

NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NOAA In Your State



Maryland



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. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.

MD

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office](#) and [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles).

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast "multispecies complex" (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are northern right whales, Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these

programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance.

The Northeast Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories, the Center uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regional Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

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

The NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET currently serves seven areas of the country: California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. The Chesapeake B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Chesapeake B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds. Please see regional funding opportunity for priorities and eligibility details.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [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 \$10.4 billion 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. In Maryland, the Program is currently working to restore natural resources in cases including the 68th St. Dump hazardous waste site.

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 Raleigh, North Carolina serving the Mid-Atlantic region – North Carolina, Delaware, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Maryland, South Carolina, the Virgin Islands, Virginia, and Washington D.C. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

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

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 10 ASOS stations in Maryland.

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 35 COOP sites in Maryland.

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

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are four NWR transmitters in Maryland.

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

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach. Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Headquartered adjacent to the University of Maryland's College Park campus, Maryland Sea Grant supports a statewide program of research, education, and extension services that promote the wise use of our coastal and marine resources with a strong ethic of stewardship. We work closely with our stakeholders to improve understanding of coastal ecosystem health and economics and to help inform decision makers and the public. Our research program focuses on critical issues facing the Chesapeake and coastal bays including water quality, nutrient dynamics, harmful algal blooms, and aquatic invasive species. The research we fund also addresses the challenges of restoring submerged aquatic vegetation and degraded streams and improving ecosystem based fisheries management. We work from the local to regional scale and often support efforts with national and global significance. Through active communications and extension efforts,

Maryland Sea Grant informs industry, policy makers, and the public on many issues including aquaculture; commercial and recreational fishing; natural resources conservation and biodiversity; and seafood processing and marketing. We actively support environmental literacy and education by funding graduate and undergraduate research fellows and through ongoing collaborations with public high schools and middle schools. We promote efforts to improve Maryland's coastal resiliency through better understanding of the effects of coastal flooding, sea level rise, and climate change on threatened communities and ecosystems. We produce communications materials for a variety of audiences including award-winning videos; a magazine, Chesapeake Quarterly; web-based information; and educational activities. Our external advisory council of coastal community leaders provides guidance for our program's activities and strategic goals, which align with those of NOAA.

Coastal

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

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with private and public partners locally and nationwide to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat. Projects support sustainable fisheries, help recover threatened and endangered species, and reverse damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. Since 1992, they have provided more than \$750 million to implement more 3,300 coastal habitat restoration projects. In Maryland, the Restoration Center works to remove invasive species and dams, modify culverts, restore tidal wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation, and rebuild the native oyster population. Over 275 projects have been constructed in the state since 1996, restoring more than 3,100 acres of habitat and opening more than 75 stream miles. The Community-based Restoration Program and its partners have restored more than 250 acres of tidal salt marsh in Maryland. Among other projects in Maryland, the Restoration Center provided funding for the removal of Bloede Dam and for the engineering design to remove the Daniels Dam on Maryland's Patapsco River. These removals are part of a larger effort with partner American Rivers to restore more than 65 miles of spawning habitat for blueback herring, alewife, and American shad, and more than 183 miles for American eel, ensuring sustainable populations of these target species.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Species Recovery Program](#)

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. 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. Twenty-five coastal states, including Maryland, and U.S. territories, currently participate in this program. The Maryland Department of Marine Resources has received funding to support multiple projects, including an assessment of habitats necessary for recovering Atlantic sturgeon.

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, track factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

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

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There are two 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. Since 2001, \$53.8 million has been awarded through 617 grants, and recipients have raised over \$17.76 million in matching funds. In FY17, 33 competitive grants were awarded nationwide for a total of \$2.8 million, with one award going to one recipient in Maryland: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Maryland. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Maryland 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 Silver Spring, MD to support mariners and stakeholders in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay region.

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

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates six long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Maryland, which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Ocean City Inlet, Cambridge, Bishops Head, Baltimore, Annapolis and Solomon's Island. 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.

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

The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship matches postgraduate students with state and territory coastal zone programs to work on two-year projects proposed by the state or territory. The Maryland Chesapeake and Coastal Service is hosting a fellow from 2017-2019 who will study the challenges, options, and practices for beneficial reuse of dredge material; identify opportunities to enhance community resilience with this material in Maryland; and develop a policy document and decision-support tool for beneficial reuse of dredge materials on Department of Natural Resources lands.

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. To date the program has protected more than 100,000 acres of land with program funds and over 16,000 acres with an in-kind match. 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. Six projects were successfully completed in Maryland, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

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

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

National Ocean Service (NOS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) – [Coastal Resilience Grant Award](#)

These grants help coastal communities prepare for and recover from extreme weather events, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions. The focus is on comprehensive regional approaches that use science-based solutions and rely on collaborative partnerships. This approach expands reach and impact, thereby ensuring maximum success. In Maryland, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management awarded \$514,507 to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), to enable partners and coastal and ocean stakeholders from New York to Virginia to implement a holistic approach to enhancing climate and coastal resilience by better understanding how changing ocean conditions impact coastal communities and economies.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Response Coordinator](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) brings decades of experience, technical expertise and scientific analysis in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills. In addition to events that draw the national eye like Hurricane Sandy, OR&R also supports response to local emergencies. Nine regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, oil science and properties, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC works directly with U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide critical scientific support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator. OR&R also helps develop preparedness plans that identify spill response actions with the greatest environmental benefit and trains hundreds of members of the response community each year on the scientific and technical aspects of spills.

OR&R's Regional Resource Coordinators (RRCs) provide scientific and technical expertise and timely response to oil spills or hazardous materials releases to collect information, samples, and evidence that are time dependent and critical to support natural resource damage assessments throughout the coastal US. RRCs work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams and are responsible for determining and quantifying injuries to NOAA trust natural resources through determination of injuries and pathway, and demonstration of causal mechanisms. The goal of the RRCs efforts is to determine, often through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA[®]) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized format for environmental responders and decision makers. In the fall of 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Common Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey waters.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator is based in Silver Spring and 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 Maryland, the MDP is partnering with Trash Free Maryland on a multi-year social marketing campaign by to reduce land-based litter in Baltimore. Additionally, a newly funded removal project with the County of Prince George is focusing on using trash traps to reduce the debris loads in the Anacostia River Watershed.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT), is a cross-cutting national component of IOOS, headquartered at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and dedicated to facilitating the development and adoption of new innovations for studying and monitoring freshwater, coastal, and ocean environments. ACT core activities are carried out with regional partners around the US, and include: (a) independent verification and validation of technology performance, (b) capacity- and consensus-building and networking, and (c) a technology information clearinghouse.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Buoys](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation's coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate. NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations.

