



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NOAA In Your State

Mississippi

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 by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [coastal programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in Mississippi

Mississippi Laboratories	Stennis	MS-4
National Data Buoy Center	Stennis	MS-4
Northern Gulf Institute	Stennis	MS-4
National Centers for Environmental Information	Stennis	MS-4
Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Moss Point	MS-4
Southeast Fisheries Science Center	Pascagoula	MS-4
NOAA Ships Oregon II, Pisces, and Gordon Gunter	Pascagoula	MS-4
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects	Project Specific	MS

The state of Mississippi also has one Weather Forecasting Office, one Regional Office, 3 Labs and Field Offices, three Science on a Sphere® exhibitions, and one National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Weather Forecast Office

Jackson MS-2

National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Mississippi. There are 122 [WFOs nationwide](#) of which one is in Mississippi. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media, [weather.gov](#), and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction [centers](#) and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Mississippi weather, visit [www.weather.gov](#) and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

Science On a Sphere®

Stennis	MS-4
Biloxi	MS-4
Ocean Springs	MS-4

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. They are located at the INFINITY Science Center in Stennis, the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs.

MS-1

Oxford

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [National Sea Grant Law Center](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The National Sea Grant Law Center was established in 2002 to coordinate and enhance Sea Grant's activities in legal scholarship and outreach related to coastal and ocean law issues. The National Sea Grant Law Center's mission is to encourage a well-informed constituency by providing legal information and analysis to the Sea Grant Community, policy-makers, and the general public through a variety of products and services. The National Sea Grant Law Center's major responsibilities are (1) integrating the efforts of ocean and coastal law researchers and users in the Sea Grant network nationwide; (2) conducting research on current ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes law issues; (3) providing outreach and advisory services to the Sea Grant network and coastal constituents; (4) disseminating information and analysis through periodic workshops and conferences as well as publications, and (5) serving as a focal point for Sea Grant's law-related issues and promoting the growth and development of a Sea Grant legal network. The Sea Grant Law Center is based at the University of Mississippi. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at seagrant.noaa.gov.

Holly Springs

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

MS-2

Jackson

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

MS-2,3

Greenwood, Starkville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [VORTEX-SE and PERiLS](#)

In support of the [VORTEX-SE](#) and [PERiLS](#) field projects, the Physical Sciences Laboratory operates and maintains a 915-MHz wind profiler with RASS sources, and surface meteorology tripods at Greenwood and Starkville, Mississippi. Data collected at these sites will be used to better understand the atmospheric conditions that lead to severe storms and the sources of rotation for tornadic development.

MS-3

Harrison

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 Mississippi, ELP funded a project by the Program for Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea-Level Rise (PLACE: SLR) in Harrison County. 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 [PLACE: SLR 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.

Newton

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Starkville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [NOAA High-Performance Computing](#)

A high performance supercomputer, located at Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park adjacent to Mississippi State University's Starkville campus, allows Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) researchers to develop and refine advanced weather and climate models. Named Orion, this high-performance computer is funded via a grant from NOAA and provides increased resources for scientific research and greater opportunities for collaboration with the academic community.

MS-4

Goodwin Creek

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Surface Radiation Measurement Network](#)

The Global Monitoring Laboratory(GML) operates seven stations as part of its surface radiation budget network (SURFRAD). The station measurements support regional and global weather and climate research with accurate, continuous, long-term measurements of the surface radiation budget over the United States. Solar radiation is the driving energy for geophysical and biological processes that control weather and affect planetary life; understanding the global surface energy budget is therefore key to understanding climate and the environmental consequences to agriculture and other statewide concerns. Because it is impractical to cover the whole earth with monitoring stations, the answer to global coverage lies in reliable satellite-based observations. Accurate and precise ground-based measurements across a range of climate regions are essential to refine and verify the satellite observations. One of these stations is located near Goodwin Creek. These ground-based measurements also support special research projects on radiation and climate processes in the Mississippi region and serve as important verification for weather forecasts.

Stennis Space Center

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) are responsible for hosting and providing access to one of the most significant archives on earth, with comprehensive oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. NCEI is the Nation's leading authority for environmental information by maximizing the Federal government's billion-dollar investment in environmental data, NCEI is committed to providing environmental information, products, and services to private industry and businesses, local to international governments, academia, and as well as the general public to support informed decision making. NCEI headquarters are located in Asheville, North Carolina with other major locations in Boulder, Colorado; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Stennis Space Center, Mississippi. NCEI's Coastal Data Development

program is managed out of the Stennis Space Center, with partnerships across NOAA and with agencies in federal, state, and local government, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations that collect or provide coastal data and information.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\) - Northern Gulf Institute](#)

