



OFFICE OF COAST SURVEY

[HTTP://NAUTICALCHARTS.NOAA.GOV/](http://NAUTICALCHARTS.NOAA.GOV/)

CAPT Steve Barnum, Director
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MISSION: Providing the nation with navigation products and information for transportation safety and to make sound decisions in U.S. coastal and ocean waters.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Navigation services
- Hydrographic surveys
- Mapping and nautical charting
- Cartographic/hydrographic technology research and development
- Marine modeling

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DRIVERS

Legislative Drivers:

- Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments
- Coast and Geodetic Survey Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Coral Reef Conservation Act

Policy Drivers:

- Ocean Action Plan
- Committee on the Marine Transportation System National Strategy
- Ocean Research Priorities Plan
- Gulf of Mexico Regional Alliance
- West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Coastal Enterprise Report
- Homeland Security National Response Framework

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

- **Budget Line:** Mapping and Charting Base, Joint Hydrographic Center, Electronic Navigational Charts, Address Survey Backlog
- **FY08 Budget:** \$85.6 million
- **Personnel:** 226 FTE

KEY PARTNERS

- U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency
- State transportation and port authorities
- Commercial and recreational mariners
- U.S. Power Squadrons

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Surveying the coast following deadly and costly hurricanes and tropical storms** with success due to NOAA's rapid response survey capabilities and pre-planning efforts with Gulf Coast maritime authorities. NOAA's Navigation Response Teams and a new torpedo-shaped autonomous underwater vehicle surveyed critical shipping lanes for navigational obstructions on the sea floor. Additionally, the Office of Coast Survey's regional Navigation Managers worked directly with port authorities and pilot organizations to determine if ports and shipping lanes were safe for vessel traffic.
- **Finding, reporting, and removing navigation hazards throughout the Nation's ports.** From charting and notifying mariners about a 600-pound World War II-era torpedo in the Gulf of Mexico to locating for removal 600 tons of rock hazards from the entrance to Port Fourchon, Louisiana, the Office of Coast Survey was hard at work responding to survey requests near some of the Nation's busiest ports.
- **Improving the quality and efficiency of navigation products**, which is the goal of Nautical Charting System II, a project initiated in 2004 that aims to redefine the production of the Office of Coast Survey's navigation products. Tying together legacy applications with streamlined workflows, this system will better manage data and output timely, consistent, and up-to-date navigation products.
- **Publishing new editions of nautical charts** that depict the boundaries of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the newly designated Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, Ship Reporting System Areas, and special zones known as "Areas to be Avoided." The updated nautical charts will help mariners navigate the waters of the monument's remote and pristine 1,200-mile stretch of coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Together with the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, putting into motion plans to replace existing surveying vessels and **upgrade and modernize NOS's hydrographic data collection fleet.** Two new vessels are currently under construction and the NOAA Ship *Rainier* added a new survey launch that features increased speed, expanded deck space, and an updated interior layout.
- Releasing a **new version of the Web mapping portal NowCOAST** (<http://nowcoast.noaa.gov/>) that provides users with near real-time coastal environmental information, including weather forecasts and global sea-surface temperature analyses. NowCOAST is used to help recreational and commercial mariners, emergency responders, coastal managers, coastal ocean modelers, marine educators, and others plan and manage coastal uses.

ORGANIZATION

- The **Coast Survey Development Laboratory** provides many of the tools required to carry out the mission of the Coast Survey, including exploring and developing new and efficient techniques to accomplish the Coast Survey mission.
- The **Hydrographic Surveys Division** directs programs for ship and shore-based hydrographic survey units and conducts general hydrographic survey operations.
- The **Marine Chart Division** acquires and maintains the marine navigational database to construct and maintain nautical charts and related marine products for the United States.
- The **Navigation Services Division** provides a focal point for customer requests and associated responses on charting issues, emergency response, hydrographic surveys, and maintains Coast Pilot Volumes.