



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



## NOAA In Your State



# Rhode Island



**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 Rhode Island

<a href="#">NOAA Ships Henry B. Bigelow and Okeanos Explorer</a>	Newport	RI-1
<a href="#">Narragansett Laboratory</a>	Narragansett	RI-2
<a href="#">Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute</a>	Narragansett	RI-2
<a href="#">Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve</a>	Prudence Island	RI-1
<a href="#">Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects</a>	Project Specific	RI

The state of Rhode Island also has two Labs and Field Offices and one National Estuarine Research Reserve.

## **RI-1**

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)**

In July 2024, NOAA announced \$575 million in funding for the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, to invest in holistic, collaborative approaches to coastal resilience at regional scales. This grant program focuses on increasing resilience to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and storm surge, and longer-term, chronic hazards such as sea level rise, drought, wildfire, extreme heat, and coastal erosion. The program awarded 19 grants that are part of NOAA's larger Climate-Ready Coasts initiative to forge new partnerships, protect coastal habitats, and close equity gaps. They will help scale up proven best practices across 17 states and territories to take resilience and adaptation plans off paper and into coastal communities across the country.

The Aquidneck Land Trust of Rhode Island (RI-01) received a grant for \$1,999,777 to address increasing climate threats to water quality, conservation, transportation, food systems, and beyond. According to the Aquidneck Land Trust, at the current rate of development, all of Aquidneck Island's remaining unprotected open spaces, if not conserved, will be developed between now and 2050. The Aquidneck Land Trust, in partnership with the island municipalities and the Navy, and in collaboration with many local stakeholders, seeks to capitalize on the momentum of resilience initiatives already underway. Committed to conserving the island's open spaces and building on prior successful projects (including the conservation of over 2,800 acres), the land trust will use this opportunity to grow their island-wide approach to resilience, offering technical assistance, capacity building, and actionable strategies for responding to climate change. They will work with their established network of partners to implement resilience projects that include nature-based solutions to address threats from flooding, sea level rise, and water pollution.

## **Newport**

### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - NOAA Ships [Henry B. Bigelow](#) and [Okeanos Explorer](#)**

The NOAA Ships *Henry B. Bigelow* and *Okeanos Explorer* are managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and are homeported at the United States Naval Station in Newport. The *Henry B. Bigelow* supports the science and research missions of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and its supporting laboratories. The *Okeanos Explorer*, known as "America's ship for ocean exploration," is dedicated solely to exploration. The ship conducts operations around the globe, mapping the seafloor, exploring shipwrecks, and characterizing largely unknown areas of the ocean. Interesting seafloor features can be discovered with the deep-water multibeam sonar mapping system and investigated by the ship's remotely-operated vehicles among other sensors and systems. With telepresence technology, the exploration team can send live video images from the seafloor to scientists and other audiences ashore. Both 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.

## **RI-1, 2**

### **Newport, Providence**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Narragansett Bay PORTS®](#)**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Narragansett Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level data are available at five stations, meteorological data at ten locations. Along with the meteorological data, visibility sensors (fog) are installed at three of the locations.

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

NOS operates two long-term, continuously operating tide stations in the state of Rhode Island which provide data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Newport and Providence. 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

#### ***RI-2***

#### ***Kingston***

### **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.

#### ***New Shoreham***

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Wind Forecast Improvement Project](#)**

From fall of 2023 through summer of 2025 the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) is partnering with other NOAA laboratories, U.S. Department of Energy, universities, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on the third Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP3). WFIP3 involves deploying and operating a 3-D multiscale sensor array to characterize the vertical and horizontal structure of the marine boundary layer, providing key observations to help better understand the mesoscale atmospheric and oceanographic processes that directly

#### ***Narragansett***

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

The Narragansett laboratory is part of the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center. It is located on Narragansett Bay, adjacent to the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory. Research activities focus on ecosystem assessment, climate assessment, stock assessment on the Northeast U.S. Shelf, and science to help the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management make informed decisions about offshore wind energy development and operations. The Ecosystem Monitoring survey headed by this laboratory is one of the longest and most comprehensive oceanographic surveys in the country. These data along with those from many other sources are used to support ecosystem-based fisheries management as well as traditional single-species stock assessment. The Laboratory also includes NOAA's Northeast Apex Predator Program, which maintains the world's longest time series of catch-and-release tag data for Atlantic Coast sharks. The laboratory also hosts the Science Center's Northeast Cooperative Research Program and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division staff who work to restore fishery habitats and diadromous fish passage throughout the Southern New England region including Narragansett Bay, Long Island Sound and Buzzards Bay and the contributing watersheds.