The Northern Gulf Institute (NGI) is a partnership of six complementary academic institutions and NOAA addressing important national strategic research and education goals. Mississippi State University leads this collaboration, partnering with the University of Southern Mississippi, Louisiana State University, Florida State University, Alabama's Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and NOAA scientists at various laboratories and operational centers in the Gulf of Mexico region. NGI serves as a mechanism to promote collaborative research between university scientists and those in NOAA. NGI develops, operates, and maintains an integrated research and transition program, the results of which raise awareness and understanding of the Gulf region. The Institute contributes to NOAA's priority interests in the four NGI research themes of Climate Change and Climate Variability Effects on Regional Ecosystems, Coastal Hazards, Ecosystem Management, and Effective and Efficient Data Management Systems Supporting a Data-driven Economy.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)- Southern Regional Climate Services Director](#)

NOAA's six Regional Climate Services Directors (RCSDs), which are part of NCEI, support the development and delivery of a wide range of place-based climate science and information products and services to help people make informed decisions. RCSDs regularly communicate with stakeholders about climate information needs, and help build and strengthen active partner networks with public and private constituents. They play a primary role in integrating the work within NOAA and among its partners engaged in developing and delivering climate services at the regional level. These efforts serve to increase the value of climate information to users and support more efficient, cost-effective delivery of products and services. The Southern RCSD region encompasses New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Office for Coastal Management](#)

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots on the ground approach to coastal management. The organization currently has staff in the eight regions to provide assistance to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts and facilitate customer feedback and assessments. For the Gulf Coast, these NOAA personnel are located in Stennis, Mississippi, St. Petersburg, Florida, and Austin, Texas. They provide a wide range of programs dedicated to improving the management of coastal resources in the Gulf region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [NOAA RESTORE Science Program](#)

The mission of NOAA's RESTORE Science Program is to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support the long-term sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The Science Program receives 2.5 percent of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, which is funded from penalties associated with the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Science Program uses stakeholder input to design funding competitions that support teams of resource managers and researchers to work collaboratively to address regional needs. The Science Program has an office at the Stennis Space Center.

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 navigational challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in the northern Gulf of Mexico. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in the region 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.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey (OCS) - [Navigation Response Team](#)

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. 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 navigational challenges. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating the Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. NRT-Gulfport is located in Gulfport, MS and is able to respond within 24 to 48 hours.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Mississippi Laboratories-Stennis](#)

The Stennis Space Center facility of the Mississippi Laboratories conducts research on advanced data collection technologies, with a focus on acoustic and optical technologies and automated underwater vehicles. Research and modeling activities are also conducted to support oceanographic and ecosystem assessments. Scientists monitor annual hypoxic events in the Gulf of Mexico, track mortalities of stranded sea turtles, determine the impacts of environmental factors on fish abundance, and model plankton distribution and abundance in relation to ocean currents and other oceanographic factors. Research is also focused on acoustic mapping of marine habitats. This facility provides engineering support for marine resource surveys through the design and construction of innovative data collection methods such as digital video camera systems, automated underwater vehicles, and gliders.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [National Data Buoy Center](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation's coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, NDBC supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations. NDBC also operates NOAA's network of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART®) stations, for the early detection and real-time reporting of tsunamis in the open ocean. Data from the DART®s are used by the National Weather Service Tsunami Warning Centers in Alaska and Hawaii to provide tsunami forecasts, warnings, and information. NDBC also operates the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Array of buoys in the tropical Pacific. The TAO array consists of approximately 55 moorings in the Tropical Pacific Ocean. The array is a major component of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Observing System, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer generated model forecasts of the atmosphere, and climate.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Exploration Command Center](#)

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) partners with NOAA Ocean Exploration to manage, archive, and disseminate data collected on its expeditions. NCEI maintains one of the most significant data archives on Earth, providing the public with comprehensive oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. The NCEI at Stennis Space Center supports NOAA Ocean Exploration data management efforts and this location also hosts an Exploration Command Center.

Office of Education - [Science On a Sphere®](#) at [Infinity Science Center](#). See [Page 2](#) for details.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [NOAA Data and Navy Operations Support](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations multiple officers at the Stennis Space Center in support of NOAA and Navy operations in the state and globally. One is assigned to a Navy unit in support of the Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Command (NOMWC), leading and deploying with a platoon of 6-8 Navy sailors and one civilian technical representative in operations related to homeland security and countermine activities, as well as serving as NOAA's liaison between the Office of Coast Survey and NOMWC. In addition, two more officers serve in positions covering a Navigation Response Team and the Stennis Lab for the National Data Buoy Center. These officers perform critical functions for each unit, supporting data collection and operations both directly and indirectly through field work and administrative support.

