilate observations into models and provide the driving meteorological observations for atmospheric transport and dispersion models; thereby both improving the prediction of material dispersion in the urban environment and better characterizing the climate of urban areas where most people live.

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) / Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Projects](#)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was entrusted with billions of supplemental federal funding dollars with passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act on August 16, 2022. This historic infrastructure funding has been invested in communities across the nation to build resilience in the face of climate change. NOAA distributed funding to communities, tribal, state and local governments, higher education programs, businesses, non-profit organizations, and facilities in need. NOAA funded billions of dollars in grants and cooperative agreements across the country to fund projects that enhance climate resilience, restore coastal and marine habitats, improve safety, and create jobs. For an interactive map of NOAA BIL and IRA investments in your state, visit <https://www.noaa.gov/bil-ira-awards-explorer>.

BIL

National Coastal Resilience Fund (IIJA Funding) 2022, \$96,820,677

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Coastal Resilience Fund to support coastal resiliency projects that will help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms and floods and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. These multi-year projects will invest in a pipeline of projects that will directly result in restoration or expansion of natural features like dunes, wetlands, reefs, riparian buffers, and barrier islands that help to reduce the impacts of future storms and other naturally occurring events on human, fish, and wildlife communities.

Marine Debris Management in Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument 2022-2026, \$5,800,000

In partnership with NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project is conducting yearly missions to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to remove large-scale marine debris, primarily derelict fishing gear, from the remote islands.

Kellogg Creek Restoration and Community Enhancement Project, Oregon, \$15,000,000

This project will design, permit, and begin construction activities for the removal of Kellogg Creek Dam. The dam currently blocks access to 15 miles of high quality habitat in Kellogg Creek, a tributary of the Willamette River. Removing the dam will provide habitat for threatened Lower Columbia River coho, Chinook, and steelhead.

Watershed Restoration of the Upper Cape Fear and Lower Deep Rivers, North Carolina, \$7,400,000

This project will restore priority habitat in the Cape Fear watershed for several migratory fish species, including American shad, river herring, striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, and American eel. Three dams upstream of a series of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Locks and Dams will be removed, and pre-removal activities will be initiated for two additional dams.

Regional Ocean Partnership Funding To Support the Work of the West Coast Ocean Alliance, \$3,926,120

The West Coast Ocean Alliance will use these funds to develop and begin implementation of a five-year strategic plan, coordinate and enhance tribal engagement in the West Coast Ocean Alliance, convene regional government partners to support information exchange and regional planning around offshore wind energy and other shared ocean management interests.

Implementation and Coordination of Ocean and Coastal Management Priorities for the Northeastern United States Via the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), \$3,924,563

The Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, serving as fiscal sponsor for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Regional Ocean Partnership will use these funds to advance the priorities of their three committees: the Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee, the Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee, and the Ocean Planning Committee, to achieve the following outcomes.

Coordinated Inter-Jurisdictional Ocean Management and Planning in the Mid-Atlantic Region Through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), \$3,925,020

The Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, serving as fiscal sponsor for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Regional Ocean Partnership will use these funds to advance inclusive, regional ocean planning through inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement; develop shared understanding across agencies, identify opportunities for collaboration, conduct focused stakeholder engagement.

2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund - IIJA Award, \$96,790,126

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Coastal Resilience Fund to support coastal resiliency projects that will help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms and floods and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. These multi-year projects will invest in a pipeline of projects that will directly result in restoration or expansion of natural features like dunes, wetlands, reefs, riparian buffers, and barrier islands that help to reduce the impacts of future storms and other naturally occurring events on human, fish, and wildlife communities.

Hydrosat: Next Generation High-Resolution Daily Surface Temperature for Interconnected Earth Processes, \$174,956

Temperature is the critical signal that allows monitoring of a myriad of Earth's processes. Hydrosat is innovating through this space-time barrier to provide 20 m surface temperature data every day, globally. We propose in this 6-months Phase I investigation to conduct a sensitivity analysis and impact assessment framework to determine how much high spatiotemporal resolution surface temperature can improve applications across wildfire, drought, urban heat, and agriculture.

Advancing Restoration on Maryland's Patapsco River: Daniels Dam Removal, \$1,778,466

This project will complete design and permitting for the removal of Daniels Dam on the Patapsco River, which would open access to 30 miles of habitat for river herring and American eel. This effort is part of the larger Patapsco Restoration Project, which has included the NOAA-supported removals of Bloede Dam, Simkins Dam, and Union Dam. Daniels Dam is located upstream of the former site of Bloede Dam, and is the last remaining barrier on the mainstem river.

National Coastal Resilience Fund 2024 - IIJA Award, \$95,649,945

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Coastal Resilience Fund to support coastal resiliency projects that will help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms and floods and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. These multi-year projects will invest in a pipeline of projects that will directly result in restoration or expansion of natural features like dunes, wetlands, reefs, riparian buffers, and barrier islands that help to reduce the impacts of future storms and other naturally occurring events on human, fish, and wildlife communities.

Implementation and Coordination of Regional Coastal and Ocean Management Priorities for the Northeastern United States via the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), \$1,963,233

The Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, serving as fiscal sponsor for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Regional Ocean Partnership will use these funds to advance the priorities of their three committees: the Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee, the Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee, and the Ocean Planning Committee, to achieve the following outcomes: improve the ability for managers and the public to observe and monitor water levels and use related products and tools in decision-making and expand the implementation of living, natural and green infrastructure; help protect and conserve ocean and coastal resources by improving our understanding of coastal vegetation as a resource for storing carbon and providing important habitat, expanding a regional network for monitoring ocean acidification, and improving seafloor mapping and understanding of rare or critical benthic marine habitats; support and improve regional ocean management decisions by enhancing interjurisdictional coordination, advancing understanding of coastal and submerged archaeological and cultural resources, particularly those important to Tribes; and enhance the ability of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal to support outreach and engagement, public comment, and

agency processes; and coordinating research and monitoring through the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind.