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

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OEI) was awarded to the University of Rhode Island. OEI serves as a mechanism to promote collaborative research between university scientists and those in NOAA. The OEI mission is 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. OEI's primary NOAA research partner is NOAA Ocean Exploration. OEI conducts research across three themes: (1) exploration planning and execution; (2) ocean exploration technology; and (3) increasing the utility of ocean exploration information.

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OEI) 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 URI Graduate School of Oceanography is home to the research vessel the Endeavor.

In partnership with the Ocean Exploration Trust and University of Rhode Island, NOAA Ocean Exploration pioneered a new paradigm in deep sea exploration using telepresence technology and the hub for telepresence technology is the Inner Space Center (ISC), in the Ocean Science and Exploration Center on the URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus. This technology uses satellites and Internet to transmit data in real-time from remotely operated vehicles onboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer to shore and connect to Internet-connected devices around the country, and world. It allows the Okeanos Explorer, which is homeported in Newport, RI to operate with the majority of its participating scientists on shore. This expands the breadth of available expertise and increases the pace, scope, and efficiency of exploration. Telepresence technology also allows the program to stream seafloor imagery over standard Internet connections, bringing the excitement of ocean exploration and discoveries live into classrooms, newsrooms, and living rooms around the world - strengthening and engaging the community of ocean explorers and increasing their ability to make informed decisions about important ocean issues.

### **NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [North Atlantic Regional Coordinator and Expedition Operations Leader](#)**

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations two officers in Narragansett in support of NOAA's mission in the North Atlantic and globally through ocean exploration. These officers hold multiple roles, varying in scope from coordinating specific projects within the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, working with the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, to communicating with the 12 Federally recognized Tribes in the region about NOAA's mission and its impact on their community. These officers additionally serve as liaisons to the local community, working to inform its members about NOAA's work and help educate about the positive impacts NOAA science brings to the region.

### ***Point Judith***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Port Agent Field Office](#)**

The Greater Atlantic Region's Port Agent Team works directly with the fishing industries of the region to provide in-person advice and support to fishermen and seafood dealers. Port agents also serve as a conduit for industry to relay information to the Regional Administrator and other NOAA staff about fishing industry concerns, thoughts and activities. Team members assist seafood dealers and vessel operators and owners with data reporting requirements, in navigating the permitting process, and with other Agency regulations and processes. They collect biological samples of seafood landed by commercial fishermen for use in fisheries stock assessments. They also provide the general public with information on fisheries and the marine environment by attending public events and through ad-hoc interactions

## ***Prudence Island***

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

The 4,259 acre Narragansett Bay Reserve, designated in 1980 and managed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, includes undisturbed salt marshes, tidal flats, rock shores, open waters, upland fields, forests, and a historic farm site. The reserve contains a major watershed and the largest stream on Prudence Island. A deep-water pier and recreational facility are located at South Prudence. Research priorities include monitoring the impacts of sea level rise and inundation on marshes and participating in mapping initiatives for Narragansett Bay. The reserve also provides on and off-site exhibits, educational programs, and a hiker's trail guide.

### **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 the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus their research on the impact of ecotypic variation in keystone species on salt marsh restoration.

## ***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) - [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 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. Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, is authorized to respond to reports of marine mammal strandings along the Rhode Island coastline.

NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. For fiscal year 2020, 43 competitive Prescott Grants were awarded totaling \$3.7 million.