Biloxi

Office of Education - [Science On a Sphere®](#) at Keesler Air Force Base. See [Page 2](#) for details.

Gulfport

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Mississippi Spatial Reference Center](#)

In a partnership with NOAA, the Mississippi Spatial Reference Center (MSRC) serves as a new way of providing a spatial referencing liaison between Federal and local authorities. The Center is a nonprofit organization located at the Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC), University of Southern Mississippi. The mission of the GCGC/MSRS is to provide coastal geospatial information, research, and applications that will benefit both the public and private sector. Current project areas include the Mississippi Height Modernization Program, remote sensing science and technology to address topics of importance to the ecology and economy of the northern Gulf of Mexico, and the Mississippi Digital Coast Initiative.

Moss Point

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas focused on long-term research, monitoring, stewardship, education, and training. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed on a daily basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners. The 18,049 acre Grand Bay Research Reserve, designated in 1999 and managed by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, is one of the most biologically productive estuaries in the northern Gulf of Mexico, where oyster reefs and seagrass beds serve as nursery areas for economically important marine species such as shrimp, blue crab, speckled trout, and red fish. The reserve includes part of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and is a partner in the NOAA Sentinel Site Program.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship](#)

The Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship program funds graduate student research and professional development opportunities within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The program supports collaborative research addressing local management challenges that may influence future policy and management strategies. The Davidson Fellow at Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus their research on movement and remobilization of phosphate contamination.

Ocean Springs

Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® at the Marine Education Center, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. See [Page 2](#) for details.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)- [Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute](#)

NOAA Ocean Exploration's presence in Ocean Springs, Mississippi is based on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, associated with Gulf Shore Research Labs, where the office supports the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, headquartered at URI, which amplifies exploratory science and technology, and expands NOAA's capabilities for its ocean exploration portfolio. The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) is a unique consortium of top oceanographic institutions—several graduate degree-granting institutions, an ocean exploration non-profit, and task-specific affiliates. The membership includes the University of Rhode Island, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Southern Mississippi, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Ocean Exploration Trust. They work as one to advance the core priorities of NOAA Ocean Exploration and have a mission to explore, map, and characterize the nation's vast ocean territory, to develop and implement new technologies, and to engage future generations of ocean scientists, engineers, and stakeholders. The University of Southern Mississippi, associated with Gulf Shore Research Labs, is home to the Research Vessel Point Star, Research Vessel Jim Franks, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Eagle Ray, and Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Mola Mola.

Pascagoula

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

The National Seafood Inspection Laboratory (NSIL), which is part of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF), is an accredited ISO/IEC 17025:2017 laboratory that helps protect and strengthen U.S. seafood. The laboratory is located in Pascagoula, Mississippi and houses two teams that test products for bacteria and chemicals that threaten seafood safety. NSIL provides analyses, data management, regulatory compliance risk analysis, and technology transfer expertise. NSIL also provides scientific advice to other federal agencies, committees, conferences, and the seafood industry.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Fishery Statistics Office](#)

Field agents serve as the principal data collection agent for marine fisheries throughout the Southeast U.S. (NC-TX). They implement and coordinate surveys involving the collection of fishery related data from the public. Responsibilities and functions are to develop, implement, operate, and manage an integrated fishery statistical data acquisition program for research and fishery management. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is the headquarters for the Southeast Port Agent program. A field agent is stationed in Pascagoula, MS.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Southeast Fisheries Science Center -Mississippi Laboratory - [Pascagoula](#)

The Mississippi Laboratory (MS Labs) was established in 1950 under the Department of Interior as a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries field station. In 1970, the laboratory was transferred to the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center. In 2009 the Pascagoula laboratory was rebuilt following Hurricane Katrina. The laboratory achieved a Gold rating in the [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#) Rating System, making it the first environmentally “green” facility in the city.

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Mississippi Laboratory conducts fisheries-independent resource surveys to monitor the number, distribution, and health of marine resources and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean. Information on abundance and distribution of fish, marine mammals and sea turtles are used to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammals and other protected resources; develop and ensure compliance with fishery regulations; restore and protect habitat; and recover threatened and endangered species in waters off Mississippi and throughout the Southeast Region.

