

ABOUT NOS'S OCEAN FUTURE ROUNDTABLES

NOAA's National Ocean Service

R O U N D T A B L E S

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) has launched a series of constituent roundtables focusing on NOS programs and initiatives. Hosted by Assistant Administrator Dr. Richard Spinrad, the roundtables also address "cross-cutting" topics, including NOS's role in the NOAA strategic plan, ocean observation systems and modeling. Participants include representatives from industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations, other government agencies, as well as NOAA Ocean Council members and NOS program directors. A report from each of the roundtables will be provided to participants, and a summary will be available to the public after the series is finished. The roundtable series is outlined below:

12/03 **Marine Transportation, Maritime Safety, and Charting and Navigation**

This roundtable is the first in the series and will focus on current navigation, charting and marine transportation issues, and related NOS products and services.

01/04 **Advancing Our Understanding of the Oceans**

This roundtable will review NOS's efforts to observe, model and understand ocean and coastal conditions and processes. Related topics include a national strategy for research, exploration and marine operations, integrated ocean observing systems, model and technology development, and data and information management.

02/04 **Enhancing Ocean Value and Vitality**

While focusing on NOS activities, this roundtable will relate to the role of living marine resources, ecosystem-based management, habitat protection, marine protected areas, coral reefs, marine sanctuaries, and pollution. Fishery regulations and management will not be addressed in this session.

03/04 **Living on the Edge**

The Living on the Edge forum will discuss NOS initiatives related to coastal zone management, protection of coastal habitats, natural hazards, and modeling and monitoring.

04/04 **International Issues**

NOS's international activities, including the protection of ocean waters, integrated global ocean management, and coral reef conservation efforts, will set the agenda for discussion.

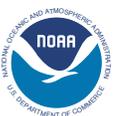
05/04 **Promoting Ocean Awareness and a Stewardship Ethic**

The Promoting Ocean Awareness and a Stewardship Ethic roundtable will explore NOS's education and public awareness activities, including K-12 education, ocean sciences, and informal education.

06/04 **The Future: Sustaining a National Ocean Policy**

This roundtable will examine new NOS initiatives and planning for the future. It will also provide an opportunity to sum up previous roundtables and address strategic planning concerns.

NOS strives to enhance the sustained use of the nation's oceans and coasts, including safe marine commerce and other commercial, recreational, and conservation uses and is poised to respond to the challenges ahead. Ideas from our constituents makes this possible, and we value your interest, questions, and comments.



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W o r k i n g f o r A m e r i c a ' s C o a s t s