MD-1

Oxford

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Cooperative Oxford Laboratory](#)

The Cooperative Oxford Laboratory (COL) is located on the shores of Chesapeake Bay in Oxford, Maryland. The COL was established in 1960 by the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries for the primary purpose of investigating oyster diseases that struck the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays in the late 1950's. The facility became the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory in 1987, through an agreement between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Ocean Service to share the facility and cooperate in research. NCCOS operates the 16,000 square-foot main laboratory, with onsite partners including NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The laboratory has a 55' research vessel used for regional research.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Environmental Science Training Center](#)

The NOAA Environmental Science Training Center, managed through the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office within the Office of Habitat Conservation, provides training and in-depth experiences for environmental education professionals to advance their abilities to effectively convey the latest information on science, technology, engineering, and math to teachers and students. Trainings focus on integrating science into the classroom and field based programming, drawing on NOAA and partner expertise and capabilities. NOAA opened the training center's location at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory campus on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 2010. Trainings provided at and by the Center communicate the work of NOAA and Cooperative Oxford Laboratory and NOAA partners like the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Center can offer workshops at partner sites throughout the Bay watershed.

Princess Anne

NOAA Office of Education - [Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center](#)

The University of Maryland - Eastern Shore leads NOAA's Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC) with its partners: Delaware State University, Hampton University, Savannah State University, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, Oregon State University, and the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. This Center is part of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions as a future workforce investment toward NOAA's mission. The purpose of the award is to expand participation in education, training, capacity building, and collaborative research focusing on groups that are traditionally underrepresented in NOAA mission-relevant Science Technology Education and Math (STEM), natural resources management, and policy disciplines. LMRCSC conducts research in the marine sciences, with areas of specialization in fisheries science, oceanography, ecology, environmental sciences, and environmental molecular biology/biotechnology. LMRCSC develops a pool of highly educated and skilled students from underrepresented groups in the marine sciences. LMRCSC's primary collaborator is the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Berlin

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 coast 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 Ocean City field office, located in Berlin, Md., is part of Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division.

Talbot, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, and Caroline Counties

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Choptank River Complex Habitat Focus Area](#)

As part of the Habitat Blueprint administered by the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA has selected ten Habitat Focus Areas (HFAs), place-based locations across the country to maximize the effectiveness of habitat conservation. While each HFA focuses on individual habitat conservation goals outlined in their Implementation Plan, the overarching goal is to demonstrate results in a focused area in a short time period. The Choptank River Complex is one of the ten HFAs. NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office, Restoration Center, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science, and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries are coordinating NOAA and partner

programs within the Choptank River Complex Habitat Focus Area. The Choptank River is home to the largest native oyster restoration effort in the United States and contains among the most important habitat for striped bass populations. As such, the river's health is vital to ensuring sustainable fisheries and coastal economies. NOAA conducts mapping and acoustic surveys in tributaries of the Choptank River and Little Choptank River to support native oyster restoration, funds in-the-water oyster restoration, and supports research to understand ecosystem conditions, evaluate threats, and quantify the ecosystem services provided by the restored oyster reefs.

MD-3

Annapolis

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Annapolis Field Office](#)

This office facilitates interactions between NMFS in the northeast and partner organizations and stakeholders in the Mid-Atlantic. Stakeholder Engagement Division staff explain NMFS regulations, policies, and programs to affected stakeholders and act as a channel for stakeholders to provide feedback directly to the Regional Administrator. Habitat Conservation Division staff review coastal development projects in Maryland and provide local support for NMFS habitat conservation efforts. Protected Resources staff supports the conservation of endangered species and mitigate the impacts of development projects on such species through consultations with other Federal agencies.

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

This 6,249-acre site, designated in 1985 and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has three components: Monie Bay, Otter Point Creek, and Jug Bay. The reserve reflects the diversity of estuarine habitats found within the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Research focuses on methods to restore submerged aquatic vegetation and wild rice restoration techniques, as well as monitoring the ability of marshes to keep pace with sea level rise. The reserve is also a partner in the NOAA Sentinel Site Program.

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

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots-on-the ground regional approach to coastal management, with staff available in the eight regions. Assistance is provided to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts. Constituent feedback and assessments are an important part of the effort. In addition to Annapolis, Mid-Atlantic staff are located in Silver Spring, MD, York, PA, and Woods Hole, MA.

MD-1 through 5

Chesapeake Bay Region

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#)

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, is headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, co-located with the state/federal Chesapeake Bay Program, enabling close collaboration with Maryland state agencies, federal government agencies, scientists, watermen, conservation groups, and other partners. The office focuses its science, service, and stewardship capabilities on improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. It support efforts to enhance sustainable fisheries, vital habitats, environmental literacy, and observations. It supports Bay-wide fisheries research and oyster restoration; provides blue crab stock assessment to state fisheries managers; operates and maintains the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System; co-leads NOAA's Choptank River Habitat Focus Area, and supports broad federal involvement in environmental education in the region, including managing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant program.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System](#)

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office operates and maintains "smart buoys" in key locations throughout Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay including the Susquehanna River (Havre de Grace), Patapsco River (Baltimore), Severn River (Annapolis), upper Potomac River (Washington, D.C), and mouth of the Potomac River (Point Lookout) that provide real-time meteorological, oceanographic, and water-quality data. Observations are available on the web, at a mobile version of the website, by calling toll-free 877-BUOY-BAY, or using free mobile apps available for Android and iPhone smartphones. The ten Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System buoys also mark and interpret points along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and serve as an important component of the Chesapeake Bay Observing System.

[Chesapeake Bay](#)

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

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Chesapeake Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. CO-OPS partners with the Maryland Port Administration and the Navy to deliver real-time observations and predictions of water levels, currents, bridge air gap and meteorological parameters.

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

The Office of Coast Survey operates the NOAA Survey Vessel *Bay Hydrographer II* to acquire hydrographic survey data off the U.S. Atlantic coast, concentrating primarily in the Chesapeake Bay. The vessel is home-ported in Solomons, Maryland. The *Bay Hydrographer II* is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic and navigation equipment, including Differential Global Positioning Systems, a Multibeam Bathymetric Sonar System, and a high-resolution digital Side Scan Sonar system. These systems along with diver investigations of submerged wrecks and obstructions are used to update NOAA's nautical charts in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Office of Coast Survey also uses the *Bay Hydrographer II* as its primary platform to test and evaluate new and emerging hydrographic survey technologies. One such technology that has been tested by this crew in the past is the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV)—a torpedo-shaped robot that is programmed to guide itself through the water and collect seafloor data—multiplying the amount of data NOAA's survey fleet collects. This vessel is also able to serve as a navigation response team when required.

[Baltimore](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere® at Maryland Science Center](#)

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 complex environmental processes in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

[MD-4](#)

[Calverton](#)

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [NOAA CoastWatch Program](#)

The CoastWatch mission is to provide and ensure timely access to near real-time satellite data to protect, restore, and manage U.S. coastal ocean resources, and understand climate variability and change to further enhance society's quality of life. Our primary users include Federal, State, and local marine scientists, coastal resource managers, and the public. There are two components to CoastWatch: Central Operations and Regional Nodes. Central Operations, managed by NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), coordinates the processing, delivery, quality control and storage of data products. The six regional nodes are made up of other NOAA line offices that participate in the CoastWatch Program. They are located around the country, hosting equipment and personnel to provide

near real-time data distribution and regional scientific expertise to the local user community. Together, central operations and the regional nodes provide for the distribution pathway for CoastWatch data products.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Research and Product Development](#)

The Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR) is the science arm of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS), which acquires and manages the nation's operational Earth-observing satellites. NESDIS provides data from these satellites, and conducts research to make that possible. STAR's mission is to transfer satellite observations of the land, atmosphere, ocean, and climate from scientific research and development into routine operations, and to offer state-of-the-art data, products and services to decision-makers.