The Mississippi Laboratory houses NOAA's only fishing gear development, testing, and engineering program in the southeast. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Harvesting Systems Unit. This Unit is an internationally renowned,

professional research team of fishery biologists and fisheries methods and equipment specialists that perform research directed at solving critical problems associated with fisheries resource management. The Unit conducts applied conservation engineering research on various types of commercial fishing gear and fisheries sampling equipment including trawls, longlines, dredges, seines, gillnets, and traps. Studies address the need to minimize fisheries discards, while allowing fishers to maintain profitable and sustainable levels or target catch. Research in advanced technologies improves our data collection programs, and ecosystem assessment research furthers our understanding of the interactions between the environment and marine resources. The Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) is coordinated and managed in Pascagoula. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center has port agents stationed in Mississippi Laboratories, charged with collecting marine fisheries data used in research and fishery management. Aside from the Pascagoula facilities, Mississippi Laboratories includes a satellite facility at Stennis Space Center”

Mississippi Laboratories operates two Class-3 research vessels that are used to conduct research in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. It is also the home port of the NOAA Ships [Gordon Gunter](#), [Oregon II](#), and [Pisces](#), which conduct scientific surveys of the health and abundance of fishery resources and marine mammals in the Gulf of Mexico and at times U.S. South Atlantic. These research activities support various legislative requirements and fishing industry needs throughout the southeast region. Mississippi Laboratories operates two Class-3 research vessels that are used to conduct research in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Navigation Response Team](#)

NOAA's Navigation Response Team 1 operates out of Stennis supporting navigation in the ports from the panhandle of Florida to Texas. These three-person teams measure depths of a changing seafloor and search for underwater dangers to navigation that can slow down commercial shipping immediately after storm events and other emergencies. The teams provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating navigational charting products.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Pascagoula PORTS®](#)

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Pascagoula at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. CO-OPS partners with the Port of Pascagoula to deliver real-time water level data at one station and meteorological data at one location.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - NOAA Ships [Oregon II](#), [Pisces](#), and [Gordon Gunter](#)

The NOAA ships *Oregon II*, *Pisces*, and *Gordon Gunter* are managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (MOC-A) in Norfolk, Virginia. The ships support the science and research missions of NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center and its allied laboratories. The ships are homeported at the Gulf Marine Support Facility in Pascagoula and the Port Captain provides operational, administrative and logistical support to the ships. All vessels support NOAA's mission to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.

All of the vessels are operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps in concert with NOAA Professional Mariners. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircrafts, conduct diving operations, and serve in other NOAA staff positions. NOAA Professional Mariners perform the deck, engineering, steward, and survey tech functions aboard NOAA vessels, providing critical support to OMAO marine operations.

Bay St. Louis

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Northern Gulf Institute](#)

The Northern Gulf Institute (NGI) was awarded to Mississippi State University. NGI serves as a mechanism to promote collaborative research between university scientists and those in NOAA. The fundamental mission of NGI is integration: integration of the land-coast-ocean-atmosphere continuum; integration of research to operations; and integration of organizational strengths into a holistic program specifically focused on the Northern Gulf of Mexico region. Among NGI's major NOAA research collaborators are the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, National Weather Service, Coastal Services Center, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Ocean Service (NOS), National Coastal Data Development Center, the National Data Buoy Center, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Sea Grant Office. NGI conducts research across four themes: (1) ecosystem management; (2) effective and efficient data management systems supporting a data-driven economy; (3) climate change and climate variability effects on regional ecosystems; and (4) coastal hazards.

Coastal

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research is administered by NOAA Fisheries' [Office of Habitat Conservation](#). Mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, it is the nation's only federal research program dedicated to increasing scientific understanding of deep-sea coral ecosystems. Deep-sea corals occur off of every coastal state in the country, and create important habitats for countless species, including many fish species. The Program collaborates closely with partners, including other NOAA offices, to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. This work then informs critical management decisions in the waters of the United States and its territories. These decisions enhance the sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and other ocean uses, while conserving deep-sea coral and sponge habitats.

The Program works with partners to complete multi-year regional fieldwork initiatives, as well as smaller projects around the country, centered on integrating new and existing information on these vulnerable and biologically diverse habitats. The first research initiative took place from 2009 to 2011 in the U.S. South Atlantic region and provided valuable information to help decision-makers refine protected area boundaries. To date, the Program has completed one or more initiatives in each region of the United States.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Cooperation with States Program](#) and [Species Recovery Grants](#)

Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. A total of 25 U.S. territories and coastal states, including Mississippi, currently participate in this program. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks has received funding through this program to support research on Gulf sturgeon.

