Last updated January 2025

NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOAA In Your State

Texas

***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, and then statewide programs.

Highlights of NOAA in Texas

National Weather Service - Southern Region Headquarters	Fort Worth	TX-12
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - Southern Regional Climate Services Director	Fort Worth	TX-12
Southeast Fisheries Science Center	Galveston	TX-14
National Ocean Service - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	Galveston	TX-14
Habitat Conservation Division Field Office	Galveston	TX-14
National Ocean Service (NOS) - Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve	Port Aransas	TX-27
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects	Project Specific	TX

The state of Texas is home to nine Weather Forecast Offices, seven Science on a Sphere displays, seafood inspection and law enforcement programs, four Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems (PORTS®), Texas Sea Grant, and multiple observing platforms.

Weather Forecast Offices

Midland/Odessa	TX-11
San Angelo	TX-11
Dallas/Fort Worth	TX-12
Amarillo	TX-13
Houston/Galveston	TX-14
Lubbock	TX-19
Rockport/Corpus Christi	TX-27
Brownsville	TX-34
Austin/San Antonio	TX-15

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 Texas. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which nine are in Texas. 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 Texas weather, visit www.weather.gov and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

Science On a Sphere®

Sugar Land	TX-22
Midland	TX-11
McAllen	TX-15
Rockport	TX-27
Dallas	TX-30
Ft. Worth	TX-33

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 Museum of the Southwest in Midland, International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen, Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugarland, Bay Education Center in Rockport, Earth Day Texas in Dallas, and American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum and Fort Worth Museum Science and History in Fort Worth.

TX- 6

Palestine

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.

TX-9

Sugar Land

NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® at the Houston Museum of Natural Science – See Page 2 for details.

TX-10

College Station

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) - Southern Regional Climate Center

NOAA NCEI's six Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) support the development and delivery of a wide range of place-based climate science and information products and services to assist decision makers with making informed decisions. The RCCs are a federal-university cooperative effort that supports the operational production and delivery of climate data and information to decision-makers at regional levels. The RCCs also participate in basic and applied climate research as well as user engagement and outreach activities. The service provided by the RCCs has evolved through time to become an efficient, user-driven program with many of the components that have been cited for effective regional climate services. The Southern RCC is co-located at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and serves TN, MS, LA, AR, OK, TX.

TX-11

Bronte

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.

Midland/Odessa

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office – See Page 2 for details

NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® – at Museum of the Southwest. See **Page 2** for details.

San Angelo

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office – See Page 2 for details

TX-12

Fort Worth

National Weather Service (NWS) - West Gulf River Forecast Center

Co-located with the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Dallas/Fort Worth, the NWS West Gulf River Forecast Center (RFC) performs continuous river basin modeling and provides hydrologic forecast and guidance products for rivers and streams in most of Texas and New Mexico. These products include forecasts of river stage and flow, probabilistic river forecasts, reservoir inflow forecasts, gridded precipitation estimates and forecasts, spring flood outlooks, and flash flood and headwater guidance. Some of the RFCs in the western and central U.S. also provide water supply forecasts. RFCs work closely with local, state and federal water management agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey, to provide water and flood information for critical decisions (aka Impact-based Decision-Support Services or IDSS).

National Weather Service (NWS) - Southern Region Headquarters

The NWS Southern Region Headquarters is the administrative and support center for 32 NWS Weather Forecast Offices, seven aviation-focused NWS Center Weather Service Units, and four NWS River Forecast Centers located in 10 states (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida) and Puerto Rico. Services provided by a regional headquarters to local NWS offices within the region include scientific support and development, program management and guidance, field support for new program implementation, budget support, and employee recruitment and assistance. The headquarters is also the home office of the Southern Region Director, who oversees the management and administration of the NWS entities listed above, as well as other region-level officials and program managers.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office – See Page 2 for details

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) - N-Wave Enterprise Network

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, is one of five NOAA Trusted Internet Connection Access Points (TICAPs) which monitors the connection of NOAA networks with the greater Internet. This is required by OMB policy to ensure secure communication from NOAA IT systems to untrusted networks. TICAPs are NOAA's first line of defense for protecting NOAA's mission from external cyber-attacks. The information the TICAPs provide is invaluable for determining the nature and scope of cyber threats. NOAA is also able to offer this as a service to other government agencies, eliminating the requirement for them to build and manage their own TICAPs.

