



Maine

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by congressional districts and cities or towns, and then [statewide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in Maine

Penobscot River Habitat Focus Area	Orono	ME-1,2
Port Agent Field Office	Portland	ME-1
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	Wells	ME-1
Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Orono	ME-2
Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program	Statewide	ME

The state of Maine also has two Weather Forecasting Offices, one Regional Office, one Lab and Field Offices, one National Estuarine Research Reserves, and one Habitat Focus Area.

Weather Forecast Offices

Portland ME-1

Caribou ME-2

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed around-the-clock every day and provide the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Maine. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Forecasters also provide Impact-based Decision-Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site, during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

ME-1, ME-2

Orono, ME

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-Penobscot River Habitat Focus Area

As part of the Habitat Blueprint, 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. Administered by NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation, and working with the National Weather Service and National Ocean Service, NOAA is focusing within the Penobscot River watershed in Maine to restore passage for sea-run fish and educate the public about the benefits of restoration, including improvements in water quality, increased recreational opportunities (fishing, boating), increased prey base for groundfish, and resilient coastal communities. NOAA is funding fish passage projects from feasibility study through construction and monitoring, and is developing online planning tools and educational resources to help Penobscot River and bay communities identify local restoration opportunities. The Penobscot River is home to the largest remaining run of endangered Atlantic salmon in the United States.

ME-1

Portland

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Port Agent Field Office

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

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

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. In Maine, ELP supports the **Gulf of Maine Research Institute** (Portland) through an Environmental Literacy Grant focused on helping people and their communities build the environmental literacy necessary to become more resilient to local weather and climate hazards. The **Gulf of Maine Research Institute's** Community Resiliency Informed by Science and Experience (C-RISE) project supports citizen's engagement with scientific data and reasoning to increase community resiliency to sea level rise and storm surge. Products developed through this project include (1) interactive digital learning experiences with adult and student decision makers using the best available NOAA data and (2) a guide to integrating these interactive learning experiences effectively into community conversations around resiliency.

[Yarmouth](#)

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. New England staff are located in Durham, New Hampshire, Gloucester and Scituate, Massachusetts and Yarmouth, Maine. These employees represent NOAA on several regional ocean governance initiatives (e.g., Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Gulf of Maine Council, and Northeast Regional Planning Body), coordinate NOAA involvement in ocean observing system activities, and support research reserves, coastal zone management, and other NOAA and state coordinated activities.

[Wells](#)

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

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas focused on long-term research, monitoring, stewardship, education, and training. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed on a daily basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners. The 2,250 acre Wells Reserve, designated in 1984 and managed by the Wells Reserve Management Authority, features a saltwater farm with historic buildings (circa 1720-1903) and a Greek Revival-style house that serves as a visitor center. The reserve contains an 11-kilometer trail system that winds through fields, forests, wetlands, salt marshes, dunes and beaches, and provides habitat to whitetail deer, snowy egrets, soft shell clams, winter flounder and piping plovers.

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 Maine Coastal Program is hosting a fellow from 2018-2020 who will protect critical ecosystem services by designing and applying a method to prioritize habitats at risk and inform robust policies and strategies that will increase the resilience of important resource areas.

[ME-2](#)

[Argyle](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Tall Tower Carbon Measurements](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Division (ESRL/GMD) operates trace gas monitoring sites at tall television transmitter towers in eight states, including Maine. The sites were established to extend ESRL/GMD's monitoring network into the interior of North America in order to provide data to aid estimation of the net carbon balance of

the continent. Variations of trace gases, especially carbon dioxide, are largest near the ground, so we utilize existing tall (> 400 meter) transmitter towers as platforms for in situ and flask sampling for atmospheric trace gases.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Division (ESRL/GMD) operates a Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network to measure the distribution and trends of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), the two gases most responsible for human-caused climate change, as well as other greenhouse gases and volatile organic compounds. Samples are collected weekly at fixed locations and on several commercial ships. The air samples are delivered to ESRL/GMD, located in Boulder, CO. The observed geographical patterns and small but persistent spatial gradients are used to better understand the processes, both natural and human induced, that underlie the trends. These measurements help determine the magnitude of carbon sources and sinks in North America.

[Caribou](#)

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

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Total Column Ozone Measurements](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Division (ESRL/GMD) makes measurements of the column amounts of ozone between the earth's surface and the top of the atmosphere at a number of locations around the United States, including Caribou, ME. The observations are obtained with ground-based spectrometers that measure the attenuation by ozone of ultraviolet light. This integrated ozone amount is critical in determining the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface. Excess ultraviolet radiation is responsible for human skin cancer and is also harmful to other biogenic organisms. Column ozone measurements monitor changes in the stratospheric ozone layer resulting from human-produced chlorine and bromine compounds that destroy ozone. With controls now in place on the manufacture and use of these ozone-destroying compounds, it will be important to monitor the ozone layer for the expected recovery and determine whether other factors such as long-term climate change are influencing this recovery.