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 are four stranding network members in the state. 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 MS 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) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, monitor factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. The legislation provides a historic investment in coastal protection and restoration that will increase community resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and improve how we manage our ocean resources. Projects funded under this law protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Mississippi received funding for one project in FY22, as well as funds in FY22 and FY23 to build the state's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

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

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) operates two long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Mississippi located at Pascagoula and Bay Waveland Yacht Club which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends. These stations have been strengthened to deliver real-time storm tide data during severe coastal events. 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) - [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 navigational challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Mississippi. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Mississippi 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 Lafayette, LA to support mariners and stakeholders in Central Gulf Coast waters.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. Subject to availability of funding, the program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements for important lands threatened by development. Since 2002, the program has protected more than 110,000 acres of coastal land nationally, including over 16,000 acres protected as in-kind matching contributions. NOAA awarded six grants in Mississippi, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Mississippi. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

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) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)

The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases, and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) executes this program in partnership with NOAA to invest in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, which minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities. In Mississippi, four projects have been funded: two in FY22 and two in FY23.

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

The Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership effort between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to increase the resilience of coastal communities within federally-declared disaster areas impacted by hurricanes and wildfires in 2018, 2020, and 2021. In Mississippi, the ECRF awarded a project in 2021.

National Ocean Service (NOS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Regional Ocean Partnerships: Gulf of Mexico Alliance](#)

Staff members from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and NMFS SERO's' Habitat Conservation Division are active in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA). The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a Regional Ocean Partnership working to sustain the resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Led by the five Gulf States, the broad partner network includes federal agencies, academic organizations, businesses, and other non-profits in the region. GOMA's goal is to significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. With funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NOAA is investing approximately \$56 million nationwide over five years to enhance and

support the priorities of established regional ocean partnerships, including coordinating interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal management issues, and enhancing sharing and integration of data.

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.

The **Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC)** is strategically placed within the region to ensure that NOS and our partners are able to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including coastal disasters. The RPC serves as a liaison between NOS and its federal, state, and local disaster preparedness and emergency response partners. A key role of the RPC is to better understand the needs and opportunities within the region and to ensure partners have the tools and resources necessary to inform decision-making. The RPC has expertise across the spectrum of emergency management and provides preparedness, response, and recovery services including planning, training, exercises, response coordination, continuous improvement, and long-term recovery. The RPC, based in Mobile, Alabama, serves the Gulf of Mexico region – Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

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 Mississippi is based in Mobile, Alabama at NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center.

- 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 RRC serving the Southeast/Gulf of Mexico region is based in St. Petersburg, Florida.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Gulf of Mexico 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. Gulf of Mexico 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. Maintained habitat data for sensitive species. Ensured data was kept up-to-date and data collection methods were kept consistent. 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 Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in Mississippi](#)

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 Gulf of Mexico 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. The MDP also works with local communities and organizations to prevent and remove marine debris.

Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc., is providing funds to commercial fishers to properly dispose of derelict fishing gear and other plastic debris they encounter and bring to shore during regular fishing operations. In addition, uncrewed vehicles will be used to conduct monthly surveys at Deer Island in order to locate derelict oyster farming gear for retrieval by licensed oyster farmers. The MDP is also working with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to identify and remove derelict crab traps from Mississippi's marine and estuarine waters and adjacent marshes, engaging fishers and the broader community in derelict crab trap removal. Additionally, the MDP is partnering with the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center to remove derelict vessels and other large marine debris from the lower Pascagoula River and monitor for ecosystem recovery. Each year, the MDP provides support to the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program to expand its reach to tackle new issues, including a July 5th cleanup, monthly cleanups, and new solo cleanup kits. The MDP is working with Gulf of Mexico stakeholders through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to implement the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Action Plan, which provides a road map for strategic progress in making the Gulf of Mexico, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris. The MDP is also currently working with state and local governments, and other stakeholders, to maintain and exercise the Mississippi Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System\)](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS), one of the 11 IOOS regional coastal ocean observing systems, seeks to establish a sustained observing system for the Gulf of Mexico that will provide observations and products needed by users in the region for the purposes of detecting and predicting climate variability and consequences, preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems, ensuring human health, managing resources, facilitating safe and efficient marine transportation, enhancing national security, and predicting and mitigating against coastal hazards. GCOOS is supporting the repair of high frequency radar stations damaged by hurricanes, and the modernization of several high frequency radar stations and moorings, including the only offshore buoy assessing ocean acidification in the central gulf area.