Workforce Management Office (WFMO) - Fort Worth Office

The Workforce Management Office in Fort Worth provides nationwide consultative services with respect to talent acquisition and strategic workforce planning to the National Weather Service. The HR Business Partners and HR Business Advisors ensure consistency of service, compliance, best practices and knowledge sharing among the team members. The Office manages the workload and resources to account for peak demand, vacancies and talent acquisitions strategies to meet new mission requirements, and escalates these and other issues as necessary to leadership.

TX-13
Amarillo
National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office – See Page 2 for details

TX-14
Galveston
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Galveston Laboratory
The Galveston Laboratory is located on the site of Fort Crockett, a NOAA Heritage Asset, one block from the Gulf of Mexico on Galveston Island, Texas. Research at the Laboratory supports the Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Southeast Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division Field Office
The Southeast Regional Office has the Galveston Field Office which is located in the Galveston Laboratory of NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center. This Office is responsible for overseeing NMFS's habitat protection programs in the Gulf of Mexico and implements NMFS's habitat protection programs in Texas and Alabama and in the adjacent waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to conducting mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive energy and coastal development activities, the Office participates in state and regional habitat planning groups focusing on technical assistance and streamlining Gulf environmental compliance efforts for proposed Gulf restoration projects, and participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects in Texas and Alabama, such as port expansions and flood damage control structures.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
The 17 reefs and banks comprising Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary lies 80 to 125 miles off the coast of Texas and Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico and includes thriving shallow water coral reefs, algal-sponge communities, and deeper mesophotic habitat full of black coral and octocoral.. It contains the northernmost coral reefs on the continental shelf of North America, sitting atop salt domes 55 to 450 feet below the water's surface. Unique in this part of the Gulf, the multi-colored corals, plants and sponges at the Flower Garden Banks sanctuary resemble reef development typically found over 400 miles due south in Mexico's Gulf of Campeche or 790 miles southeast in the Florida Keys. A popular destination for scuba divers, commercial and sport fishers, the reefs serve as a regional reservoir of shallow water Caribbean reef fishes and invertebrates, as well as mesophotic invertebrates and fishes. The Gardens are significant habitat for endangered corals, lobster, snapper, grouper, manta rays, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles, and whale sharks. The sanctuary is managed out of Galveston, Texas where a variety of research and education programs, many through academic and aquarium partnerships, are key to maintaining these valuable resources. Staff continue to monitor the health of the reefs through the sanctuary's long-term monitoring programs and their research vessel MANTA. Invasive lionfish continue to be the subject of a strong research/education focus at the sanctuary.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - Marine Operations Coordinator
The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations an officer with the National Ocean Service Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in support of scientific operations and conservation efforts within the Sanctuary. This officer manages various administrative and operational duties, including the daily and long-term operation of the Sanctuary's research vessel (R/V MANTA); scheduling, coordinating, and managing small boat operations, personnel training and qualifications, vessel maintenance and dry dock periods, annual inspections, and other site related activities; and assisting in budget formulation and submission of small boat operations. They directly oversee and track spending of operations, personnel, and maintenance while writing specifications for maintenance and repair period contracts. In addition, they train applicable personnel on safety equipment, vessel float plans, standard operating procedures, operational risks, and small boat handling, and act as liaison to the U.S. Coast Guard and other local, state, and federal agencies.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office - See Page 2 for details

League City

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 League City field office is part of the Office of Law Enforcement's Southeast Division.

TX-14, 18

Galveston/Houston

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Houston/Galveston PORTS®

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Houston/Galveston Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time data are available for water level and meteorological data from five stations, and for tidal currents from four stations.

Freeport

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Freeport PORTS®

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community around Freeport Harbor at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time data are available for water level and meteorological observations from one station and for tidal currents from two stations.

TX-15

Edinburg

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.

McAllen

NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® at the International Museum of Art and Science. See Page 2 for details.

TX-17
Moody
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Global Greenhouse Gas Reference Network; Halocarbon Measurements

NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) operates trace gas monitoring sites at tall towers in eight states, including Texas. The sites were established to extend GML's monitoring network to provide data to aid estimation of the net carbon balance of the continent. Variations of trace gases, especially carbon dioxide, are largest near the ground, so we utilize existing tall towers as platforms for in situ and flask sampling for atmospheric trace gases. Samples are collected weekly and delivered to GML in Boulder, Colorado for measurements of CO2, CH4, and other greenhouse gases. Additionally, the flasks are analyzed for the distribution and trends of halocarbons, the gases most responsible for human-caused depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. These data improve our understanding of the distribution of greenhouse gases, models of the global carbon cycle, and the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer, which protects the surface from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. The observed geographical patterns and small but persistent spatial gradients are used to better understand the processes, both natural and human induced, that underlie the trends. The tower site in Texas is located near the town of Moody, 20 miles south of Waco.