Largo

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) - [Information Technology Center](#)

The Information Technology Center (ITC) is a datacenter providing 12x5 operations and support for the financial applications of NOAA and its parent agency, the Department of Commerce (DOC). The largest such application is known as the Commerce Business System (CBS) which processes approximately 58% of the DOC budget. The ITC hosts NOAA management's Web Emergency Operations Center application, as well as the NIMO application, which tracks expenditures related to Deep Water Horizon. The ITC is also the location of a DOC system, SmartPay II, which handles all DOC purchase, fleet, and travel credit cards under contract with JP Morgan/Chase and MasterCard.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) - [Service Delivery Division](#)

The Service Delivery Division provides a suite of IT services to support NOAA's mission. Our work includes IT infrastructure design and maintenance, network and server management and administration, desktop configuration and maintenance, application and system design and implementation, and IT security.

Suitland

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) – [Office of Satellite and Product Operations](#)

On a 24x7 basis, the Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO) manages and directs the comprehensive scheduling and operation of NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), NOAA's Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (POES), the joint NOAA-NASA Suomi National Polar Partnership (S-NPP), Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS), Jason-2 and Jason-3, and DSCOVR satellites. This responsibility includes command and control, tracking, acquisition of data from these spacecraft from the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility (NSOF) at Suitland, MD. OSPO relies ground stations at Svalbard, Norway; McMurdo, Antarctica; and Command and Data Acquisition (CDA) facilities at Wallops, Virginia, and Fairbanks, Alaska to command and control the satellites, to track the satellites, and to acquire their data. Under agreement with the Department of Defense, OSPO also provides command and control for the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellites.

Once the data arrives at the NSOF, OSPO's central ground facilities ingest, process, and distribute environmental satellite data and derived products, and provides imagery and products derived from the data these satellites collect to the National Weather Service Centers and Weather Forecast Offices, and other domestic and international users. These products include, near-real time imagery of current or developing cyclones, satellite imagery depicting various sectors of the United States, and an array of other atmospheric data products.

OSPO also partners with the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy to operate the U.S National Ice Center (NIC). OSPO is responsible for operating the SARSAT U.S. Mission Control Center which is an integral part of the global satellite-assisted search and rescue system. Finally, OSPO supports the launch, activation, and evaluation of new satellites and the in-depth assessment of satellite and ground systems anomalies.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Satellite Assisted Search and Rescue](#)

The NOAA Satellite Operations Facility provides a home for NOAA's satellite program operations, processing and development of future observing platforms. It is also where the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) program, three geostationary SARSAT antennas and its Mission Control Center (USMCC) resides. COSPAS-SARSAT is an international, humanitarian search and rescue system that uses a network of satellites and ground stations to quickly detect and locate emergency beacons carried by ships, aircraft, or individuals in distress. SARSAT is the United States contribution to the international system. NOAA's polar (POES) and geostationary (GOES) satellites are part of the space segment of the Cospas-Sarsat System, and are operated by NOAA Satellite Operations Control Center (SOCC) at the NSOF. NSOF is also the home of the US SARSAT Mission Control Center (USMCC), which receives distress information and notifies the appropriate Rescue Coordination Center automatically when a beacon alert is detected. SARSAT has saved more than 8,200 lives in the United States since 1982.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) - [N-Wave NOAA Science Network](#)

N-Wave is NOAA's science network connecting NOAA, academic, and state research network communities to data and resources needed to advance environmental science.

MD-5

Beltsville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring Network](#)

NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory maintains a specialized ambient air mercury measurement site near Beltsville, Maryland; operated as part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program's Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring Network (AMNet). The state-of-the-art monitoring provides semi-continuous measurements of reactive gaseous mercury, elemental mercury, and particulate mercury in air. Additional data are collected for ambient air concentrations of trace gases (e.g., sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone), as well as meteorological parameters such as temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and direction. The site, in operation since late 2006, provides high quality data to air quality and mercury transport models.

College Park

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [NOAA CoastWatch Program](#)

The CoastWatch mission is to provide and ensure timely access to near real-time satellite data to protect, restore, and manage U.S. coastal ocean resources, and understand climate variability and change to further enhance society's quality of life. Our primary users include Federal, State, and local marine scientists, coastal resource managers, and the public. There are two components to CoastWatch: Central Operations and Regional Nodes. Central Operations, managed by NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), coordinates the processing, delivery, quality control and storage of data products. The six regional nodes are made up of other NOAA line offices that participate in the CoastWatch Program. They are located around the country, hosting equipment and personnel to provide near real-time data distribution and regional scientific expertise to the local user community. Together, central operations and the regional nodes provide for the distribution pathway for CoastWatch data products. The NOAA CoastWatch Program coordinates with NOAA Lines offices to host the regional CoastWatch nodes on the East Coast and West Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, Alaska and Hawaii.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Research and Product Development](#)

The Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR) is the science arm of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS), which acquires and manages the nation's operational Earth-observing satellites. NESDIS provides data from these satellites, and conducts research to make that possible. STAR's mission is to transfer satellite observations of the land, atmosphere, ocean, and climate from scientific research and development into routine operations, and to offer state-of-the-art data, products and services to decision-makers.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Satellite Climate Studies Branch](#)

The Satellite Climate Studies Branch (SCSB) exploits the capabilities of Earth-observing satellites to study the climate variations of the atmosphere, the land and the oceans. The Branch also uses remote satellite observations as well as model simulations to detect, monitor and forecast the effects of climate change on the environment, including effects on its ecosystems. The branch is co-located with the University of Maryland's Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites (CICS) at the M-square Research Complex in College Park, MD. This partnership between NOAA and CICS provides for cutting edge research to be performed in a university setting where NOAA and academic researchers work jointly on topics of high interest and priority to NOAA. The Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites is formed through a consortium of academic, non-profit and community organizations with leadership from the University of Maryland, College Park and North Carolina State University.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites](#)

In 2009, the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites (CICS) was formed through a national consortium of academic, non-profit, and community organizations, with leadership from the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) and North Carolina State University with principal locations in College Park, Maryland and Asheville, North Carolina. CICS is administered as part of the NOAA/NESDIS/STAR Cooperative Research Program Institutes, which is the first experiment by NOAA and academic institutions to engage a geographically dispersed, diverse set of more than 20 partner institutions across the United States to address environmental change, their prediction, and potential impacts. The Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites-Maryland (CICS-MD) is a branch of CICS and focuses on research in satellite observations and Earth system modeling.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Office of Satellite and Product Operations](#)

The NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP) houses the Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO's) satellite analysts, which serve as the operational focal points for real-time imagery products and multi-disciplinary environmental analyses within NESDIS. OSPO provides 24 x 7 x 365 interpretive satellite analysis products to users including all NOAA Line Offices, federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies, emergency responders and the public. OSPO performs new proof of concept satellite analysis techniques needed to support disaster mitigation and warning services for U.S. Federal agencies and the international community. Prototype environmental analyses are provided to NWS Warning & Forecast Offices, NCEP Centers, and to oceanographic and other environmental users of NESDIS satellite products.