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Southeast Regional Office](#)

NMFS studies, protects and conserves living marine resources to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. NMFS' Southeast Regional Office (headquartered in Saint Petersburg, FL) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Miami, FL) are responsible for living marine resources in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean. Using the authorities provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and other federal statutes, the Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center partner together to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammal and sea turtle populations, as well

as other protected resources, including coral. The Southeast Regional Office is responsible for over 40% of all federal fishery management plans nationwide which cover hundreds of species ranging from diverse, relatively sedentary and vulnerable coral reef fish - like the popular snappers and groupers - to wide ranging pelagic species like mackerel and mahi mahi. More than 90 marine mammal stocks and 27 threatened or endangered species, including the North Atlantic right whale and smalltooth sawfish, six sea turtle species, and seven coral species also occur in this region. The Office consults on approximately 50% of the nation's coastal development permits, provides fish passage and ecological flow recommendations at dozens of barriers, engages partners in regional collaboration, and supports large-scale conservation and restoration programs aimed at protecting essential fish habitat and coastal communities from development, subsidence, sea level rise, and storms. While 99% of the nation's outer continental shelf oil production is in this region, it is also the focus of new wind energy development off the Carolinas and in the Gulf of Mexico. The Southeast Regional Office also fosters sustainable [aquaculture](#) in the region, with two Regional Aquaculture Coordinators that act as a liaison between federal and state agencies to assist in permitting and coordination activities, supporting aquaculture outreach and education, and collaborating with industry, academia and other stakeholders on regional marine aquaculture issues.

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

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center implements a multi-disciplinary science and research program in support of living marine resource management. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center develops the scientific information required for fishery resource conservation; fishery development and utilization; habitat conservation; the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles and other protected species; impact analyses and environmental assessments for management plans and/or international negotiations; and pursues research to answer specific needs in areas of population dynamics, fishery economics, fishery engineering, food science, and fishery biology. provides the scientific advice and data needed to effectively manage the living marine resources of the Southeast region and Atlantic high seas through the following divisions.

[Fisheries Assessment, Technology, and Engineering Support](#) division provides essential services and development of new innovative technologies to support the center's mission. The branches of Biology and Life History, Advanced Technology, Gear Research, and Gear and Vessel Support branches provide state-of-the-art life history information and innovative solutions to reduce bycatch and optimize the performance of biological and fishery monitoring programs across the science center.

[Fisheries Statistics](#) division provides extensive support to management and science through the collection, management, and dissemination of commercial and recreational fisheries statistics. The branches of Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Recreational Fisheries Monitoring, Survey Design, Data Management and Dissemination, Catch Validation and Bio-sampling, and Observer Program works extensively with various internal and external partners to collect the fishery dependent information used to support marine resource management in the region.

[Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles](#) division supports and conducts science that leads to improved knowledge and meaningful conservation of marine mammals and turtles and their habitats in a changing environment, helping to achieve NOAA Fisheries' mission of implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act and making a positive impact on society.

[Population and Ecosystems Monitoring](#) division provides data, analytical products, research, and expertise to support NOAA Fisheries priorities. The branches of Ocean and Coastal Pelagics, Trawl and Plankton, Gulf and Caribbean Reef Fish, Atlantic and Caribbean Reef Fish and Habitat Ecology carry out fishery-independent surveys and applied research focused on fisheries and habitat ecology, and provides support for ecosystem- and climate-related initiatives in the region.

[Sustainable Fisheries](#) division works in partnership with fisheries managers and constituents to provide reliable scientific advice that enhances the stewardship of living marine resources. The branches of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries, Atlantic Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species, Caribbean Fisheries, and Data Analysis and Assessment Support also strive to advance scientific knowledge and promote diverse and sustainable fisheries through innovative research and development activities, and the use of advanced technologies.

[Social Science Research Group](#) conducts research and data collections to assess the social and economic performance of fisheries and regulatory impacts.

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

The [NOAA Restoration Center](#), within the [Office of Habitat Conservation](#), works with partners across the nation to restore habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. We have over 30 years conducting habitat restoration through competitive funding opportunities and technical assistance. We also work to reverse habitat damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. The Restoration Center works with private and public partners in Mississippi to provide technical assistance, restore tidal marshes and oyster reefs. Through Community-based Restoration Program projects, hundreds of acres of fisheries habitat have been restored and rehabilitated since 2000. The Community-based Restoration Program has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources on several projects to restore oyster reef habitat. NOAA's Restoration Center is also working with the state to improve the shoreline as part of the Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline *Deepwater Horizon* Early Restoration Project. The goal of the project is to reduce shoreline erosion by dampening wave energy and encouraging reestablishment of habitat in the region. See the interactive [Restoration Atlas](#) to find habitat restoration projects near you. Site visits to see habitat projects may be available in your state, please inquire if interested.

The [Deepwater Horizon oil spill](#) in 2010 impacted the entire Gulf ecosystem as well as the communities that rely on the Gulf's natural resources. NOAA and other federal and Gulf state partners are working with the public, partners, and industry to support restoration and recovery of the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources using the \$20.8 billion environmental damage settlement. NOAA led the natural resource damage assessment restoration planning for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The NOAA Fisheries [Office of Habitat Conservation's](#) Restoration Center is deeply engaged in the coordination of projects through RESTORE, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, and the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [Restoration projects can be found in this interactive mapping atlas.](#)

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) 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. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. Mississippi is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Mississippi. For more information about our work in Mississippi, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Mississippi") and this [interactive map](#).