Intergovernmental Coordination of Regional Ocean Management and Planning in the Mid-Atlantic Through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, \$1,962,800

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean will use these funds to advance inclusive, regional ocean planning through inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement with a focus on underrepresented groups and avoidance of conflicts for offshore wind development; build an understanding of coastal climate risks and climate mitigation opportunities through the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network and through a regional blue carbon stock assessment; coordinate regional partners around marine debris prevention and reduction through convenings, community-based social marketing strategies, and outreach; identify policy, process, and regulatory efficiencies where applicable; and provide the best available spatial data and information to public stakeholders and decision-makers on the MARCO Portal.

Regional Ocean Partnership Funding to Support the West Coast Ocean Alliance, \$1,835,196

The Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, serving as fiscal sponsor for the West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Regional Ocean Partnership will use these funds to coordinate and enhance tribal engagement in the West Coast Ocean Alliance, to convene regional government partners to support information exchange and regional planning around shared ocean management interests, to maintain and promote regional use of the West Coast Ocean Data Portal and a new ocean health dashboard, and to conduct a cumulative impacts assessment on ocean ecosystem stressors.

Implementing the largest Derelict fishing gear removal in the US Caribbean: A collaborative effort with frontline coastal Communities, \$847,881

The Ocean Foundation and Conservación ConCiencia are working with local fishing communities to remove derelict fishing gear from the waters around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and develop a fishing trap turn-in program.

Collaboratively Addressing Derelict Vessels and Large Debris in the Anacostia River, \$963,132

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and their partners are removing large debris and up to 33 abandoned and derelict vessels from the tidal Anacostia River in Washington D.C. and Maryland.

Scaling Ghost Gear Removal on a National Level by Catalyzing Local Impact, \$5,218,000

Ocean Conservancy is administering a national competitive grant program for the removal of large marine debris, working with California fishers on solutions to ghost gear challenges, creating tools to better prevent derelict fishing gear, and removing marine debris in southwest Alaska and the Lower Florida Keys.

IRA

Large-Scale Mangrove Restoration and Rehabilitation in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Puerto Rico to Enhance Protection from Coastal Hazards for Underserved Communities, \$450,000

This project will contribute to the largest mangrove habitat restoration project ever undertaken in Puerto Rico. Members from the local communities of Salinas, Aguirre, and Guayama will work alongside technical experts to gain experience in restoration and monitoring in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The loss of healthy mangroves in this area has exposed important infrastructure—such as a power plant, solar farm, and evacuation route—to damage from hurricane-related winds and flooding.

A framework to define requirements and market opportunities to advance public-private partnerships in support of ocean observations, workforce development, and coastal and ocean climate resilience, \$942,668

The Marine Technology Society (MTS) and partners have identified three foundational drivers needed to sustain effective public-private partnerships focused on coastal community resilience: 1) regular and structured dialogue among all stakeholders builds trust and connection; 2) engaging in co-development of products and services across the value chain of observations ensures optimal results; and, 3) observing system operators, product developers, and data consumers need regular and predictable feedback mechanisms to sustain success.

National Coastal Resilience Fund - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Award, \$46,000,000

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Coastal Resilience Fund to support coastal resiliency projects that will help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms and floods and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. These multi-year projects will invest in a pipeline of projects that will directly result in restoration or expansion of natural features like dunes, wetlands, reefs, riparian buffers, and barrier islands that help to reduce the impacts of future storms and other naturally occurring events on human, fish, and wildlife communities.

NOAA-NFWF IRA - North Atlantic Right Whale Reducing Vessel Strikes Funding, \$6,000,000

This project will facilitate innovative and technology-based solutions to reduce vessel strike risk on the endangered North Atlantic right whale. The project will administer a North Atlantic right whale Grant Program focused on administering subgrants with the following focal areas (1) aggregation of data relevant to whales and vessel strikes (2) whale detection and identification (3) tools to disseminate known whale presence and recommended actions to vessels (4) and other tools including modifying vessels, enhancing and understanding of existing data, and measuring impact of other efforts.

Assessing the emerging threat of sargassum inundation on coastal carbonate chemistry in the U.S. Caribbean by streamlining and operationalizing observing technologies, \$924,644

The focus of this project will be to refine and streamline new technologies for carbonate chemistry monitoring to enable rapid assessments of water quality during sargassum inundation and decomposition events in the U.S. Caribbean. As the GOA-ON in a Box monitoring system and the pCO₂ to Go sensor technologies are operationalized, close coordination with CARICOOS to ensure that the tools and training guides produced enable their regional monitoring partners to collect and contribute high quality data to NCEI and CARICOOS data platforms.

A Multi-University Consortium for Advanced Data Assimilation Research and Education (CADRE), \$1,383,123

The next-gen NOAA Unified Forecast System Data Assimilation (DA) faces significant challenges associated with earth system modeling and observations. Serious gaps in DA inhibit addressing these challenges. A Multi-University Consortium for Advanced Data Assimilation Research and Education will partner closely with NOAA to advance DA education and research. Supported will be 12 DA research thrusts and their implementation to the UFS. The projects will deliver improvements to DA, the workforce, and improve short range to S2S forecasts.

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