

# NOAA's National Ocean Service

Positioning America for the Future: Communities, Economies, Ecosystems



In the U.S., where over half of us live along the coast and more than 78 percent of our overseas trade by volume comes and goes along our marine highways, the health of our coasts is intricately connected to the health of our nation's economy. The National Ocean Service (NOS) is the nation's ocean and coastal agency. Following are examples of how NOS is helping coastal America face change while building a strong economy.

## Strong Economies, Commerce, and Transportation...

- Ships move \$1.4 trillion worth of products in and out of U.S. ports every year. Every ship relies on navigation charts that NOS alone produces.
- Coastal emergency planners and water authorities rely on global positioning accuracy at the centimeter level. NOS is the national authority on global positioning.
- All mapping, charting, and transportation activities are founded in a reliable, accurate national coordinate system. NOS is solely responsible for providing that system.

## Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities...

- Coastal communities need to recover quickly after hurricanes, oil spills, and other emergencies. Immediately after an incident, NOS surveys the ocean floor for dangers to navigation so ports may be reopened; conducts aerial surveys to rapidly assess damage; provides trajectory forecasts for oil/chemical spills and debris fields; and provides the positioning framework needed for rescue, recovery and rebuilding activities.
- Coastal communities are turning to emerging opportunities like alternative energy. NOS provides the science-based information and tools that communities need to manage competing demands for ocean and coastal uses.
- State and local officials need reliable, actionable information to adapt to the impacts of coastal hazards and climate change. NOS provides the scientific foundation and socioeconomic information needed for solid decisions.

## Vital and Productive Environments...

- Every day, commercial and recreational fishers, divers, and tourists take advantage of America's "underwater national parks," generating \$4 billion annually for local communities. NOS is the nation's authority for identifying and managing marine areas that need protection.
- Oil and chemical spills damage environments and disrupt economies. NOS is the authoritative resource for science related to debris, oil, and chemical spills; we provide responders with the information needed to understand the severity of spill and where the spill will travel.
- Ecosystems face complex threats. NOS develops and implements science-based strategies to protect, maintain, and restore the health and resiliency of ecosystems, including in the Arctic region and in response to climate change.

# NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

**DR. HOLLY BAMFORD**  
*Assistant Administrator*

**DR. RUSSELL CALLENDER**  
*Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator*

## **CENTER for OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS and SERVICES (CO-OPS)**

CO-OPS collects and distributes oceanographic observations and predictions to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maritime commerce. The center provides water level and coastal current oceanographic products and measures and predicts tides throughout the nation. It provides the geospatial foundation necessary for many NOAA and other applications.

[tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov)

## **NATIONAL CENTERS for COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE (NCCOS)**

NCCOS conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessment, and technical assistance for managing coastal ecosystems and society's use of them.

[coastalscience.noaa.gov](https://coastalscience.noaa.gov)

## **NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER (CSC)**

CSC provides state and local organizations with the skills, tools, and data needed to manage the nation's coastal resources and communities.

[csc.noaa.gov](https://csc.noaa.gov)

## **NOAA INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM PROGRAM (IOOS®)**

IOOS® supports development of a coordinated network of people and technology that work together to generate and disseminate continuous data on our coastal waters, Great Lakes, and the ocean.

[ioos.noaa.gov](https://ioos.noaa.gov)

## **OFFICE of COAST SURVEY (OCS)**

OCS is the nation's nautical chart maker. OCS collects, manages, and compiles the data and information necessary to maintain the national suite of 1,000 nautical charts, hydrographic surveys that measure water depth, and historic maps and charts.

[nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov)

## **OFFICE of OCEAN and COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (OCRM)**

OCRM provides leadership, direction, and funding to state and territorial coastal management programs and estuarine research reserves; works with coastal managers to develop a scientifically-based national system of marine protected areas; and supports effective management and sound science to protect coral ecosystems.

[coastalmanagement.noaa.gov](https://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov)

## **OFFICE of NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY (NGS)**

NGS develops and maintains a national infrastructure of accurate positioning data. The National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) is needed for a wide range of important activities including mapping and charting, flood risk determination, transportation, land use, and ecosystem management.

[geodesy.noaa.gov](https://geodesy.noaa.gov)

## **OFFICE of NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS)**

ONMS protects and manages 13 sanctuaries and one marine national monument encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of U.S. ocean. Important habitats like breeding and feeding grounds, coral reefs, kelp forests, and historical shipwrecks are represented within the system of sanctuaries.

[sanctuaries.noaa.gov](https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

## **OFFICE of RESPONSE and RESTORATION (OR&R)**

OR&R works to prevent and mitigate harm to coastal resources. It is the primary NOAA office that responds to oil spills and hazardous material releases. OR&R also works with federal, state, and tribal natural resource trustees to restore damaged coastal resources.

[response.restoration.noaa.gov](https://response.restoration.noaa.gov)

## **STAFF OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (IPO)**

IPO is the focal point for NOS's international activities to enhance U.S. and international capabilities for integrated ocean and coastal management.

[nosinternational.noaa.gov](https://nosinternational.noaa.gov)

## **NOS MANAGEMENT and BUDGET OFFICE (MBO)**

MBO is the focal point for all planning, management, and budget activities.