



NOAA *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

U.S. Department of Commerce

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

manages a \$3.7 billion budget and over 12,500 employees dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events while providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas, protects and guides our use of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment which sustains us all.

To achieve its mission, NOAA's focus through 2010 will be on four MISSION GOALS and a MISSION SUPPORT GOAL:

1. Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management,
2. Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond,
3. Serve society's needs for weather and water information,
4. Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation,
5. Provide organizational excellence and mission support.

NOAA, a Commerce Department agency, provides these services through: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; and program units such as NOAA's Office of Program Planning and Integration and NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations.

NOAA's National Weather Service

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. In performing this critical mission, NWS provides for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS infrastructure facilitates a national and international data and products that, in turn, serve other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

NOAA's National Ocean Service

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) endeavors to balance our use of coastal and ocean resources today with the need to protect, preserve, and restore these priceless realms for future generations. NOAA Ocean Service collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about coastal resource conditions, issues, and problems. NOAA Ocean Service's unique ability to the nation rests on its ability to carry out studies on a national scale, to sustain long-term monitoring assessment of natural resources, and to provide a variety of products and services to the nation.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is responsible for the stewardship for the world's largest exclusive economic zone. NOAA Fisheries protects and preserves the Nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, fisheries management, law enforcement, and habitat conservation. NOAA Fisheries has both domestic and international responsibilities, and is a leading voice for the economic benefits that can be derived from sustainable use and conservation of living marine resources.

NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) observes our Earth, our oceans, and our atmosphere every day and uses these observations to benefit all people and sectors of society. Composed of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites for short-range warning and "nowcasting," and polar-orbiting environmental satellites for longer term forecasting, the system provides the U.S. space-based component of a global monitoring system. NESDIS provides data and information to a broad spectrum of users, for example, NOAA forecasters issuing storm warnings, researchers studying the environment, and national and international research agencies.

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (NOAA Research), NOAA's primary research and development organization, studies the Earth system from the deep ocean to the sun. NOAA Research develops the products and services that help us understand and predict environmental changes on the local to global scales and at time scales from days to centuries. Research, conducted at in-house laboratories and by extramural programs, focuses on enhancing our understanding of environmental phenomena. The NOAA Research network consists of 12 internal research laboratories, 30 Sea Grant university research programs, six undersea research centers, a research grants program through the Office of Global Programs and 13 cooperative institutes with academia.

NOAA's Office of Program Planning and Integration

NOAA's Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI) is leading the implementation of NOAA's Strategic Vision by: developing and updating NOAA's Strategic Plan, promoting the development of effective programs by integrating talent, resources, and capacity across NOAA and managing designated programs using matrix principles.

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO) mission is to manage, operate and maintain the Nation's largest civil fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, which collect data for NOAA's environmental stewardship assessment and prediction programs. NMAO also manages NOAA's Dive Program and the NOAA Commissioned Corps, the Nation's seventh uniformed service. The NOAA fleet supports a wide range of marine activities, including fisheries and coastal research, nautical charting, and long-range ocean and climate studies. NOAA's ships are specially equipped and designed to support the agency's programs, and have capabilities not found in the commercial fleet. Like the ships, NOAA aircraft are specially modified to carry instrument packages appropriate for NOAA's missions and are unique in their ability to support the agency's atmospheric and a wide range of other research programs. NOAA aircraft operate throughout the world, providing a wide range of research and survey capabilities, from weather research, hurricane surveillance, to snowpack surveys for flood prediction and water resource management, to coastline mapping for erosion studies, to marine mammal surveys.

In addition, NOAA research and operational activities are supported by the Nation's seventh uniformed service, the NOAA Corps, a commissioned officer corps of men and women who operate NOAA ships and aircraft, as well as serve in the agency's research laboratories and program offices throughout the nation and in remote locations around the world.