TX-18
Houston
National Weather Service (NWS) - Center Weather Service Unit

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) provides aviation forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in southern Texas, southern Louisiana, southern Mississippi and the southwestern tip of Alabama.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Ultraviolet (UV) Monitoring Network

NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) operates an instrument at this site as part of the ultraviolet (UV) monitoring network (NEUBrew). These measurements are part of GML's research on the Earth's surface radiation budget and are used in studies of variations in long-term radiation and meteorological parameters. Observations of spectral solar radiation can be used to infer the presence and quantities of atmospheric constituents and to investigate the interaction of ozone and solar radiation.

TX-19
Lubbock
National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office - See Page 2 for details

TX-19, 21, 23, 37
Austin, Monahans, Muleshoe, Panther Junction
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.

TX-22

Matagorda Bay

National Ocean Service (NOS) - **Matagorda Bay PORTS®**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community around Matagorda Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level data is available at three stations, meteorological data at three locations, and currents from two stations.

TX-27

Nueces

NOAA Office of Education - Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) network

In Texas, NOAA's Office of Education provides support to the Texas State Aquarium in Nueces County as part of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) network, which is made up of 25 aquariums and marine science education centers located throughout North America. The CELC network collaborates on a variety of initiatives, ranging from youth summits to multi-institution projects, with the goal of better engaging the public in understanding, appreciating, and protecting marine and freshwater ecosystems. Through the CELC network, the Office of Education provides guidance, resources, and scientific expertise to these institutions, which collectively reach an estimated 20 million people annually across North America. By coordinating with the CELC network, NOAA helps to further its mission of engaging the public in protecting and preserving coastal and marine ecosystems.

Rockport, Corpus Christi

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Texas Spatial Reference Center

Partnering with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi's Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science created the Texas Spatial Reference Center (TSRC) in 2005. The mission of TSRC is to conduct basic and applied research contributing to NGS's modernization of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). TSRC is a repository for information used by researchers to develop improved understanding of elevation data and geodetic datums in the state of Texas. TSRC establishes accurate positioning and elevations throughout Texas in cooperation with qualified geospatial scientists, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office - See Page 2 for details

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 Corpus Christi field office is part of the Office of Law Enforcement's Southeast Division.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - **Corpus Christi PORTS®**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Corpus Christi at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level (tide) and meteorological data are available at multiple locations, Tidal currents are monitored from several stations. Numerous visibility (fog) observations have also been integrated into this system.

Port Aransas

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Mission Aransas 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 186,189 acre Mission-Aransas Research Reserve was designated in 2006 and is managed by the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. The reserve is a large contiguous complex of wetland, terrestrial, and marine environments and is named for the two river systems that flow into it. Located on the Texas Coastal Bend, 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, the reserve is representative of Western Gulf estuaries.

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 Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus their research on assessing tidal salt marsh resilience to global change as a consequence of water quality, drought, and sea level rise impacts on the potential role of oyster reefs in carbon sequestration.

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.

Rockport

NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® at the Bay Education Center. See Page 2 for details.

Sinton

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Global Greenhouse Gas Reference Network; Halocarbon Measurements

NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) operates a small aircraft-based North American network of sampling sites to measure vertical profiles of important greenhouse gas concentrations. Air is sampled weekly above the surface up to approximately 25,000 feet above sea level using a relatively small, light, and economical automated system developed by GML researchers. These air samples are delivered to GML in Boulder, Colorado for measurements of CO2, CH4, other greenhouse gases, and ozone depleting substances. These data improve our understanding of the distribution of greenhouse gases and models of the global carbon cycle. The measurements of ozone depleting substances help determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer, which protects the surface from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

TX-30

Dallas

NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® at Earth Day Texas. See Page 2 for details.

TX-33
Ft. Worth
NOAA Office of Education - Science On a Sphere® – at American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum and Fort Worth Museum Science and History. See **Page 2** for details.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Center Weather Service Unit
Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Dallas/Fort Worth Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) provide aviation forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in northern and western Texas, southern Oklahoma, southwestern Arkansas, northwestern Louisiana, and the southeastern tip of New Mexico.