This site also provides for interim continuity of operations back-up for Search and Rescue Satellite aided Tracking (SARSAT) program U.S. Mission Control Center (USMCC). the USMCC provides the real-time distribution of distress alerts to use search and rescue forces and other MCCs around the world.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction](#)

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), an arm of the NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), is comprised of nine distinct Centers that provide national and international weather products in support of NWS field offices, government agencies, emergency managers, private sector meteorologists, meteorological organizations and societies, and private companies throughout the world. NCEP is a critical national resource in national and global weather prediction. NCEP is the starting point for nearly all weather forecasts in the United States. Headquartered in Camp Springs, the NCEP prepares and makes available national forecasts and outlooks of weather and climate. Each of the nine Centers, which comprise NCEP, has a specific responsibility for a portion of the NCEP products and services suite.

Five of the nine Centers are located at the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction on the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park. First, there is NCEP Central Operations, which sustains and executes the operational suite of the numerical analysis and forecast models and prepares NCEP products to be provided to users. It also links all nine of the national Centers together via computer and communications-related services. Second, the Environmental Modeling Center improves weather, marine, and climate predictions for the Nation by developing and improving computer models of the atmosphere and oceans using worldwide weather observations. The forecast models are the starting point for all weather forecasts, federal and private sector. Third, the Weather Prediction Center provides an array of analyses and guidance forecast products specializing in rainfall and snowfall forecasts as well as general weather pattern forecasts out to seven days. The information is used by NWS field offices and private meteorologists throughout the United States. Fourth, the Ocean Prediction Center produces and issues marine meteorological and oceanographic analyses, forecasts, and warnings for the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Finally, the Climate Prediction Center monitors and predicts the climate for time scales ranging from weeks to seasons and provides information about the long-term global effects of climate patterns on the nation for socioeconomic benefits and improved decision-making.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Air Resources Laboratory](#)

The Headquarters of ARL is located in College Park, MD. In addition to overseeing its divisions, Headquarters develops products to augment the operational product suites of the NOAA service-oriented line offices (particularly the National Weather Service). This includes the research and development of improved dispersion models for emergency response and air quality forecast models. Headquarters also improves the understanding of climate variability and trends, the exchange of pollutants between the air and land, and the sources of mercury that influence sensitive ecosystems.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research & National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Betty Petersen Memorial Library](#)

Betty Petersen Memorial Library is a branch of the NOAA Central Library funded by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, NESDIS Center for Satellite Applications and Research, and the Air Resources Laboratory. The library contains a specialized meteorological and oceanographic collection of about 7,000 volumes. A small number of those volumes cover physics, mathematics, historical weather information, and computer programming. In addition, the library has atlases, a collection of WMO publications, NOAA/NESDIS technical notes and technical reports, NWS/NCEP technical notes and reports, and weather or ocean related publications from other government organizations, from other countries, and from universities. The library is also home to Science on a Sphere, a data visualization and learning tool that can project data sets onto a sphere with 4k resolution (see below).

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere® at NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction](#)

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 that is used to explain what are sometimes complex environmental processes, in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

[Greenbelt](#)

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [GOES-R Program Office](#)

The GOES-R Series Program Office is responsible for the acquisition of the next generation, NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) "R" Series to maintain NOAA's legacy geostationary satellite capability in support of NOAA's missions. While NOAA manages and funds the GOES-R Series Program, its development is a collaborative effort between NOAA and NASA with significant assistance from a nation-wide network of aerospace companies. The GOES-R series of satellites will be comprised of improved spacecraft and instrument technologies, which will result in more timely and accurate weather forecasts, and improve support for the detection and observations of meteorological phenomena that directly affect public safety, protection of property, and ultimately, economic health and development. The first satellite of the series, GOES-R, now known as GOES-16, launched in November 16. GOES-16 replaced GOES-13 as the operational GOES-East satellite, providing coverage of the continental United States and the Atlantic Ocean. GOES-S is scheduled to launch in spring 2018 and will be designated GOES-17 upon reaching geostationary orbit. GOES-17 will be operational as GOES-West, providing coverage of the western U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and the Pacific Ocean. An operational GOES-S will give the Western Hemisphere two next-generation geostationary environmental satellites. Together, GOES-16 and GOES-17 will observe Earth from the west coast of Africa all the way to Guam.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Joint Polar Satellite System](#)

The Joint Polar Satellite System is the next generation of polar-orbiting environmental satellites for DOC. Suomi NPP satellite, part of the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) constellation of satellites launched in 2011, circles the Earth approximately once every 100 minutes. During these rotations, JPSS satellites will provide global coverage, monitoring environmental conditions, collecting, disseminating and processing data about the Earth's weather, atmosphere, oceans, land, and near-space environment. JPSS will be able to monitor the earth from pole-to-pole and provide data for long range weather and climate forecasts. The data gathered by JPSS will aid in reducing the potential loss of human life and property by allowing more efficient disaster planning and response to severe weather conditions such as tornadoes and floods. Citizens will benefit from satellite data in the areas of general aviation, agriculture, and maritime activities. Military users will benefit from JPSS as well, tactically and strategically. JPSS will collect a massive amount of very precise earth surface, atmospheric and space environmental measurements from a variety of onboard sensors. This volume of data will allow scientists and forecasters to monitor and predict weather patterns with greater accuracy. In addition to this increased volume of information, JPSS will also improve the speed of weather forecasting through a fourfold improvement to data delivery times. These improvements in the volume and the speed of delivery are largely made possible by JPSS' ground systems that will collect and relay JPSS sensor data via a closed dedicated network to NOAA NESDIS for central processing.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Wallops Command and Data Acquisition Backup Facility](#)

The backup command and data acquisition facility co-located with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland ensures data from NOAA's GOES satellites continues to flow if the Wallops, Virginia station is threatened or hit by a hurricane. A 54-foot antenna has transmitters for sending commands to the satellites, and receivers for collecting information from the satellites. The backup station will normally be operated in a standby mode. Engineers, programmers and operators from the Wallops site will be deployed as necessary when a hurricane threatens Wallops, or for other foreseeable emergencies. In the event the back-up facility is activated, a rapid response team from NOAA's Satellite Operations Control Center in Suitland, Md., will initially bring the station on-line until personnel arrive from Wallops.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center](#)

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 complex environmental processes in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

[Nanjemoy](#)

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Proposed Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary](#)

On September 16, 2014, a coalition of community groups submitted a nomination asking NOAA to designate Mallow's Bay-Potomac River as a national marine sanctuary. The area being considered for designation is 40 miles south of Washington, DC, off the Nanjemoy Peninsula of Charles County, MD. The designation would focus on conserving the collection of maritime heritage resources (shipwrecks) in the area as well as expand the opportunities for public access, recreation, tourism, research, and education. On October 7, 2015, NOAA issued a notice of intent to begin the designation process, develop a draft environmental impact statement and initiate the public process to consider the size and scope of the proposed national marine sanctuary.

