



NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)

Aircraft Flights and Mission Info Summary

July 2018



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Aircraft Operations

NOAA's fleet of nine manned aircraft is operated, managed and maintained by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) – one of the nation's seven Uniformed Services - based at OMAO's Aircraft Operations Center (AOC). Located at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, Florida, the officers, crew, and scientists from AOC provide capable, mission-ready aircraft and professional crews to the scientific community – see photo below. AOC is committed to the safe, efficient and economical use of NOAA aircraft and has more than four decades of experience developing, coordinating and successfully and safely conducting airborne environmental data gathering missions. OMAO's aircraft fleet includes the following platforms and the web links provide additional photos, information on each aircraft, and the missions they serve:

- [Lockheed WP-3D Orion \(P3\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N42RF]
- [Lockheed WP-3D Orion \(P3\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N43RF]
- [Gulfstream IV-SP \(G-IV\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N49RF]
- [Gulfstream Turbo \(Jet Prop\) Commander AC-695A \(Jet Prop Commander\)](#) [Tail ID# N45RF]
- [Beechcraft King Air 350CER \(King Air\)](#) [Tail ID# N68RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N46RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N48RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N56RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N57RF]

In addition to the fleet of nine, manned aircraft, AOC provides oversight and guidance for all of NOAA's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) operations. Please visit [AOC's UAS Section](#) for additional information.



July Mission Summary

Whether studying severe weather, assessing marine mammal populations, surveying coastal erosion, investigating oil spills, flight checking aeronautical charts, or improving hurricane prediction models, the AOC flight crews, scientists, and partners, operate all across the United States and beyond, including in some of the world's most demanding flight regimes.

The following Mission Summary provides an overview of the status or location(s) and mission(s) for each aircraft for the month. Please note all mission bases, projected flight locations, and mission parameters and requirements may shift based on changing needs and circumstances.

For the latest news from the NOAA skies, please visit the Aircraft Operations Center on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



P3 "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N42RF]

The aircraft is hurricane ready and standing by for tasking.

P3 "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N43RF]

Currently down for re-winging in Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. The aircraft is due out of maintenance in October, 2018; instrumentation and outfitting at AOC will follow. The aircraft will be mission ready in May 2019.



G-IV "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N49RF]

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps

What: Oshkosh Airventure Air Show

When: July 22-25 pending hurricane flight tasking

Where: Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Why: The EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) sponsored [Oshkosh Airventure](#) is the largest air show and fly-in in the United States. The G-IV will be on display for the public to view and chat with the (no tours inside).



Jet Prop Commander [Tail ID# N45RF]

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey Grav-D Program](#).

What: Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D)

When: July 1-20

Where: Training flights out of AOC in Lakeland, Florida.

When: July 21 - September 1

Where: Based at Pasco, Washington, the aircraft will conduct flights over Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Why: Grid pattern flight lines will be flown at 20,000 feet over the Northwest United States while collecting GPS and inertial data to update the U.S. vertical datum. A vertical datum is a base measurement point (or set of points) from which all elevations are determined.



King Air [Tail ID# N68RF]

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey's Coastal Mapping Program](#).

What: Coastal Mapping

When: Present - July 25

Where: Based out of Cleveland, Ohio, and Duluth, Minnesota, with flights planned over Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Why: Coastal mapping flights provide critical baseline data to help accurately map the U.S. shoreline. The data is important for national security, maritime shipping, and navigation.

Twin Otter [Tail ID# N46RF]

Training flights planned out of AOC in Lakeland, Florida.

Twin Otter [Tail ID# N48RF]

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service \(NMFS\), Northeast Fisheries Science Center \(NEFSC\)](#).

What: North Atlantic Right Whales

When: Present - July 31

Where: Based out of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. The survey area will cover coastal waters off the Maritime Provinces.

Why: The objectives of this project are to provide real time sighting information to commercial shipping interests in an effort to reduce ship collisions, to better understand the distribution and abundance, and to collect photographic images. With as few as 400 remaining, surveillance flights to track their migration patterns are important for conservation and recovery efforts.



Twin Otter [Tail ID# N56RF]

Project 1:

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service \(NFMS\)](#), [Alaska Regional Office \(ARO\)](#).

What: Steller Sea Lions

When: Present - July 11

Where: Based out Dutch Harbor and Adak, Alaska, with flights over Alaska.

Why: As part of the *Marine Mammal Protection Act*, the purpose of this project is to monitor the western population stock and recovery efforts of Steller Sea Lions from Endangered Species status.

Project 2:

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service \(NFMS\)](#), [Alaska Regional Office \(ARO\)](#).

What: Harbor Seals

When: July 13 - July 16

Where: Based out Anchorage, Alaska, with flights over Alaska.

Why: As part of the *Marine Mammal Protection Act*, the purpose of this project is to monitor the western population stock and recovery efforts of Harbor Seals from Endangered Species status.

Project 3:

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research \(OAR\)](#) and [Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory \(PMEL\)](#).

What: Arctic Heat

When: July 29 - August 4

Where: Based out of Kotzebue, Alaska. Survey area includes the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

Why: The purpose of this project is to perform near-surface data collection that will lead to improvements in weather and sea-ice forecasting in the Pacific Arctic.

Twin Otter [Tail ID# N57RF]

Who: Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey's Coastal Mapping Program](#).

What: Coastal Mapping

When: Present - September 30

Where: Gulf Coast of Florida and Intracoastal Waterway. Bases are TBD.

Why: These flights provide critical baseline data to help accurately map the U.S. shoreline. The data is important for national security, maritime shipping, and navigation.