TX-34
Brownsville
National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office - See **Page 2** for details

Harlingen
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, international treaties, and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance and take enforcement action related to violations. The Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA 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 for preserving fisheries access for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Harlingen field office is part of the Office of Law Enforcement's Southeast Division.

TX-15
Austin/San Antonio
National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office - See **Page 2** for details

TX-36
La Porte
National Ocean Service (NOS) - Sabine Neches PORTS
A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Sabine Neches at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time data are available for water level from four stations, for currents from eight stations, for meteorological data from two locations.

Statewide
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. Texas is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Texas. For more information about DARRP's work in Texas, visit: DARRP in Your State (use the top menu to navigate to "Texas") and this interactive map.

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. Texas 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) – 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 Corpus Christi, Texas serving the Southern Plains region – Oklahoma and Texas. 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 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. Principal Data Collection agents are stationed in Galveston and Manvel, TX.

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.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Mesophotic and Deepwater Coral Propagation Laboratory
The Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Galveston laboratory is home to one of three Federal facilities implementing the NRDA-funded Mesophotic and Deepwater Benthic Communities (MDBC) Coral Propagation Techniques (CPT) program. The Galveston coral propagation laboratory has the largest capacity in the MDBC CPT portfolio and features a custom-built, 700 square foot walk-in cooler containing 2,000 gallons of aquaria and integrated laboratory spaces. Included are twelve independent coral rearing systems, each with its own life support and WiFi-enabled computer. These systems can be monitored and controlled remotely by aquarists.

NOAA Fisheries staff in the Galveston coral propagation laboratory study the growth and reproduction of mesophotic and deepwater corals collected from the Gulf of Mexico. This research advances understanding of the potential for restoring mesophotic and deep benthic communities impacted by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Currently, four species of mesophotic octocorals and two deepwater octocoral species are being cultured in the facility The Galveston coral propagation laboratory is the only one to succeed in having the same corals spawn in multiple years and the only one with captive-bred, 2-year old *Thesea nivea* recruits.

Other facilities are located at the National Ocean Service's Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina and the U.S. Geological Survey's Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Gainesville, Florida.

NOAA 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-WETregional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities. Please see the funding opportunities for specifics.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Southeast Regional Office, Ocean Guardian School
An Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas, like national marine sanctuaries. Funds are provided to schools at $4,000 per year if the school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school- or community-based conservation project. Once the school has completed its project, the school receives official recognition as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. To date, the Ocean Guardian School Program has partnered with more than 147 schools and has reached more than 80,400 students.

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 12 are in Texas.

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 60 ASOS stations in Texas.

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 440 COOP sites in Texas.

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 oil spills), and public safety. NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS and 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 77 NWR transmitters in Texas.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Incident Meteorologists
The NWS, as mandated by Congress, provides fire weather forecast products and services to the fire and land management community for the protection of life and property, promotion of firefighter safety, and stewardship of America's public wildlands. Since 1928, this effort has included providing critical on-scene support to wildfire managers via specially-trained NWS forecasters called Incident Meteorologists (IMETs). When a fire reaches a large enough size, IMETs are rapidly deployed to the incident and set-up a mobile weather center to provide constant weather updates and forecast briefings to the fire incident commanders. IMETs are very important members of the firefighting team, as changes in the fires are largely due to changes in the weather.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – Texas 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. Headquartered in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University in College Station, the Texas Sea Grant College Program has a statewide mission to support healthy coastal ecosystems and resilient communities and economies, and to develop the Texas workforce. Its extension agents and specialists are located along the coast from Beaumont to Brownsville, where they conduct outreach, education and technology transfer to a wide range of stakeholders in coastal communities and in the industries that depend upon Texas' marine and coastal environment. Texas Sea Grant also funds practical research by scientists at research institutions around the state to create knowledge, tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and people of Texas. Administrative offices are located in College Station. Extension agents are located in Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Beaumont, LaMarque, Angleton, Houston, Bay City, and San Benito. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at seagrant.noaa.gov.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Restoration Center
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 Texas, please inquire if interested.

The Office of Habitat Conservation is also responsible for executing an unprecedented $1.4 billion in funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 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 these projects on our interactive map.

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in 2010 impacted the entire Gulf ecosystem as well as communities that rely on the Gulf's natural resources. NOAA and other Federal and Gulf state partners are working with the public, partners, and private industry to support restoration and recovery of the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources using the $20.8 billion environmental damage settlement. 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. NOAA led the natural resource damage assessment restoration planning for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Restoration projects can be found on this interactive map.

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 Texas, 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.