On January 9, 2017, based on public comments received during the scoping period and in consultation with the State of Maryland and Charles County MD, NOAA published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Management Plan and Proposed Rule and requested additional public comment on four alternatives. In consultation with the State of Maryland and Charles County, NOAA is currently preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Management Plan and Final Rule. Before the designation becomes effective, the Governor has 30 days to review the documents.

[Waldorf](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere at St. Charles High School](#)

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 complex environmental processes in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

NOAA Office of Education - Environmental Literacy Program

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to build the capacity of institutions and networks to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education at national, regional, and local levels. In Maryland, ELP supports the National Aquarium In Baltimore through an Environmental Literacy Grant for Visualizing Change, which engages aquarium visitors by employing strategic framing communication tools and the best available social and cognitive research to explain complex NOAA datasets and visualizations focused on climate change and its impact on coastal zones and marine life. National Aquarium In Baltimore is further supported by ELP as a member of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network, a consortium of 25 aquariums and marine science education centers with a reach of over 20 million people. The CELC Network works with NOAA and each member institution to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems. ELP supports the Maryland Science Center (Baltimore) and the James E. Richmond Science Center (Waldorf) both of which have permanent exhibits featuring NOAA's Science On a Sphere and are members of NOAA's SOS Users Collaborative Network. The SOS Network has more than 100 institutions worldwide, reaching over 60 million people, and shares best practices in using the sphere to bring the latest global forecasts and models to the public. ELP also supports the AMS DataStreme courses for K-12 educators through a grant and in-kind support. Local implementation teams in the state offer DataStreme courses that use weather, climate, and the ocean as contexts for teaching science and improving understanding about the Earth system.

MD-6

Germantown

NOAA Finance Office (NFO) - [Eastern Operations Branch](#)

The Eastern Operations Branch processes payments for services, supplies, and materials commonly required to support the Department's programs (i.e. lab equipment, non- personal services, travel expenses, utilities, and vessel charters). In providing these services, our staff examines vouchers and invoices, issues bills for receivables, receives and deposits receipts, pays various types of accounts payable documents, and enters other types of accounting transactions. The staff also responds to clients about finance-related concerns and problems.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) - [Service Delivery Division](#)

The Service Delivery Division provides a suite of IT services to support NOAA's mission. Our work includes IT infrastructure design and maintenance, network and server management and administration, desktop configuration and maintenance, application and system design and implementation, and IT security.

MD-7

Baltimore

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

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MD-8

Silver Spring

Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) - [Headquarters](#)

The Acquisition and Grants Office provides financial assistance and acquisition services for NOAA by overseeing and implementing all processes related to contracts and grants. For FY 2010, NOAA issued 2,306 grants, totaling over \$1.061 billion, to partner organizations and institutions throughout the United States and our territories.

Chief Information Officer (CIO) - [N-Wave NOAA Science Network](#)

N-Wave is NOAA's science network connecting NOAA, academic, and state research network communities to data and resources needed to advance environmental science.

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

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) are responsible for hosting and providing access to one of the most significant archives on earth, with comprehensive oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. From the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun and from million-year-old tree rings to near real-time satellite images, NCEI is the Nation's leading authority for environmental information. By preserving, stewarding, and maximizing the utility of the Federal government's billion-dollar investment in high-quality environmental data, NCEI remains committed to providing products and services to private industry and businesses, local to international governments, academia, as well as the general public. NCEI headquarters are located in Asheville, North Carolina with other major locations in Boulder, Colorado; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Stennis Space Center, Mississippi.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Office of Projects, Planning, and Analysis](#)

The focus of Office of Projects, Planning, and Analysis (OPPA) is on flight projects (data exploitation, and execution of domestic, international, and commercial partnerships) in order to meet NOAA observation requirements. OPPA's core responsibilities include: project management and integration lead for data exploitation opportunities; providing on-orbit anomaly support and sustainment for existing operational systems; conducting studies of requirements definition; planning of overall project and partnership systems; performing conceptual and detailed engineering for these flight project activities; developing and managing the acquisition of partnership-based flight project systems (spacecraft, instruments, and launch services); and coordinating the integration, installation, and acceptance of NOAA civil operational environmental satellites systems for flight projects and partnerships.

OPPA supports the procurement, maintenance and testing of the U.S. instruments on the European MetOp satellites. As part of this responsibility, the program administers a comprehensive requirements identification and analysis process, and translates requirements for data, products, and services into flight projects, exploitation, and partnerships. It establishes partnership-based flight project system objectives, as well as performance, engineering, and cost criteria. OPPA also develops interface standards and uses technical and engineering consultation for system capability, development, implementation, and deployment to serve the environmental remote-sensing satellite user community. OPPA performs

end-to-end system design studies for flight projects and partnerships, and integrates NESDIS's space and ground concept of operations as applicable. In a broader role, the program represents NOAA at international forums; provides technical representation at these venues ensures continued foreign contributions; and develops cost-sharing alternatives with international partners. Also, OPPO provides oversight to the systems acquisition process for flight projects, exploitation initiatives, and partnerships. OPPO manages the acquisitions through launch of the SWFO (Space Weather Follow On) and COSMIC-2 (Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate) partnership programs.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Office of Satellite Ground Services](#)

NOAA's Office Satellite Ground Services (OSGS) is to provide and serve as the single organization for planning and execution of all common ground services. OSGS is a consolidated effort of different ground components that will position NESDIS to effectively and efficiently develop and maintain its core ground systems capabilities. OSGS is composed of the following: Comprehensive Large Array Data Stewardship System (CLASS) development, Satellite Product Development, Common Ground Services Architecture, Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership Data Exploitation (NDE), and Ground Systems.

OSGS plans, acquires, develops, integrates, transitions to operations and sustains common ground services for NOAA's environmental satellite systems. OSGS core responsibilities include: directing and conducting analyses; defining and designing systems; and developing, acquiring, transitioning, and sustaining activities for new and existing satellite ground systems. OSGS provides IT hardware upgrades for real time satellite control and telemetry processing system (Polar Acquisition Control System) and antenna tracking components (both electronic and mechanical). As part of this responsibility, OSGS assists in the development and maintenance of Level 1 requirements and leads the development and maintenance of lower-level requirements. SGS develops and sustains command and data acquisition, communications, command and control, product generation and distribution, enterprise management, algorithm operationalization, and data archival services for NOAA's environmental satellites. OSGS provides engineering and project management for ground systems architecture, design, development, integration and testing, infrastructure, and facilities. OSGS participates in system verification and validation efforts and also in life cycle reviews for satellite acquisition programs and projects.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Office of System Architecture and Advanced Planning](#)

NOAA's Office System Architecture and Advanced Planning (OSAAP) applies systems engineering principles to balance the demands of high technical quality and to meet cost and schedule requirements across NESDIS to ensure and enable the success of its mission, vision, and objectives. Its core responsibilities include enterprise-level system architecture, advanced system and technology planning, management and technical policies and procedures, and system validation, assurance, and adjudication to ensure that comprehensive solutions meet mission objectives. OSAAP performs systems engineering design, analysis, and evaluation of space flight, ground, data, and archive segments. As part of this responsibility, the program defines policies and procedures for systems engineering related to acquisitions, development, operations, archiving, and sustainment for implementation throughout NESDIS.

