The NOS Roadmap Supports NOAA's Priorities and the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan

In March 2014, the Department of Commerce released its Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014 to 2018. NOS contributes to all five goals identified in the plan, with its primary activities falling into the Environment Goal to ensure communities and businesses have the necessary information, products, and services to prepare for and prosper in a changing environment. NOS plays a key role in objectives to strengthen the resilience of communities and foster health and sustainable marine resources, habitats and ecosystems.

In April 2014, NOAA identified four priorities to guide the agency from 2014 to 2016: make communities more resilient; evolve the National Weather Service; invest in observational infrastructure; and achieve organizational excellence. As a Line Office within NOAA, NOS contributes to all four priorities with a key role in the first. Further, NOS's coastal intelligence capabilities support NOAA's position as America's environmental intelligence agency.

The following figure shows the alignment of NOS with the Department of Commerce and NOAA.

COMMERCE *strategic goals*	NOAA *2014-2016 priorities*	NOS *priorities*
#3 - Environment 3.3. Strengthen the resilience of communities and regions 3.4. Foster healthy and sustainable marine resources, habitats, and ecosystems	**America's Environmental Intelligence Agency** Priority #1 - Make communities more resilient	Coastal Resilience Coastal Intelligence Place-based Conservation

Even though "ocean" is our middle name, the National Ocean Service is very much a coastal agency. Our work supports coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems. Our diversity of expertise and activities is one of our greatest strengths. Bringing together scientists, natural resource managers, and specialists, NOS is well equipped to support coastal communities, promote a robust economy, and protect coastal and marine ecosystems.

Navigation, Observations and Positioning
Office of Coast Survey
National Geodetic Survey
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System Program

Coastal Science and Assessment
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
Office of Response and Restoration

Ocean and Coastal Management Services
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA Coastal Services Center
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Partnerships: Key to NOS's Success
NOS works closely with many partners. For example, we collaborate with other federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior, and the U.S. Coast Guard. We work with industry partners on public-private initiatives. We engage regional, state, and local governments on topics ranging from coastal management to emergency response. About 30 percent of NOS's budget is invested in states, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations to carry out our collective mission. We also provide critical data to partners within NOAA, for example real-time oceanographic observations required for accurate weather forecasts.

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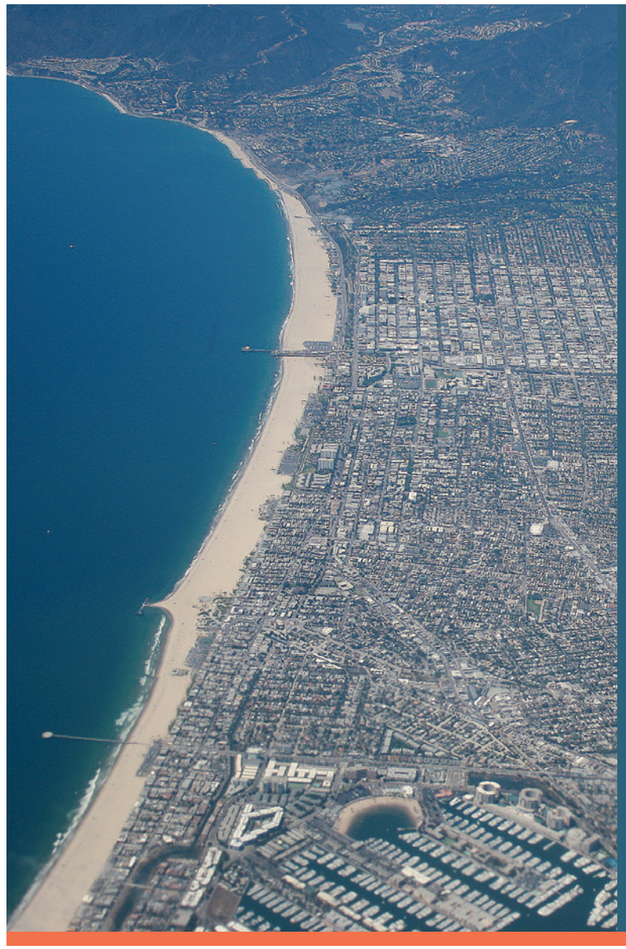
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE | Priorities



In the United States, almost **40 percent** of the country's population lives in coastal shoreline counties.[1] These counties contribute **$6.6 trillion** to the U.S. economy.[2] The health of our coasts is inextricably connected to the health of our nation's economy.

The National Ocean Service (NOS) is the nation's ocean and coastal agency. NOS is the nation's leader in observing, measuring, assessing, protecting, and managing coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes areas. NOS provides science-based services to inform decision making, thereby positioning America's communities, economies and ecosystems for the future.

Positioning America for the Future

What does the future hold?

With economic growth and environmental change, communities will face significant and long-lasting challenges in the future.

A future of higher intensity coastal storms. Higher intensity coastal storms. Storms like Sandy may be more of the norm. In 2013, there were seven extreme weather and climate events that each caused more than $1 billion in damage.