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 five 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. In FY20, 43competitive grants were awarded nationwide for a total of $3.7 million, with two awards totalling $133,637 going to one recipient in Texas: Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

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) - Operational Forecast of Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms
NOAA and partners provide twice-weekly forecasts on harmful algal blooms (HABs) along the southwest coast of Florida, the east coast of Florida, the Florida panhandle, and Texas. The HAB Forecasting System relies on satellite imagery, real-time and forecast winds, and field samples to provide information on the location, extent, and movement of HABs.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - National Water Level Observation Network
NOS operates eight long-term, continuously operating tide stations in Texas located at Texas Point (in Sabine Pass), Galveston Bay Entrance (North Jetty), Galveston Pier 21, Freeport Entrance Channel, Matagorda Bay Entrance Channel, Rockport, Corpus Christi, and Port Isabel. The NWLON is supplemented by more than 20 tide stations that are part of the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON). 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
NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Texas. 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 Texas 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 Galveston, TX to support mariners and stakeholders in the Western Gulf of Mexico 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 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 Ocean Service (NOS) - Sentinel of the Coast Observing Systems
Two Sentinels in Texas have replaced water level stations that were destroyed or heavily damaged by recent hurricanes. Elevated atop substantial single pile platforms, these stations are specifically designed to withstand Category 4 Hurricanes. Sentinels ensure data is available when most needed, i.e. storm surge from a hurricane is threatening our coastline and their communities. CO-OPS partnered with Texas A&M Division of Nearshore Research and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to establish these new Sentinels. The new Sentinels are located off of Houston-Galveston Bay and Sabine Pass. An additional 4 Sentinels were installed in partnership with the Texas General Land Office. Those stations are at Freeport, Matagorda.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Phytoplankton Monitoring Network
The Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is a nationwide community-based volunteer program of citizen scientists monitoring for the presence of organisms that can lead to Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) formation. Volunteers serve as data collectors for marine and freshwater blooms at more than 200 coastal and inland sites in the U.S. and Caribbean. Monitoring is conducted year-round and volunteers are trained to measure salinity, air and water temperatures, and how to collect phytoplankton samples using a plankton net. Samples are then analyzed for any HAB organisms via microscopy. Data collected by PMN volunteers enhances the Nation's ability to respond to and manage the growing threat posed by HABs by collecting important data for species composition and distribution in coastal and freshwater environments and creating working relationships between volunteers and professional marine biotoxin researchers. Event monitoring can assist state and federal agencies to issue timely warnings about shellfish consumption and other public health concerns.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Aquaculture Phytoplankton Monitoring Network
The Aquaculture Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (AQPMN) is a volunteer-based network that works with coastal US aquaculture farms and organizations. The network has adapted its protocols to specifically monitor for species known to have adverse effects on shellfish and finfish aquaculture. Participating hatcheries and growers receive training on methods to collect and identify local phytoplankton and potential HAB species. NOAA supplies each network member with plankton nets, thermometers, salt refractometers and digital microscopes free of charge.

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) – HABScope
HABscope is a portable tool used to count and identify harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the field, including the red tide species *Karenia brevis*. HABscope is routinely used by trained community scientists to monitor HAB cell densities during HAB events. HAB cell concentrations are used to support the Red Tide Respiratory Forecast, which provides an estimate of the risk of respiratory irritation at Florida Gulf Coast beaches. The tool has been transferred to 40 US and international stakeholders, including the fishing industry, community groups, non-profits, and county managers.

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. Four projects in Texas have been completed, and these lands are protected in perpetuity. Many of the Texas projects conserve floodplain parks along Buffalo Bayou and Brays Bayou in Houston, which served their natural floodplain function during Hurricane Harvey.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – National Coastal Zone Management Program
Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Texas General Land Office to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Texas. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure our 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 to minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities. In Texas, 10 projects have been funded: one each in FY18 and FY20, two in FY21, four in FY22, and two in FY23.