In addition, the Office of Habitat Conservation is responsible for executing an unprecedented \$1.4 billion in funding under [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for habitat restoration and fish passage](#). We are working with our partners to do this through our expert technical assistance and four funding competitions: Fish Passage, Tribal Fish Passage, Transformational Habitat Restoration, and Habitat Restoration for Tribes and Underserved Communities. We

have funded 214 awards totaling \$985M in rounds one and two with more to come in round 3. We are funding work all over the country, [explore them on our interactive map](#).

Office of Education - [Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico B-WET program is managed by NOAA's Office of Education. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET program currently serves Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The Gulf of Mexico 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. Gulf of Mexico B-WET regional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities. Please see the funding opportunities for specifics.

National Marine Fisheries Service - [Office of Law Enforcement](#)

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coastal states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement's Southeast Division, which covers Mississippi, is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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 Lake City, Florida serving the Gulf Coast region – Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. 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) - [Mussel Watch Program](#)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch Program (MWP) monitors the status and trends of chemical contaminants and biological stressors in the nation's coastal waters. MWP began in 1986, and is based on the periodic collection and analysis of bivalves (oysters and mussels) and sediment from a network of more than 300 monitoring sites nationwide. Contaminants monitored at each site include the EPA's Priority Pollutant List of toxic substances and a suite of chemicals of emerging concern such as flame retardants, PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and current use pesticides.

National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and

shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which two are in Mississippi.

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

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 are 10 ASOS stations in Mississippi.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 97 COOP sites in Mississippi.

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

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, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 13 NWR transmitters in Mississippi.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant College Program](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium is a federal-state partnership that matches NOAA Sea Grant expertise and resources with state academic institutions. Created in 1972, members of the consortium include Auburn University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of South Alabama. The mission of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium is to enhance the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and coastal resources to benefit the

economy and environment. The bi-state consortium focuses on healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development. Sea Grant specializes in extension, research, outreach and education. Extension agents are located in Biloxi. Administrative offices are located in Ocean Springs. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at seagrant.noaa.gov.

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.

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

Building Partnerships for a Healthy and Resilient Gulf Coast, \$3,926,466

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance will provide support to conduct robust stakeholder collaboration across the region to understand the needs associated with healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and the associated data sharing. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance will conduct thorough assessments to identify gaps as well as existing information and partner expertise needed to support improved ecosystem health, enhanced coastal community resilience. *This award supports work in AL, FL, MS, LA, and TX.*

Coordination and planning for restoration of the Grand Bay Savanna Complex in MS and Alabama, \$300,000

This funding will build the capacity of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) within the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, Grand Bay NERR will fund a full-time position and portions of two existing positions at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to spearhead this effort and complete the Grand Bay Savanna Complex Management Plan. This includes establishing

conservation easements and/or management agreements with private landowners with inholdings in critical areas that are impeding broad-scale land management and the objective is to develop long-term management plans.

Creating a Multi-Beneficial Stormwater Park Using Nature-Based Solutions, \$319,730

This award is focused on the development of a community stormwater park that will reduce flooding and nonpoint source pollution while providing recreation opportunities for the underserved Moss Point community. Federal funding will be used to determine the feasibility and impact of a stormwater park; create a maintenance plan; create designs that prioritize diversity, inclusion, and community engagement; and seek funding for the implementation phase and promote activities to create a shovel-ready project. The project team consists of people from the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Mississippi State University Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, and Moffat & Nichol Engineering.

Coordinated Large Marine Debris Removal in the Gulf of Mexico, \$7,725,000

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is working across all five Gulf states to lead a regional competitive grant program for large marine debris removal, remove abandoned and derelict vessels, and assess habitat impacts and recovery. *This award supports work in AL, FL, and MS.*

Enhancements to NOS Storm Surge Model Forecast Guidance Display Tools for Disaster Preparedness, Continuity of Operations, and Coastal Resilience, \$189,788

Louisiana State University (LSU), through the Mississippi State University Northern Gulf Institute, will enhance decision support tools for users of the operational storm tide (storm surge + tide) and coastal-inland flooding (storm surge + tide + rainfall/runoff) forecast modeling systems that NOAA/NOS/OCS develops and transition into operations. Specifically, under this financial assistance award, LSU would improve operational coastal-inland storm flooding and inundation decision support tools to enhance NOS disaster preparedness and response. More specifically, the project would improve existing and create new and innovative real-time post-processing and visualization capabilities for the following NOS forecast modeling systems: the Global Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS-2D-Global).