Changing sea levels and coastal flooding. Changing sea levels and coastal flooding are likely to increase the challenges that many coastal communities already face.

Increased offshore development and coastal development. If current population trends continue, the U.S. coastal population will grow by another 10 million to nearly 134 million people by 2020, an eight percent increase over the 2010 Census.

Increasing demand on natural areas and ocean resources. Population along the coasts continues to grow at the same time that there is higher demand for healthy places for tourism and recreation, and food from fishing and aquaculture.

Increased demands on our marine transportation system. U.S. commercial ports directly support more than 13 million jobs. The demand for safe, effective, and resilient marine infrastructure and transportation continues to grow.

How does the NOS help the country thrive in the face of these challenges?

NOS has identified three priorities that reflect our primary statutory and mission drivers and reflect our commitment to navigation services, coastal research and observations, emergency response, and place-based conservation programs.

1 Coastal resilience: preparedness, response, and recovery

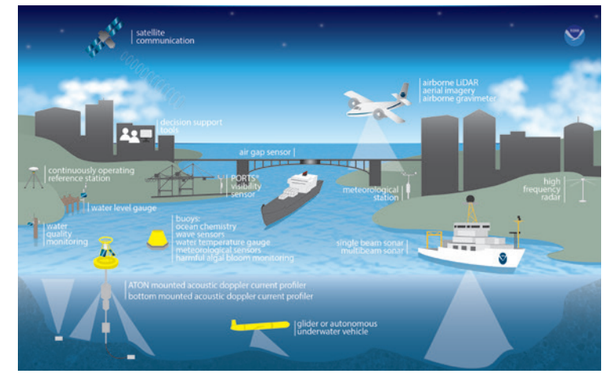
NOS recognizes that immediate and potentially life-threatening events such as hurricanes as well as long-term environmental impacts from climate change are very real challenges to sustaining healthy coastal communities and ecosystems. Achieving resilience requires threat and vulnerability identification, planning, response actions, and recovery activities. In addition, the range of NOS authorities and capabilities in coastal and ocean science, navigation, observation, positioning, resource management, habitat conservation, decision support, technical assistance, and training provide a powerful combination to able communities to advance their resilience goals. NOS is skilled at identifying risks and vulnerabilities and working with decision makers to apply sustainable solutions that increase resilience in the face of change.

2 Coastal intelligence

Decision makers in coastal communities need actionable information to make informed choices for the safety of coastal residents, environmental protection, and economic decisions. Coastal intelligence provides timely, actionable information, developed from reliable and authoritative science to provide insight into present and future conditions in the coastal zone. It includes observations (physical, chemical and biological), measurements, models, monitoring, assessment, analysis, and the forecasts, tools, products, and services that derive from these valuable foundational geospatial data. NOS's coastal intelligence capabilities help businesses and communities make informed decisions about sustainable use of the environment and how future choices, climate change, and coastal development will impact them.

3 Place-based conservation

America's coastal and marine environments are under increasing pressure from a number of stressors and demands. NOS's place-based conservation efforts have been effective in helping to reduce stress on marine ecosystems while providing economic benefits to coastal communities. Although NOS' place-based programs are national in scope and leverage national assets and attention, they are implemented by NOS staff and partners in the places where people live: from Massachusetts to American Samoa. Place-based programs value the experiences of local and indigenous populations and help provide services that combine their traditional knowledge with modern technologies and techniques.



Advancing These Priorities through the NOS Roadmap

The NOS Roadmap is the guide for advancing NOS's priorities over the next three to five years. The Roadmap includes integrated outcomes, strategies and actions that NOS will take to advance the priorities. The Roadmap complements NOS's annual operating plan and milestones but it is not intended to serve as an exhaustive plan of all NOS activities. NOS has a rich diversity of programs, tools and expertise. Each of our Program Offices is highly successful carrying out their respective missions. The Roadmap describes an approach that NOS is taking to better leverage resources and promote coordinated activities that will deliver on the expected outcomes to advance the priorities. While this Roadmap focuses on NOS actions, NOS fully recognizes that successfully realizing these outcomes and advancing these priorities require close collaboration across NOAA, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, industry, and academia.

Outcomes:

NOS has the capability to respond to and manage two simultaneous significant incidents or one major event.

Coastal communities apply relevant criteria and standards to enhance preparedness and recovery.

Coastal communities utilize natural and nature-based infrastructure to enhance resilience to coastal hazards.

Meet the need for expanded commerce in busy ports through enhanced and integrated decision support tools.

Coastal communities will use a decision support system for local to regional predictions of total water level and its impacts in three to five geographies.

Local communities use warnings of ecological hazards to take actions which manage natural resources and protect human health.

Ensure that special places are valued, protected, and preserved in multi-use planning and decision making.

Increase management capacity to ensure protection in NOS special places and sustain the socio-economic benefits to their communities.