[Limestone](#)

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of 135 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

[Old Town](#)

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

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[Orono](#)

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

The Maine Field Station houses staff from NMFS Northeast Salmon Team, including fishery managers and scientists from both the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Its mission is to promote

the recovery and future sustainability of Atlantic salmon and other diadromous fish species and their associated ecosystems.

ME

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [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). The New England B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. New England B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 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, 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 Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, northern right whales, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles. 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 Northeast Fisheries 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. The Center has five laboratories and three NOAA-owned research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle* and *Victor Loosanoff*. The focus for NOAA's to work recover and monitor anadromous fish populations is at the Orono, ME laboratory. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

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

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with private and public partners locally and nationwide to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat. Our 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, we have provided more than \$750 million to implement more 3,300 coastal habitat restoration projects. By partnering with more than 2,500 organizations, we have restored nearly 130,000 acres of habitat for fish and opened 6,000 stream miles for fish passage. The Restoration Center works with private and public partners in Maine to enhance fish passage at dams, widen bridges and culverts to improve tidal flushing in coastal wetlands, and restore river habitats and native wetlands. With funding from the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Restoration Center helped to fund the largest dam removal effort in the

Northeast. The removal of the Great Works dam began in 2012, coupled with the removal of the Veazie Dam and bypass of the Howland Dam, will improve access to nearly 1,000 miles of river habitat on the Penobscot River.

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 funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. In Maine, the Program is currently working to restore natural resources in cases including the Gulf-Chevron Terminal Facility, Holtrachem/Mallinrodt Chemicals, and New Bedford Harbor hazardous waste sites.

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 Montpelier, Vermont serving the Northeast region – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 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 11 ASOS stations in Maine.

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 98 COOP sites in Maine.

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). There are 11 NWR transmitters in Maine.

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. In Maine, ELP supports the Nor'easter Bowl in Maine, one of 25 regional competitions of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB). The NOSB is an academic competition that engages high school students in learning about ocean sciences and related STEM careers while helping them become knowledgeable citizens and environmental stewards. ELP also supports the American Meteorological Society's 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.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Maine 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. Maine Sea Grant supports science and extension to promote sustainable use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources. In partnership with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, members of our Marine Extension Team focus on issues of concern to Maine residents and visitors, extending current knowledge and expertise in ecology, human dimensions, fisheries, aquaculture, and climate change to coastal communities from Kittery to Eastport. Current projects focus on healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

[Coastal](#)

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 28 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 Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, MA and has field offices in Ellsworth and Portland, ME.

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

Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. A total of 25 U.S. territories and coastal states, including Maine, currently participate in this program. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for

species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. The Maine Department of Marine Resources has received many awards through this program, including grants to support projects focused on Atlantic salmon, shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, and North Atlantic right whales.

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.

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

NOS operates four long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Maine, 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 Portland, Bar Harbor, Cutler Farris Wharf, and Eastport. 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 to land.

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

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Maine. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Maine and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [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 as 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. NOAA awarded seven grants in Maine, 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 Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Maine. 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. In Maine, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management awarded two grants that are ongoing in 2018, including a grant to the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) to build resilience in coastal New England by documenting and projecting storm impacts, and implementing sustainable, nature-based infrastructure approaches; and a grant to The Nature Conservancy to reduce risks from coastal flooding by implementing and monitoring a range of nature-based infrastructure projects, evaluating their effectiveness, and sharing results.

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

NROC was formed in 2005 by the Governors of the New England states — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut — to serve as a forum for the development of goals and priorities and address regional coastal and ocean management challenges with creative solutions. Recognizing the importance of the national role in these regional issues, NROC was expanded to include NOAA and other federal agencies as members of the Council. In addition to its members, NROC works with bordering states, countries, and other partners as needed. NROC's work is organized under three subcommittees: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health, Coastal Hazards Resilience and Ocean Planning.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Resource 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 from local emergencies to events that draw national attention. 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 following events like the Gulf-Chevron terminal oil spill 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, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. In 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Command Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Tropical Storm Sandy.

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, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Northeast Regional Coordinator is based in Massachusetts and fosters coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris presentations for local audiences. In Maine, the National Audubon Society is working on eight islands to remove marine debris, study debris accumulation, and, in partnership with the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation and local lobster harvesters, reduce the rate of accumulation through at-sea removal of derelict fishing gear. The MDP has also been working with stakeholders to develop the Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems](#)

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. NERACOOS, the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, is one of the 11 Regional Associations and includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Canada. The mission of NERACOOS is to produce, integrate and communicate high quality information that helps ensure safety, economic and environmental resilience, and sustainable use of the coastal ocean. NERACOOS collaborates with partners in the northeast to operate a system of ocean observing assets and models that deliver near real-time observations and forecasts of ocean and weather conditions. Many stakeholders including the U.S. Coast Guard, National Weather Service, commercial mariners, water quality and emergency managers rely on NERACOOS information for their day-to-day operations.

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.

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NOAA In Your State

Maine

NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