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 SSCs for Texas are based in Houston and New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 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, Preparedness Training for Responders
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. ERMA staff continued to work closely with Federal and State agencies for drills, hurricane response, and incidents. 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. In addition, OR&R offers training to help spill responders increase their understanding of oil spill science when analyzing spills and making risk-based decisions. The training classes include Science of Oil Spills (SOS), Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR), Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT), and others. Each year, OR&R teaches these classes around the country, see our calendar for upcoming training

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in Texas

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration 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. In Texas, MDP is working with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, using funding provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to help administer a regional competitive grant program for large marine debris removal in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. MDP is also using BIL funding in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to remove large marine debris from five national marine sanctuaries and two Tribal ancestral waters located off the coasts of Washington, California, Texas and Louisiana and, including Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas. MDP is also working with the Galveston Bay Foundation under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to utilize boom-style interception devices in several Houston waterways to reduce urban pollution into Galveston Bay, the largest estuary in Texas. Further, through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Ocean Odyssey Marine Debris Awards for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA), MDP provided funding to Sea Turtle, Inc. to support community-based events serving the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. The year-long, multi-pronged approach includes providing alternatives to single-use plastics, cleaning local jetties and beaches, and conducting shoreline marine debris monitoring through the NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project. These funds were provided to support initiatives that investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris in communities that are underserved, underrepresented, or overburdened. In Texas, the MDP partnered with the National Parks Service to install an educational marine debris display at Padre Island National Seashore to bring attention to the issue of marine debris along the Texas coast. The MDP also works with local communities and organizations to prevent and remove marine debris. The University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute to expand their Nurdle Patrol monitoring project while increasing collaboration among scientists, resource managers, and industry representatives in the Gulf of Mexico. The project will also create Spanish versions of the website, app, and training materials. 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 stakeholders, to maintain and exercise the Texas Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R Support Disaster Preparedness in Coastal Communities

The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) Disaster Preparedness Program and National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) partner to support coastal communities in preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural or human-caused disasters. A combined total of $1,966,331 in Federal funds from FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024 have been used to support eleven projects. In FY 2024, four projects in Alaska, Connecticut, the Northern Gulf of Mexico region, and South Carolina were selected to strengthen local disaster readiness and recovery in underserved communities.

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 supports the maintenance and modernization of the high frequency radar stations along the Texas coast. GCOOS headquarters are located in the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University.

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) - NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program
A NOAA Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas, like national marine sanctuaries. Funds are provided to schools at $4,000 per year if the school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school- or community-based conservation project. Once the school has completed its project, the school receives official recognition as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. To date, the Ocean Guardian School Program has reached more than 88,797 students and 3,599 teachers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program
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 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. 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

TX Coastal Management Program IIJA Capacity Building Application, $150,000

This funding will build the capacity of TX's federally-approved coastal management program, operated by the TX General Land Office, to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, the TX General Land Office will use these funds to establish a new position within the program to develop and implement an education and outreach plan that will address a gap in awareness and technical information necessary to successfully identify and acquire funding for habitat restoration efforts. This education and outreach plan will leverage the Coastal Resources Division's expertise at providing outreach and technical assistance to grant recipients.

MANERR Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Capacity Building Funding, $300,000

This funding will build the capacity of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR) within the University of TX to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, Mission-Aransas NERR will use these funds to create a new staff position, and hire a full-time restoration specialist. This position will increase the Reserve's ability to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects within the Mission-Aransas NERR. This new 'restoration specialist' position will also be key in identifying and developing partnerships and collaborations focused on habitat restoration and conservation projects within or surrounding the Reserve.

Development of Improved Short-Term, Probabilistic Fire Weather Prediction and Fire Forecast Sensitivity Analysis, $502,459

Development of Improved Short-Term, Probabilistic Fire Weather Prediction and Fire Forecast Sensitivity Analysis: The purpose is to integrate the proposed Significant Fire Parameter (SFP) into the NWS operational suite both nationally (through the Storm Prediction Center) and locally (through individual forecast offices). A key activity will be the ingestion and evaluation of the SFP into the software infrastructure in place at the NWS.

Protection and Restoration of Ayres Point Oyster Reefs, $2,063,726

The Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve will use these funds for the restoration of 11.5 acres of oyster reef along Ayres Point in the Mesquite Bay Complex that provides shoreline and marsh habitat protection, and supports a broad diversity of species. The restored oyster reef structure will be constructed in an area closed to commercial harvest, facilitating recruitment and growth of oysters and providing oyster larvae to surrounding oyster reefs in both open and closed waters. The restored oyster reef complex will have the added benefit of creating a complex habitat for numerous recreationally and commercially important fish and invertebrate species.

Intercepting Trash in Houston Waterways, $505,592

Galveston Bay Foundation is installing litter boom devices in three bayous that feed into Galveston Bay near Houston, Texas to combat urban trash in the watershed.