#### **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. Rhode Island received funding for one project in FY22 and one project in FY23, as well as funds to build the state's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

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

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Ocean Coastal Management works with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Rhode Island. 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 Rhode Island, 11 projects have been funded: one each in FY18, FY19, and FY20, two in FY21, and three each in FY22 and FY23.

#### **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 two grants in Rhode Island, and these lands are protected in perpetuity. In addition, a land conservation project was funded in FY23 in Rhode Island under the CELCP authority with funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - Navigation Manager**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Rhode Island. 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. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Rhode Island 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 Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - 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-New London is assigned to New London, CT and is able to respond within 24 to 48 hours.

#### **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 Gloucester, Massachusetts, serves the Northeast region – Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New York.
- 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 tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC for Rhode Island, is based in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

- 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) - 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 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Command Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Tropical Storm Sandy. 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 Rhode Island](#)**

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 Northeast 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 Rhode Island, the MDP is working with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, using funding provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to remove a derelict, sunken crane-topped barge from the working waterfront in Providence, RI. This project will partner with The Steel Yard to engage community groups and local high school students to transform materials recovered from the barge into community-informed art and amenities for a public waterfront access point. The Department will also partner with Save the Bay to host marine debris cleanups after the barge is removed. The Southern New England Marine Debris Action Plan, covering Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts was published in 2024. The Southern New England Marine Debris Action Plan is a collaborative effort of nearly 30 contributing organizations. Representatives from state and federal government agencies, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, education groups, research institutions, and universities all had a significant role in its development. Their collective experience and various expertise lends years of knowledge to marine debris prevention, removal, and research in Southern New England.

#### **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 Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems\)](#) and [Mid-Atlantic Regional Association 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 Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations critical to safe navigation in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine to the National Weather Service. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for management of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be involved to ensure appropriate coverage in shared waters.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) is one of these Regional Associations and its coverage extends from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod including the estuaries and the continental shelf waters in this region. MARACOOS provides the necessary ocean observing, data management, and forecasting capacity to systematically address prioritized themes maritime safety, ecosystem based management, water quality, coastal inundation, and offshore energy development.

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### **Statewide**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [New England 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 New England B-WET program is administered by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. New England B-WET currently serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The New England 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. New England B-WET regional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities. Please see the funding opportunities for specifics.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office](#) and [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, sea 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 sturgeons. 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 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.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) studies fishery species and fisheries, monitors and models ocean ecosystems, and provides reliable advice for policy makers. The Center’s work promotes recovery and long-term sustainability of marine life in the region, supports both wild and cultured seafood harvests, helps sustain coastal communities, and generates economic opportunities and benefits from the use of these resources. In addition to its five laboratories including the Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory, the Center uses three research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, and *Victor Loosanoff*. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries 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) - [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. See the interactive [Restoration Atlas](#) to find habitat restoration projects near you. Site visits to see habitat projects may be available in Rhode Island, please inquire if interested.

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](#).

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [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 Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, MA, with a field office in Narragansett, RI.

### **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. Rhode Island is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Rhode Island. For more information about our work in Rhode Island, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Rhode Island") and this [interactive map](#).

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - Regional Ocean Partnerships: [Northeast Regional Ocean Council](#)**

To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region are active co-leaders and participants in the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, a Regional Ocean Partnership made up of coastal states, federal agencies, tribes and other partners to address regional solutions in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and ecosystem health. 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 like NROC, to advance priority work that requires coordinating interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal management issues, and enhancing sharing and integration of data to inform management decisions.

### **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 Barre, Vermont serving the Northeast region including Rhode Island. 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 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 three ASOS stations in Rhode Island.

#### **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 homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are five COOP sites in Rhode Island.

#### **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 is one NWR transmitter in Rhode Island.

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island Sea Grant Program, based at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, supports research that aligns with its core themes of resilient coastal communities, healthy ecosystems and sustainable seafood. Supplementing its research efforts, Rhode Island Sea Grant is also strongly engaged in outreach, education, legal and communication activities in both of Rhode Island's Congressional Districts. Administrative offices are located in Narragansett. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at [seagrant.noaa.gov](http://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.