OSAAP also establishes and administers the quality management system across NESDIS. It does this by identifying best practices and providing overall systems assurance and configuration management to ensure compliance to the NESDIS quality management system through the life cycle of each NESDIS enterprise. In addition to performing top-level requirements definition, traceability, and final validation and verification, the program serves as principal advocate for ensuring and enabling the success and mitigating risk of the NESDIS enterprise. This will enable NESDIS to meet its mission, vision, and objectives through systems analysis of current and future enterprise architectures. OSAAP maintains enterprise lessons learned toward process improvement for future NESDIS implementation and serves as the expert technical liaison relating to the end-to-end systems architecture.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - [Headquarters](#)

NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) is the largest civil operational environmental space agency and most extensive holder of atmospheric and oceanographic data in the world. NESDIS is dedicated to providing timely access to global environmental data from satellites and other sources to promote, protect, and enhance the Nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life. To fulfill its responsibilities, NESDIS acquires and manages the Nation's operational environmental satellites, conducts related research, and through its National Centers for Environmental Information, provides data and information services, and conducts related research. NESDIS It is in the process of developing and acquiring its next generation operational satellites. NESDIS has extensive partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense. It also collaborates with international partners to foster full and open data exchanges to support NOAA and the United States weather and environmental monitoring priorities. NESDIS environmental satellite observations provide important contributions to U.S. national security by providing military users with real-time and near-real-time observations for their aircraft, ships, ground forces and facilities worldwide. NESDIS also contributes to the national economy by providing environmental data that support resource management of energy, water, and global food supplies.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Headquarters](#)

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (i.e. whales, turtles) without unnecessarily impeding economic and recreational opportunities. With the help of the five regional offices and eight councils, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is able to work with communities on fishery management issues. NMFS works to promote sustainable fisheries and to prevent lost economic potential associated with overfishing, declining species and degraded habitats.

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

NOAA's Seafood Inspection Program conducts a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis which assure compliance with all applicable food regulations. The office offers a wide range of professional services to the area's fishermen and fish processors including process and product inspection, product grading, lot inspection, laboratory analysis, and training. All edible foodstuffs, ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fishmeal used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification.

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

The mission of NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. 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.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Sustainable Fisheries](#)

The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF) supports national domestic policy issues, provides support to the regional fishery management councils, and manages Atlantic highly migratory species. OSF works closely with NOAA Fisheries regional offices and science centers, the regional fishery management councils, and the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions to end and prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and ensure healthy ecosystems. OSF's headquarters office includes the Domestic Fisheries Division, Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Operations and Regulatory Services Division, and the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Science & Technology](#)

The Office of Science and Technology provides support and coordination for NOAA Fisheries science programs and helps ensure a sound scientific basis for resource conservation and management decisions. ST coordinates closely with six NOAA Fisheries science centers: Alaska, Northeast, Northwest, Pacific Islands, Southeast, and Southwest. In particular, ST: 1) Supports at-sea resource surveys, stock assessments, habitat science and assessments, protected resource science and the seabird program, fisheries observer programs, cooperative research, and the independent peer review of NOAA Fisheries science products and programs; 2) Integrates and disseminates state and federal statistics about marine fisheries, and administer the surveys used to estimate recreational landings; 3) Conducts and coordinates socioeconomic research and data collection undertaken by the agency to support conservation and management of living marine resources; 4) Supports the development and coordination of science programs to advance the incorporation of ecosystem information into living marine resource management; 4) Provides mission support by maintaining and improving the quality and credibility of NOAA Fisheries' scientific activities; 5) Provides application management and development to support timely access to NOAA Fisheries data resources; and 6) Coordinates the publication of NOAA Fisheries journals and reports. OST's headquarters office includes the Fisheries Statistics Division, Assessment and Monitoring Division, Economics and Social Analysis Division, Science Information Division, Ecosystem Science Division, and the Operation, Management, and Information Division. In addition, the NOAA National Systematics Laboratory in Washington, D.C. and the NOAA Fisheries Scientific Publications Office in Seattle, WA are part of the Office of Science and Technology.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Habitat Conservation](#)

The Office of Habitat Conservation conserves habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. Healthy habitats support fish, clean water, and the economy. Our approach to habitat conservation is collaborative and uses sound science in support of our major mandates like the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Oil Pollution Act. The office consists of three divisions: the NOAA Restoration Center, Habitat Protection Division, and NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. Priority habitats include rivers with sea-going fish, wetlands and estuaries, coral reefs, deep sea coral, and large-scale bays and watersheds. We restore degraded habitat by removing dams and other barriers, reconnecting coastal wetlands, and rebuilding coral and oyster reefs to ensure fish have access to high quality areas to live. We focus our efforts for the benefit of marine resources and coastal communities and work in partnerships at all levels.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Office of Response and Restoration Program](#)

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, 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 oil and chemical releases, determines damage to natural resources from those releases, protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#)

NCCOS leadership, scientists, and support staff are co-located with other NOAA offices in Silver Spring, MD. NCCOS employees plan, manage, and execute the budget, set information technology policy, and provide policy and communications support to NCCOS leadership in its internal and external partnerships, and in its interactions with Congress. The program office components manage the Competitive Research Program and the RESTORE Act Science Program, and supervise or conduct science, research, and associated model, tool, and product development.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Geodetic Survey Program](#)

The National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) time-tested survey expertise is the foundation for measuring the size, shape, and height of our nation's entire land area. This data comprises the National Spatial Reference System, a set of standard reference points that provide the latitude, longitude, and elevation framework necessary for the nation's land surveying, navigation, positioning, and mapping activities. Committed to making transportation and navigation safer, NGS also conducts airport surveys in the United States to position obstructions and aids to air travel. In addition, NGS conducts a coastal mapping program to provide a regularly updated and consistent national shoreline using remote sensing techniques and technology.

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

The Office of Coast Survey is responsible for producing the suite of nautical charts that covers the coastal waters of the U.S. and its territories acquiring hydrographic data to update these charts. The Office of Coast Survey also develops hydrographic survey specifications; conducts technological development and application programs to increase efficiency in survey data acquisition, data processing, and chart production; and carries out research to develop techniques and methods for accomplishing these objectives. The Office of Coast Survey ensures safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation that brings an uninterrupted flow of people and goods into and out of our nation's ports. The foundation of the United States economy is the Marine Transportation System--America's network of oceans, rivers, canals, locks and dams. Shipping on these "marine highways" moves people and cargo around the country, and connects us to the global marketplace for international trade and affordable goods.

