



# Rhode Island

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

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

## ***Highlights of NOAA in Rhode Island***

<a href="#">NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow</a>	Newport	RI-1
<a href="#">NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer</a>	Kingston	RI-2
<a href="#">Narragansett Laboratory</a>	Narragansett	RI-2
<a href="#">Office of Ocean Exploration and Research Regional Office</a>	Narragansett	RI-2
<a href="#">Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve</a>	Prudence Island	RI-2

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

**RI-1**

**Newport**

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

The NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* is managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and is homeported at the United States Naval Station in Newport. The ship supports the science and research missions of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and its supporting laboratories. The vessel is operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. 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.

**RI-1, 2**

**Newport, Providence**

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

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

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

NOS operates two long-term, continuously operating tide stations in the state of Rhode Island which provide data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Newport and Providence. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

**RI-2**

**Kingston**

**Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer](#)**

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* is managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and is homeported in Davisville. Known as "America's ship for ocean exploration," NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* is the only U.S. federal vessel dedicated to exploring our largely unknown ocean for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge. The ship conducts operations around the globe in close collaboration with government agencies, academic institutions, and NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) conducts deep-ocean expeditions using advanced technologies to map the seafloor and characterize largely unknown areas of the ocean. Interesting seafloor features can be discovered with the deep-water multibeam sonar mapping system and investigated by the ship's remotely-operated vehicles among other sensors and systems. With telepresence technology, the exploration team can send live video images from the seafloor to scientists and other audiences ashore. The vessel is operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and is homeported at Quonset Point in North Kingstown, RI. 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. This is also the location of OER's technology development workshop, where OER and partners develop and maintain remotely operated vehicles and telepresence technologies.

**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).

### **[Narragansett](#)**

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

The laboratory is located adjacent to the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory on Narragansett Bay. Research activities focus on ecosystem assessment, climate assessment, stock assessment on the Northeast U.S. Shelf. The Ecosystem Monitoring survey headed by this laboratory is one of the longest and most comprehensive oceanographic surveys in the country. These data along with many other sources are used in the development of products to support ecosystem-based fisheries management as well as traditional single-species stock assessment. The Laboratory also includes NOAA's Northeast Apex Predator investigation, which maintains the world's longest time series of catch-and-release tag data for Atlantic Coast sharks. The center's Northeast Cooperative Research Branch and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Habitat Conservation Division staff are also located at the lab. The cooperative research staff works directly with the fishing industry on research or mutual interest. The habitat conservation staff work to restore fishery habitats and diadromous fish passage throughout the Southern New England region including Narragansett Bay, Long Island Sound, Buzzards Bay, and the contributing watersheds.

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

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

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

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. OER's regional Rhode Island office was established in 2004 through partnerships with the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the Ocean Exploration Trust (formerly known as the Institute for Exploration) to establish a systematic program in ocean exploration facilitated by telepresence technology. This technology uses satellites and high bandwidth Internet to transmit data in real-time from the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer's remotely operated vehicles to shore-based centers around the country, and world. It allows the Okeanos Explorer to operate with the majority of its participating scientists on shore. This expands the breadth of available expertise and increases the pace, scope, and efficiency of exploration. Telepresence technology also allows OER to stream seafloor imagery over standard Internet connections, bringing the excitement of ocean exploration and discoveries live into classrooms, newsrooms, and living rooms around the world - strengthening and engaging the community of ocean explorers and increasing their ability to make informed decisions about important ocean issues. The hub for telepresence technology is the Inner Space Center (ISC), in the Ocean Science and Exploration Center on the URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus.

### **[Point Judith](#)**

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

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

**[Prudence Island](#)**

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

The 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 4,259 acre Narragansett Bay Research Reserve was designated in 1980 and is managed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Habitats within the reserve include salt marsh, eelgrass beds, rocky intertidal zone, pine barren, deciduous forest and coastal meadow. The Hope Island component is a major rookery for colonial nesting wading birds.

**[RI](#)**

**[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 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, sea 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 sturgeons. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance.

The 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. In addition to its five laboratories including the Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory, the Center uses 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 Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

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

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with 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. The Restoration Center works with municipal, state, and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other project partners in Rhode Island to remove dams and other physical barriers to migratory fishes, modify or replace culverts to restore tidal exchange and tidal wetlands, restore eelgrass beds and native shellfish populations, and implement projects to increase resiliency of Rhode Island's coast and communities. Nearly 50 projects have been constructed in the state since 1998 and over 5,000 volunteers have contributed their time and effort to restore Rhode Island habitat. The Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program collaborates with state, other federal, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to: protect coastal and marine natural resources; respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances; assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

#### **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.

#### **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 three ASOS stations in Rhode Island.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are six COOP sites in Rhode Island.

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

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

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

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The National Sea Grant Library (NSGL) is the digital library and official archive for NOAA Sea Grant documents. It is housed on the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus and is the only comprehensive collection of Sea Grant-funded documents. This collection includes almost 50,000 titles on various topics including oceanography, marine education, aquaculture, fisheries, aquatic nuisance species, coastal hazards, seafood safety, limnology, coastal zone management, marine recreation, and law. The NSGL provides global access to over 25,000 full-text digital documents through the online publications catalog. For those documents not available electronically, or for those patrons that prefer

hard copy documents, the NSGL is happy to provide 30 day loans (worldwide) to assist scientists, teachers, students, fishermen, and others in their research and studies.

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island Sea Grant Program, based at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, supports research that aligns with its core themes of resilient coastal communities, healthy ecosystems and sustainable seafood. Supplementing its research efforts, Rhode Island Sea Grant is also strongly engaged in outreach, education, legal and communication activities in both of Rhode Island's Congressional Districts.

***Coastal***

**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 \$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 Rhode Island, the Program is currently working to restore natural resources in cases including the North Cape oil spill and the Peterson/Puritan Inc. hazardous waste site.

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

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

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

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [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. NOAA awarded two grants in Rhode Island, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [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. 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, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. 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 identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of Regional Resource Coordinators (RRC's) work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [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<sup>®</sup>) 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) - OR&R [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 across regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris presentations for local

audiences. The latest MDP-funded project included the removal of debris such as abandoned pilings and industrial waste from the Providence River.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems & Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal and 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 Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) and the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) are two of the 11 Regional Associations. MARACOOS' extends from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod including the estuaries and the continental shelf waters. MARACOOS provides the necessary ocean observing, data management, and forecasting capacity to systematically address prioritized regional themes including maritime safety, ecosystem based management, water quality, coastal inundation, and offshore energy development.

The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) 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.

There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be involved to ensure appropriate coverage in shared waters.

**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 Rhode Island, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management awarded three 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 nature-based infrastructure approaches; a grant to the Nature Conservancy to reduce flood risk in New England focused on increasing the effective use of nature-based infrastructure for flood protection; and a grant to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to increase salt marsh surface elevations and restore natural hydrology to 30 acres of degraded marsh within Quonochontaug Pond.

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# *NOAA In Your State*

# **Rhode Island**

**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