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#### **[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***

#### **Technical Analysis of the Port of Providence to Determine Shoreline, Habitat Restoration, and Climate Resilience Needs While Engaging Local Community Members Most Impacted by the Port, \$526,680**

This project will conduct an analysis of the Port of Providence's coastline, which borders the South Providence and Washington Park neighborhoods. The assessment will identify current shoreline conditions and potential opportunities for future habitat restoration. The city will also partner with Groundwork Rhode Island and Save the Bay to conduct outreach and provide educational opportunities for local community members.

#### **Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Capacity Building for IIJA Project Development, \$300,000**

This funding will build the capacity of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) within the RI Department of Environmental Management to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, NBNERR will hire a new, 3-year term Project Coordinator position who will work in close collaboration with state, federal, and municipal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities to identify, prioritize and develop proposals for habitat restoration and conservation projects within the Narragansett Bay watershed. The position funded by this award will provide administrative and technical support for projects at multiple stages.

#### **RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Capacity Building Funding for IIJA Project Development, \$450,000**

This funding will build the capacity of the RI's federally-approved coastal management program administered by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other funding opportunities. Specifically, CRMC will use these funds to partner with the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to support a new three-year term

position at the reserve. This new position will work closely with the reserve, CRMC, local communities and other stakeholders to identify, prioritize and develop proposals for habitat restoration and conservation projects within the Narragansett Bay watershed. The project emphasizes engagement with underserved communities.

**Improving Coastal Wetland Resilience Within the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, \$199,959**

This award will support the design and permitting phases of projects that protect important coastal wetland habitats within the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on Prudence Island, RI. Supported with this funding is the development of construction plans, cost estimates, and permit applications for three habitat areas: Coggeshall Marsh, Nag West Marsh, and the T-Wharf Shoreline. These areas will provide room for the habitat to move upland as needed due to accelerated sea level rise. The conceptual plans include restoration and sea level rise mitigation measures such as rerouting coastal roads and removing infrastructure that impedes marsh migration.

**Enabling Expanded Crowdsourced Bathymetry Contributions With High Quality Metadata Via Commercially Sustainable Incentives To Contributors, \$171,813**

A cloud based system for sharing bathymetric survey data collected by FarSounder customers is proposed as a way (1) to improve safety of navigation on our oceans, (2) to collect measurements for the broader scientific and maritime communities and (3) to generally explore and broadly share information about our oceans. The proposed solution vows continued contributions of subsets of collected bathymetric data to the Data Center for Digital Bathymetry's Crowdsourced Bathymetry Database, while becoming commercially viable by offering value added data based products (overlays of gridded survey data collected by FarSounder customers) to navigators.

**Sea Air Boundary Energy Transfer Measurements Using Micro-Sized UxVs, \$157,270**

Jaia Robotics' low-cost, micro-sized hybrid uncrewed surface/underwater vehicles JaiaBots can be deployed from shore or vessels. The project team will develop a JaiaBot which is air-deployable from sonobuoy launch tubes to collect atmospheric data from the launch point to the sea surface (wind speed, humidity, and temperature data) and then collect near-surface ocean data (surface current vectors, wave heights, temperature, and salinity). Deploying multiple JaiaBots to form a picket line along the forecasted hurricane track at the tropical storm boundary will provide researchers with the data needed to visualize the spatial variability of ocean features and energy transfer.

**Restoring River Connectivity and Embracing Public Values at Potter Hill, Westerly, RI, \$12,400,000**

This project will assess and implement a fish passage solution at Potter Hill Dam, the last fish passage barrier on the main stem of the Pawcatuck River. The work will provide access to more than 3,000 acres of spawning habitat and 120 miles of stream habitat for river herring and other migratory fish. This project is part of a larger redevelopment of a former mill site, which will be converted into a public park. Addressing the dam and the old mill building will eliminate public safety hazards and significantly increase recreation for the community.

**Increasing Resilience Through Large Debris Removal Within the Providence Working Waterfront: Removing a sunken barge and crane from Providence River to increase waterfront and waterway access., \$1,500,512**

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is removing a derelict, sunken crane-topped barge from the Port of Providence, an active working waterfront within the Providence River in Rhode Island.

**Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI): Year 6, \$1,933,822**

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) brings together experts in marine technology development and utilization from the University of Rhode Island, University of Southern Mississippi, University of New Hampshire, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the not-for-profit Ocean Exploration Trust to advance NOAA and NOAA Ocean

Exploration's missions to map and characterize the US' Exclusive Economic Zone by 2040. For NOAA, this partnership leverages science, technology, and outreach/education capabilities that align with our mission and expands NOAA's science and technology capacity.

**Strengthening Mid-Atlantic Infrastructure, Data Products and Services, \$1,569,000**

The objective of this proposal is to replace aging components of this observing system. The goal for the network is to measure 140,000 km<sup>2</sup> of surface currents during the typical six month progress period. *This award supports work in NY, NY, DE, MD, VA, RI, CT*

**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. *This award supports work in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT*

**Strengthening ocean observing infrastructure in the changing Northeastern U.S., \$1,169,000**

A diverse scope of work proposed for NERACOOS to modernize and build resilience into the regional observing system in the Northeast. *This award supports work in CT, RI, MA, VT, ME, NH*

**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. *This award supports work in CT, RI, MA, VT, ME*

**IRA**

**Development & Implementation Of A Low-Cost, Modular Ocean Discovery System, \$1,199,919**

The deep ocean (>200m) remains largely unexplored. Financial/logistical barriers make deep-sea technology inaccessible to coastal countries. The Ocean Discovery League will develop a deep-diving, low-cost Modular Ocean Discovery System - a novel tool with interchangeable sensing and operational modules tailored to user mission objectives. The modularity gives users considerable freedom to choose their missions and create a technological solution that will meet their needs. To achieve maximum impact for under-served communities, we are partnering with PacIOOS. *This award supports work in RI, HI, AS, GU, MP, PW, MH, FM*

**Quantification and optimization of Nature-Based solutions for mitigating coastal vulnerability and risk, \$360,425**

Coastal Communities such as Charlestown, RI, face increasing risks from nor'easters, hurricanes, and sea level rise. The viability of cultural uses and long-term physical and economic resilience of Charlestown depends upon the continued protective ability of the coastal beach-barrier-lagoon system and the maintenance of the local ecosystem services that support tourism and the local economy in addition to providing protection. Implementing solutions to mitigate the risks due to coastal storms with sea level rise necessarily involves tradeoffs between maintaining the protective and ecological functions of dynamic beach-barrier lagoon systems as well as with preserving the local ecosystem services. These tradeoffs will be addressed and optimized through a scenario approach using numerical models to test the performance of a range of potential nature-based solutions, inspired by stakeholders' requests, gray or green, or natural and nature based features.

**mCDR 2023: An opportunity to study Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement, CDR, and ecosystem impacts through coastal liming \$1,538,451**

Terrestrial liming, or the addition of a basic (alkaline) material like calcium carbonate to crops and lawns is a common agricultural soil treatment. When applied on land in the coastal zone, this alkalinity likely influences neighboring bodies of water and may foster carbon dioxide removal and mitigate local ocean acidification. This project will study the effectiveness of carbon dioxide removal and impacts of resulting alkalinity from the common practice of terrestrial liming in a coastal setting. This project takes advantage of a routine lawn care technique of golf course liming.

**Coastal Zone Management Inflation Reduction Act Non Competitive Awards, \$344,000**

This funding will build the ability of the state's federally-approved coastal management program within the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, CRMC will use these funds to create a Public Shoreline Access Management Plan (PSAMP) that fosters shoreline public access that is resilient to the effects of climate change, particularly in underserved and Environmental Justice communities in Rhode Island. This plan will ensure Rhode Islanders know their rights to coastal areas, understand the roles of and connections between their state and town governments, and feel more connected to the coast and more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

**Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Capacity Building for Coastal Climate Resilience, \$400,000**

This funding will build the ability of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) within the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, the Narragansett Bay NERR will use the funds to support a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) hired by RIDEM. The CRO will collaborate with the Narragansett Bay NERR Manager and the Community and Ecological Resilience Team (CERT) to develop funding and technical assistance programs with The Nature Conservancy and the RI Infrastructure Bank. The goal is to enhance community resilience to climate change through nature-based solutions, building on the success of the RI Municipal Resilience Program.