Plastic-free restored habitats: Reducing nano-, micro- and macro-plastic pollution in community-based restoration of coastal shorelines and oyster reefs, $2,279,657

This project aims to address the environmental problems caused by plastic use in coastal habitat restoration and provide a science-based approach to drive transformative change. Field and laboratory experiments will assess traditionally-used plastic versus emerging plastic-free materials for performance, longevity, and environmental impacts. Targeted engagement of stakeholders and underrepresented groups will facilitate widespread adoption of plastic-free alternatives and encourage marine debris prevention. Objectives include evaluating the performance of plastic-free alternatives, quantifying the consequences of using plastics, and fostering inclusive participation.

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 MS, FL, AL, LA, TX*

Attribution of past, present, and future sea-level changes along the United States east seaboard for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, $284,302
Sea level rise is one of the most threatening aspects of the present-day climate change, especially for low-lying and flood-vulnerable coastal regions, such as the east coast of the United States, including the Gulf of Mexico. We propose to carry out the accurate attribution of the dynamic sea level variability along the U.S. east coast using a suite of available satellite (altimetry and gravimetry missions, SST) and in situ (tide and pressure gauges, Argo floats, CTD and XBT sections) observations, numerical ocean models, and ocean and atmospheric reanalyses. *This award supports work in FL, AL, MS, LA, TX*

Modernization and Recapitalization of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (Phase I), $1,169,000
The objectives of the proposed work are:1) Recapitalize fix stations and other observing asset by conducting repairs or replacements needed to maintain data collection,2) Enhance network-wide resilience by adding spares to observing systems, and adding a new HFR station to pair with the existing network, and3) Improve data delivery services by modernizing GCOOS' data management and cyberinfrastructure program (DMAC). *This award supports work in FL, AL, MS, LA, TX*

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 FL, AL, MS, LA, TX*

High-Impact and Large Marine Debris Removal throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System, $14,999,292
The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is leading a multi-site project to remove large marine debris and foster partnerships within the National Marine Sanctuary System that will benefit coastal and marine habitats and communities throughout the nation. *This award supports work in CA, LA, TX, WA*

Assessing opportunities for improved coastal data assimilation in ocean model analyses and seasonal forecasting systems, $739,040
Existing seasonal forecasting systems have poor skill predicting sea level anomalies for most of the U.S. East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. The poor capability of forecasting monthly sea level anomalies for the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts are especially disappointing because outlooks of high tide flooding in these regions would benefit from skillful predictions. Since coastal flooding occurrence is strongly influenced by monthly anomalies of sea level, better seasonal forecasts are highly relevant to improving resilience. *This award supports work in AL, TX, MS, FL, LA, GA, NC, SC*

Gulf of Mexico Community Based Oyster Recycling and Reef Restoration Network, $4,993,897
This project will restore oyster reef habitat in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida, focusing on the resilience priorities of tribal and underserved communities. They will also develop the Gulf Regional Oyster Network, which will expand and enhance oyster shell recovery programs across the region. The GRO Network will collect oysters from restaurants, recycle them, and put them back in the environment at the oyster reef restoration sites. *This award supports work in AL, LA, TX, FL*

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, LA, MS, TX*

GulfCorps Resilience Collaborative (GRC): Transformative Restoration through Partnerships in the Gulf of Mexico, $12,000,000
The Nature Conservancy, through the GulfCorps Resilience Collaborative, will support the work of young adult conservation corps crews to implement 200 science-guided and community supported conservation and nature-based restoration projects across approximately 10,000 acres of diverse Gulf of Mexico habitats. The Corps crews will be located in nine ecologically important but socially vulnerable sub-regions of the Gulf, from Florida through Texas. *This award supports work in AL, FL, LA, MS, TX*

IRA

Advancing Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operation and Planning for the West Gulf through Integration of Climate Forecasts and Reservoir Water Balance Predictions, $183,537
The West Gulf region, which spans much of TX and New Mexico, is under constant threat of droughts that is amplified by population growth and aggravated by a warming climate. To address the challenge of sustaining water supply under this latent threat, an increasing number of reservoir operators, water managers,and policy makers in the region have taken an interest in integrating weather and hydrologic forecasts in reservoir operation and drought planning. Today, Forecast-informed ReservoirOperation (FIRO) has emerged as one strategy for improving water reliability in the region. *This award supports work in TX, NM*

Supporting Coastal Resilience with Inflation Reduction Act at GCOOS - RA, $4,885,000
GCOOS will use this funding to support projects to deploy assets that complement and fill observation gaps in existing networks, build new asset networks and enhance regional technical capacity to provide equitable data service delivery to communities to build coastal resilience. These include new observation projects and tools co-developed with frontline and Indigenous communities to measure and equip them with knowledge about surface currents, flooding, harmful algal blooms, rip currents to validate offshore data, and to develop multilingual program materials. *This award supports work in TX, LA, MS, AL, FL*

Building Organizational Capacity to Enhance and Supplement Coastal Conservation and Resiliency Efforts in the Matagorda Bay Ecosystem, $605,983
This project will conduct restoration and resilience planning for Matagorda Bay, one of the largest estuaries on the Texas coast, with the support of new and current staff. The staff members will help connect with and empower local communities in Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, collect information for use in strategic conservation planning, and identify priorities for future restoration projects.