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

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides national leadership, strategic direction, and services for the coastal management community. Major initiatives housed within this organization include the Coral Reef Conservation Program; the National Coastal Zone Management Program; the National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Digital Coast. The primary offices are located in Charleston, South Carolina and Silver Spring, Maryland. Satellite office and other field staff are located throughout the coastal zone.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#)

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together multidisciplinary expertise from over 30 NOAA offices and partners to protect, conserve and restore coral reef resources. Coral reefs are some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world and provide a range of benefits and vital services to coastal communities but are threatened from unsustainable fishing practices, climate change impacts, and land-based sources of pollution. In response to these threats, NOAA invests in ecosystem-based management initiatives to build capacity in marine protected area management; monitoring, research-modeling, and forecasting related to climate-related risks and vulnerabilities to coral reefs; and fostering partnerships to address and reduce impacts of land-based sources of pollution.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Gateway to NOAA](#)

Gateway to NOAA is a permanent exhibit on NOAA's Silver Spring campus highlighting the ways in which NOAA takes the pulse of the planet every day and protects and manages ocean and coastal resources. The exhibit features a number of engaging displays including the "NOAA Heritage" section featuring historic scientific instruments and other tools and artifacts from the agency's 200-year history and "Earth Observations" section highlighting the ways in which NOAA gathers information about our environment on land, sea, and sky.

Do you know the difference between weather and climate? Get the answer in the "Weather and Climate" section, which focuses on NOAA's role in forecasting the weather and understanding climate processes. In the "Water" section, the public can learn how NOAA supports safe navigation and commerce, explores the deep sea, and manages and protects

coastal and ocean resources both locally and across the nation; and go behind the headlines in the “NOAA in the News” section, which features an interactive display through which visitors can explore our ocean world.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#)

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. These special ocean areas provide habitat for creatures and plants of the sea, and serve as living laboratories for the study of coastal and ocean environments. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation and tourism.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Marine Protected Areas Center](#)

The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training and information in the planning, management and evaluation of the nation’s system of marine protected areas. The National Marine Protected Areas Center supports the nation’s federal, state and territorial marine protected area (MPA) programs through capacity building, science, information, tools and outreach. MPAs include National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and the state counterparts to these programs.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Ocean Guardian School Program](#)

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 their project, the school receives official recognition as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. Two schools in Charles County MD (North Point HS and JC Parks ES have completed three and two years, respectively.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Headquarters](#)

NOS delivers the tools and services needed to understand, predict, and respond to the challenges we face along America’s 95,000 miles of shoreline and 3.5 million square miles of coastal, Great Lakes, and deep-ocean waters. This vast area generates more than 60 percent of the nation’s gross national product each year. Yet our oceans and coasts are facing unprecedented pressure from threats such as climate change, marine debris, and port congestion. In response to these threats, NOS scientists, natural resource managers, and specialists are seeking solutions that continue to grow our nation’s coastal economy while sustaining a healthy and productive environment. In partnership with other NOAA offices; federal, state, and local agencies; industry representatives; members of the academic community; and others, NOS focuses on science, technology, innovation, and education to keep our oceans and coasts safe, healthy and productive.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Program](#)

The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is a multidisciplinary system designed to enhance our ability to collect, deliver, and use ocean information. The goal is to provide continuous data on our open oceans, coastal waters, and Great Lakes in the formats, rates, and scales required by scientists, managers, businesses, governments, and the public to support research and inform decision-making. No single agency or organization has the capacity or resources to fully implement the U.S. IOOS on a national scale. IOOS represents a national partnership in which 17 Federal agencies and 11 Regional Associations share responsibility for the design, operation, and improvement of a national network of observations. The 17 Federal agency partners also provide our nation’s contributions to advance the global component.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Headquarters](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure, which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community. The function of headquarters is to provide national integration and oversight of the administrative, programmatic, financial, international, information technology, and other organizational management functions, and to conduct the national level strategic planning, communications, and diversity activities. There are a number of NWS headquarters offices based in Silver Spring, including the Office of the Assistant Administrator (the NWS Director), , the Office of Science and Technology Integration, the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office, the Office of Observations, the Office of Central Processing, Office of Dissemination, and the Office of Facilities.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps - [Commissioned Personnel Center](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps Commissioned Personnel Center (CPC) provides the full spectrum of human resources and career management services to NOAA Corps Officers. The Officer Career Management Division establishes and maintains an appropriate depth and breadth of professional expertise within the NOAA Commissioned Corps to meet the requirements of the agency. It accomplishes this through selective recruiting and training, participation in the assignment process, and career counseling. It directs and supports the activities of the NOAA Officer Training Center (OTC). The Personnel Management Division manages officer promotions, awards, records, transfers, appointments, benefits, retirements, evaluation processing, personnel actions and entitlement programs, managing Officers' entire careers from the day they enter Basic Officer Training until retirement and beyond.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps - [Headquarters](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. The service, consisting of approximately 321 commissioned officers, is an integral part of NOAA. The NOAA Corps traces its roots back to the former U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, which dates back to 1807 and President Thomas Jefferson. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in staff positions throughout NOAA.

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

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet. Working in partnership with other organizational units of NOAA, OAR provides better forecasts, earlier warnings for natural disasters and a greater understanding of the Earth. Our role is to provide unbiased science to better manage the environment, nationally and globally.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [NOAA Central Library](#)

The NOAA Central Library provides information and research support to NOAA staff and the public. Disciplines covered in a print and electronic collection includes: weather and atmospheric sciences, oceanography, ocean engineering, nautical charting, marine ecology, marine resources, ecosystems, coastal studies, aeronomy, geodesy, cartography, mathematics and statistics, hydrographic surveying; hydrology, and meteorological satellite applications. The Library manages the NOAA Institutional Repository, which provides access to publically funded research publication in accordance with White House OSTP Memorandum Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research (2013). The library also networks with 24 NOAA libraries across the nation, sharing resources in order to provide information and research services to NOAA staff. Other resources and services offered includes a Rare Book room and a robust Brown Bag speaker series.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Climate Program Office](#)

The OAR Climate Program Office (CPO) mission is to advance scientific understanding, monitoring, and prediction of climate and its impacts to enable and improve society's ability to plan and respond. CPO's position at the intersection of NOAA's science and service missions, the climate research community, and the broader climate enterprise enables it to lead a research agenda and forge partnerships that enhance society's ability to make effective decisions. CPO manages the competitive research programs by which NOAA funds high-priority climate science to advance understanding of atmospheric, oceanic, land-based, and snow and ice processes, and how they affect climate. CPO's foci include developing a broader user community for climate products and services; providing a focal point within NOAA for collaborative climate science and services; leading NOAA's climate education and outreach activities; and helping to coordinate international climate science and services. CPO supports interdisciplinary research projects across the nation to address societal challenges, including: improving sub-seasonal-to-seasonal weather prediction; reducing vulnerability to extreme weather; helping communities and businesses prepare for drought and water resource challenges; managing risks to coastlines and coastal infrastructure; managing risks to marine ecosystems; and effective ways of adapting to and/or mitigating climate-related impacts. Our research is conducted by investigators outside the federal government, such as through academic and private sectors, within federal government research labs, and in NOAA Cooperative Institutes.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [International Research and Applications Project](#)