**Increasing Resilience of Public Access, Passive Recreation, and Habitat on Winnapaug Pond, \$2,635,000**

This project would preserve a critical coastal property located along an ecologically sensitive coastal barrier in Westerly, Rhode Island. Conserving this property will preserve important current and future coastal wetland habitat, protect an area that is under imminent and intense threat of development, provide opportunities for passive recreation and public access in a region of the state with limited coastal access, and create opportunities for coastal restoration activities to improve resilience on the site.

### **Growing Regional Resilience Coordination on Aquidneck Island, \$1,999,777**

Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island, home to the three municipalities of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth, in addition to Naval Station Newport, faces increasing climate threats to water quality, conservation, transportation, food systems, and beyond. Led by the Aquidneck Land Trust in partnership with the island municipalities and the Navy, and in collaboration with many local stakeholders, this project seeks to capitalize on the momentum of resilience initiatives already underway. The land trust will use this opportunity to continue their momentum and grow their island-wide approach to resilience, offering technical assistance, capacity building, and actionable strategies for responding to climate change. They will work with their established network of partners to implement resilience projects that include nature-based solutions to address threats from flooding, sea level rise and water pollution. *This project was funded through the [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#).*

### **mCDR 2023: An opportunity to study Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement, CDR, and ecosystem impacts through coastal liming, \$29,914**

This award supplements funding for the project mCDR 2023: An opportunity to study Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement, CDR, and ecosystem impacts through coastal liming. Supplemental funds were provided due to higher than expected costs in Year 1 to support weekly trips to service sensors and collect data at the field site and bi-weekly groundwater sampling at the golf course and forested control site. These activities are the backbone to the project's primary objective of tracking carbonate chemistry in the pond before, during, and after the application of agricultural limestone on the golf course.

### **2024 Knauss Fellowship, \$73,000**

The Knauss fellowship provides a one-year educational experience in an executive or legislative branch office which will: 1) Expand the student's experience with, and knowledge of, the policy-making process within federal agencies and Congressional committees dealing with marine and coastal issues; and 2) Allow the student to contribute knowledge gained in academic programs and provide informational feedback to programs, thus assisting in the student's long-term career and educational goals.

### **Optimization of PhytO-ARM harmful algal bloom sensing for low-bandwidth, satellite-based telemetry, \$1,197,911**

The overarching goal of this project is to enable robust real-time monitoring of harmful algal blooms via satellite-based telemetry. The project advances PhytO-ARM, an open-source collection of Robot Operating System (ROS) resources for directing HAB sensing at strategic locations through integration of diverse sensors, movement devices, and network edge artificial intelligence ("edge AI"). *This award supports work in NH, ME, MA, RI*

### **Inflation Reduction Act initiatives to Develop Climate Resilient Fishery Management Strategies in the New England Region, \$1,815,726**

Inflation Reduction Act initiatives to Develop Climate Resilient Fishery Management Strategies in the New England Region. *This award supports work in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT*

### **Mid-Atlantic MBON: Dynamic Biodiversity and Telemetry Data for a Changing Coast, \$1,750,000**

NERACOOS will use this funding for projects in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut that support the enhancement of the regional buoy network. The projects aim to provide improvements to NERACOOS's data management system — including the addition of community-tailored products and services, expanded capabilities for the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System and improvements to biodiversity observations and assessments that benefit Indigenous communities. *This award supports work in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT*

**Modernizing IOOS in the Northeast to Build Equity and Resilience in a Changing Climate, \$5,000,000**

NERACOOS will use this funding for projects in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut that support the enhancement of the regional buoy network. The projects aim to provide improvements to NERACOOS's data management system — including the addition of community-tailored products and services, expanded capabilities for the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System and improvements to biodiversity observations and assessments that benefit Indigenous communities. *This award supports work in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT*

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