Protection and Restoration of a Bird Nesting Island in Aransas Bay, $4,000,000
This project will protect and restore a three-acre island in Aransas Bay that provides critical nesting habitat for hundreds of pairs of colonial nesting waterbirds, such as pelicans and egrets, important to the ecological resilience of the bay. The project will also support the recruitment and growth of oyster larvae, resulting in the development of an oyster reef complex that will create habitat for recreationally and commercial fish species.

Impacts of Regional Aerosol Emissions Uncertainty on Societally-Relevant Climate Hazard Projections over the Continental U.S. in GFDL-SPEAR, $460,397
Reliable decadal climate projections are critical to U.S. climate resilience efforts. Unfortunately,most assessments of near-term climate hazards ignore a major driver of uncertainty in the trajectory of climate change through 2050: rapidly changing anthropogenic aerosol emissions. Using NOAA's state-of-the-art SPEAR Earth System Model (ESM), this proposal will help address much-needed efforts to build near-term projection products toward climate readiness that incorporate the influence of aerosol changes in the trajectory of climate hazards.

Collaborative Restoration of a Network of Oyster Broodstock Spawning Reserves Across the Mission-Aransas Estuary, Texas, $8,223,567
This project will collaborate with local partners to select, construct, and monitor at least 20 acres of oyster reef throughout the Mission-Aransas Estuary near Corpus Christi, Texas. The work will expand a network of protected oyster reserves that will provide a long-term source of larvae for nearby reefs, increasing the resilience and sustainability of the habitat and fishery. Community-based restoration and education activities will engage the local community in oyster biology, ecology, and habitat conservation.

Texas Coastal Zone Management Inflation Reduction Act Non-Competitive Funding Application, $875,000
This funding will build the ability of the federally-approved coastal management program within the Texas General Land Office to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, the Texas General Land Office will develop a sediment placement database and dashboard that will inform local and state policy-makers on the current sediment placement activities along the coast, allowing for the coordinated use of state sediment resources using best available information. In addition, the Texas General Land Office will partner with the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to conduct a study of the susceptibility of the barrier island complex to breaching and ultimately develop a heat map of high priority nourishment areas.

MA-NERR NERRS Inflation Reduction Act- Non-Competitive Award, $400,000
This funding will build the ability of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve within the University of Texas at Austin to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, the Mission-Aransas NERR will use the funds to plan, engineer, and design a restoration project that prevents further shoreline erosion, restore tidal breaches, and enhance the coastal resilience of the Tatton Unit, a critical wetland area within the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Tatton Unit and ANWR are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and lies within the boundaries of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MA-NERR) and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP). Use the following template to create a Project Description for the Pay Plan Module in eRA. Brackets in blue are instructions for CZM programs; brackets in green are instructions for Reserves.

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.

Texas Green Workforce Collaborative, $2,146,559
The Texas Green Workforce Collaborative will create a sustainable, high-impact model for inclusive recruitment, skill-building, job training and certification, mentorship and community engagement among partners that will empower approximately 570 Texans from low-income and marginalized communities to pursue in-demand, living-wage green careers in various fields, including conservation, renewable energy and resilience, urban agriculture, green infrastructure, water management and more.

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 focus on improving data management systems within Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission 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 MS, AL, FL, LA, TX*

The development and implementation of conservation and management measures for our nations marine fisheries, $1,232,940
The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) will use funding to enhance staffing to assist with climate-ready fisheries programming. Increased staffing will coordinate and ultimately execute project deliverables, and assist with federal reporting requirements, fisheries data acquisition and analyses, and research to support the Council. Funding will meet NOAA's objectives to operationalize fishery climate vulnerability assessments and other scientific products, including ecosystem status reports. Initial year funding will support a full-time Ecosystem Analyst to coordinate and execute the project deliverables. *This award supports work in LA, MS, AL, TX, FL*