

ABOUT NOAA



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a science-based federal agency within the Department of Commerce with regulatory, operational, and information service responsibilities.

NOAA's Mission and Vision



NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and to conserve, protect, and manage coastal, marine, and Great Lakes' resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. NOAA's comprehensive system for acquiring observations – from satellites to ships to radars – provides the quality data and information critical for the safe conduct of daily life and the basic functioning of a modern economy.

Americans rely on NOAA for an incredible variety of products: providing local weather forecasts, keeping coastal waters safe and vibrant, maintaining a sustainable supply of quality seafood, ensuring the safe transport of waterborne cargo, as well as keeping a close eye on the ever-changing affects of our sun on space weather.

NOAA's vision is an informed society that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions. Success in achieving our vision depends upon how well we understand Earth's dynamic, natural systems and how well we assess the effects of human activities upon those systems.

NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas, protects and guides our use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes' resources, and conducts research

to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment, which sustains us all.

To achieve its mission, and to fulfill its vision, NOAA focuses on five service goals:

1. **Ecosystems:** Protect, restore, and manage the use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes' resources through an ecosystem-based approach to management.
2. **Climate:** Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
3. **Weather and Water:** Serve society's needs for weather and water information.
4. **Commerce and Transportation:** Support the U.S. commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.
5. **Mission Support:** Provide critical support for NOAA's Mission

NOAA Offices



National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

NESDIS observes our Earth, the sun, our oceans, and our atmosphere every day. These observations benefit many sectors of society and are critical to the United States' contribution to a global environmental observation strategy. NESDIS develops and operates U.S. weather satellites, composed of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites for short-range warning and forecasting, and the Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites for longer term forecasting. For more information, please visit <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov>.

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National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

NMFS is responsible for the stewardship for the world's largest exclusive economic zone. NMFS protects and preserves the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, fisheries management, law enforcement, and habitat conservation. NMFS has both domestic and international responsibilities, and is a leading voice for the economic benefits that can be derived from sustainable use and conservation of living marine resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>.



National Ocean Service (NOS)

NOS endeavors to balance our use of coastal and ocean resources today with the need to protect, preserve, and restore these priceless realms for future generations. NOS collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about coastal resource conditions, issues, and problems through buoys, tide gauges, and other observations. For more information, please visit <http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov>.



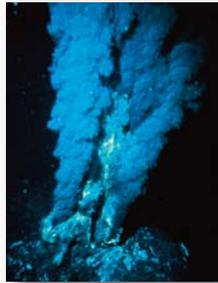
National Weather Service (NWS)

NWS provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. In performing this critical mission, NWS provides for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS infrastructure facilitates national and international data and products that, in turn, serve other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community. For more information, please visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>.



Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)

OMAO's mission is to manage, operate, and maintain the nation's largest civil fleet of 20 research and survey ships and 13 aircraft. OMAO also manages NOAA's Dive Program and the NOAA Commissioned Corps, the nation's seventh uniformed service. The ships and aircraft provide a wide range of research and survey capabilities, from weather research, hurricane surveillance, to snow pack surveys for flood prediction and water resource management, to coastline mapping for erosion studies, to marine mammal surveys. For more information, please visit <http://www.oma.noaa.gov>.



Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

Research is at the center of all NOAA services. And OAR is NOAA's primary research and development organization, and studies the Earth system from the deep ocean to the upper atmosphere. OAR develops the products and services that help us understand and predict environmental changes, such as our changing climate on local to global scales, and at time scales from minutes to millennia. Research, conducted at in-house laboratories and by external programs, supports NOAA's mission to meet our economic, social, and environmental needs. For more information, please visit <http://www.research.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about NOAA's products and services, visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.