NOAA's International Research and Applications Project (IRAP) supports activities that link climate research and assessments to practical risk management, the creation of early warning systems, and development and adaptation challenges in developing parts of the world that are particularly vulnerable to climate-related hazards and extreme weather events. Focus areas include the Caribbean, West Africa, and the Indo-Gangetic Plain. IRAP is managed by NOAA's Climate Program Office in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). IRAP is co-led by the International Research Institute (IRI) at Columbia University and the University of Arizona.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere® at NOAA Headquarters](#)

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 complex environmental processes in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science on a Sphere Explorer™ at the NOAA Gateway](#)

Science on a Sphere Explorer™ (SOSx) is a portable, flat-screen virtual globe based on NOAA's 6-foot diameter Science On a Sphere® display system. This ground-breaking software uses video game technology to make SOS datasets interactive and more accessible to schools and small museums. SOSx currently has more than 115 space, ocean, and atmospheric datasets that can be used to explore complex environmental processes.

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

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach. Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The National Sea Grant College Program headquarters is located in Silver Spring. Sea Grant encourages the wise stewardship of our marine resources through partnerships with government, academia, industry, scientists, and private citizens concerning issues surrounding our coasts, Great Lakes, and ocean waters.

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

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) is the only federal agency dedicated to exploring the global ocean. OER works with partners to identify priority areas for exploration; support innovations in exploration tools and capabilities; and encourage the next generation of ocean explorers, scientists, and engineers to pursue careers in ocean exploration and related fields. The data and information collected during OER expeditions and the exploration OER funds gives resource managers, the academic community, and the private sector the information they need to identify, understand, and manage ocean resources for this and future generations. OER leverages resources via partnerships in and outside of NOAA, and OER is a key partner in exploring the limits of the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf. OER headquarters is located on the NOAA Campus in Silver Spring and the national program is managed from this location. This office also supports an Exploration Command Center located on the same campus, where scientists ashore participate in expeditions at sea via real-time satellite and Internet pathways.

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) - [Headquarters](#)

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provides comprehensive, NOAA-wide technical, programmatic guidance and staff support to the Office of the Under Secretary in the areas of: facilities Management, including real estate (lease management, real property acquisitions), and construction project planning, design and engineering; logistics Management, including personal property, transportation, supply chain and building management; *Freedom of Information Act*, competitive sourcing guidance, OIG/GAO liaison; Safety and Environmental Compliance programs; Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity programs; NOAA Deemed Export program; and Directives and Records Management.

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

The NOAA Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) ensures that NOAA's programs make full and appropriate use of information technology. The NOAA OCIO oversees the expenditure of approximately \$1 billion each year in information technology (IT) spending alone - computer hardware, software, services, networking, and telecommunications. Its focus includes high performance computing and communications, cyber security, homeland security, radio frequency management, and IT service delivery. NOAA is constantly adopting improved means to manage and deliver data and information to citizens and businesses regarding weather and water forecasts, search and rescue, climate change, environmental images, coastal maps, and ecosystems management. The OCIO manages NOAA's implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, which enhances the authority of the federal Chief Information Officer to improve IT efficacy. NOAA OCIO and its Line Office OCIOs are key partners with NOAA Programs to meet NOAA Missions and Strategic Goals. NOAA OCIO manages and provides enterprise-wide services to NOAA, enabling Line Offices to focus on their core missions.

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) - [Headquarters](#)

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) is an interdepartmental office established in 1964 in response to Public Law 87-843. The OFCM fosters the effective use of Federal meteorological resources by leading the systematic coordination of operational weather requirements and services, and supporting research, among the Federal agencies. Fifteen Federal departments, agencies, or offices are engaged in meteorological activities and participate in the OFCM's coordinating groups. In addition to sponsoring this coordinating infrastructure, the OFCM prepares operations plans, conducts studies, and responds to special inquiries and investigations.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [Small Boat Program](#)

The NOAA Small Boat Program (SBP) manages and coordinates over 400 small vessels (<100ft) and over 800 qualified operators located across the entire United States. The SBP provides administrative and technical support, develops and implements training courses, schedules and performs vessel inspections, provides engineering and naval architecture expertise and works directly with all NOAA line offices to ensure safe and efficient use of NOAA small vessels. NOAA's SBP is responsible for creating and implementing policy pertaining to the operation of small boats for a variety of missions including law enforcement, fisheries and atmospheric research, dive operations and hydrographic survey. The SBP works to ensure that the thousands of small boat operations taking place throughout NOAA and millions of dollars' worth of assets are managed as safely and efficiently as possible.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [Headquarters](#)

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) operates a wide variety of specialized aircraft and ships to complete NOAA's environmental and scientific missions. OMAO is also responsible for the administration and implementation of the NOAA Diving Program, Small Boat Program and Aviation Safety Program, to ensure safe and efficient operations in NOAA-sponsored underwater activities and aviation and small boat operations. NOAA's fleet of aircraft operate in some of the world's most remote and demanding flight regimes--over open ocean, mountains, coastal wetlands, Arctic pack ice, and in and around hurricanes and other severe weather--with an exemplary safety record. NOAA's ship fleet provides hydrographic survey, oceanographic and atmospheric research, and fisheries research vessels to support NOAA's strategic plan elements and mission. The vessels are located in various locations around the United States. NOAA's aircraft and ship fleet is operated and managed by a combination of NOAA Corps Officers, wage marine and civilian employees. The aircraft and ship's officers and crew provide mission support and assistance to embarked scientists from various NOAA laboratories as well as the academic community.

Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI) - [Headquarters](#)

The Office Program Planning and Integration (PPI) brings all of NOAA's talent, resources, and capabilities together to meet the needs of national and regional stakeholders in a unified manner. PPI coordinates NOAA's many lines of service with the nation's many needs for environmental information and stewardship. It ensures that agency investments and actions are guided by a strategic plan, are based on sound social and economic analysis, adhere to executive and legislative science, technology and environmental policy, and integrate the full breadth of NOAA's resources, knowledge and talent to meet its mission goals.

Workforce Management Office (WFMO) - [Headquarters](#)

The Workforce Management Office provides the planning, oversight, and execution of all NOAA human capital functions and responsibilities by partnering with DOC and external service providers to deliver transactional services, as well as aligning NOAA strategy across all WFMO divisions. Day-to-day functions of the Office involve overseeing and providing guidance for policies and programs related to recruitment, hiring, development and retention of a highly skilled and diverse workforce and employee productivity, job performance and work-life quality. This is accomplished by providing consultation, services, and solutions in a customer-focused manner. The WFMO ensures overall compliance with federal, Department, and NOAA regulations and manages corrective actions for all internal and external audits.

NOAA In Your State is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line, Corporate, or Staff Office listed.

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).

NOAA In Your State



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