Swan Cove Restoration at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, \$9,500,000

This project will restore Swan Cove, the southernmost impoundment at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island in Virginia. This work will restore and protect valuable salt marsh habitat on the Delmarva Peninsula and support several important fisheries. It will also help improve community and ecosystem resilience in an area that is vulnerable to sea-level rise, by reestablishing a protective dune system, increasing the elevation of the marsh behind the dune system, and enhancing tidal exchange.

Building Partnerships for a Healthy and Resilient Gulf Coast - Round 2, \$1,963,233

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance will provide support to conduct robust stakeholder collaboration across the region to understand the needs associated with healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and the associated data sharing. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance will conduct thorough assessments to identify gaps as well as existing information and partner expertise needed to support improved ecosystem health, enhanced coastal community resilience, and increased data sharing, and then implement phased initiation of projects resulting from stakeholder engagement and assessments. In addition, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance will engage with tribes in the Gulf of Mexico region through workshops intended to facilitate tribal engagement in GOMA Priority Issue Teams and identifying key regional priorities. *This award supports work in AL, FL, MS, LA, and TX.*

2024 Knauss Fellowship, \$73,000

The Knauss Fellowship offers a one-year educational experience in an executive or legislative branch office to enhance knowledge of the policy-making process related to marine and coastal issues. It allows students to apply academic knowledge while contributing to programs, aiding their long-term career goals.

IRA

Infrastructure Improvements to Support Integration of State Recreational Survey Data at Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, \$1,484,263

To coordinate, plan, and administer new projects that are aimed at improving the quality and timeliness of recreational fishery dependent databases that are provided by state partners to help assist in managing red snapper populations. This work will be focusing on improving data management systems within Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) along with state partners' individual data management systems to provide increased quality control and improve the efficiency for moving state data to the GSMFC warehouse. GSMFC along with its state partners have already identified this as its highest current development priority. This funding opportunity will allow for a faster timeline for accomplishing the work associated with this objective. This agreement will also create opportunities for discussions and pilot projects aimed at improving recreational discard estimates along with visioning for a pilot study to validate recreational fishing effort estimates utilizing technology and poss. *This award supports work in AL, FL, MS, LA, and TX.*

Gulf Coast - Center for Addressing Microplastics Pollution (GC - CAMP), \$1,910,628

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant was awarded \$1,910,628 to develop techniques and tools to help mitigate and prevent the presence of microplastics in the Gulf of Mexico through leveraging resources in three states along the Gulf Coast, including 10 wastewater treatment facilities in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The project aims to improve microplastic understanding, develop microplastic reduction techniques, measure microplastic concentration, and enhance collaboration around addressing microplastics in Gulf Coast communities, specifically urban communities, communities that are predominantly Black, and rural, isolated communities. *This award supports work in AL, FL, and MS.*

Cross-regional climate-ecosystem modeling infrastructure development, \$425,000

This project will develop a novel framework for coupling climate/ocean models with cross-regional ecosystem/biological models that expedites the delivery of information on climate effects on species distributional shifts and ecosystem dynamics. This framework will include spatially explicit ocean/climate/habitat forcing functions that are compatible with selected spatially-explicit ecosystem models (e.g., Ecopath with Ecospace). Research objectives are as follows: Objective 1 (O1): Determine best practices for climate model selection and validation for use in regional marine ecosystem models Objective 2 (O2): Regional marine ecosystem future projections Objective 3 (O3): Implications for fisheries management Objective 4 (O4): Operational framework.

Expansion of For-Hire at-Sea Sampling Program into the Western Gulf of Mexico for Improving Recreational Discard Data, \$1,030,589

The objective of this project is to conduct offshore sampler trips on for-hire charter vessels targeting reef species, an activity funded through Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) At-Sea Sampler program.

Capacity-building Support for GNDNERR Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure Projects, \$400,000

This funding will build the ability of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) within the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, Grand Bay NERR will have an enhanced ability to further implement existing projects and support future expansion of resilience projects in our local underserved communities. Activities for new and supported staff will include developing habitat-focused green infrastructure and solutions and conservation projects with partners.

Integrated Arctic Ecosystem Toolkit to Enhance Forecasting for Climate Resilience, \$276,412

This project will create an Integrated Arctic Ecosystem Toolkit that synthesizes public hydrographic, satellite-derived environmental measurements, and biodiversity data. By connecting these data streams, the toolkit will expedite ecosystem health assessments, allowing for quicker management responses to climate resilience challenges. This

platform will offer a holistic integration for the Arctic region and enhance collaboration with federal, state, local, and indigenous partners by incorporating non-public data alongside integrated biodiversity observations.

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