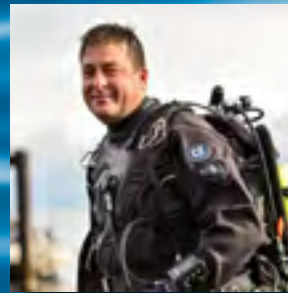
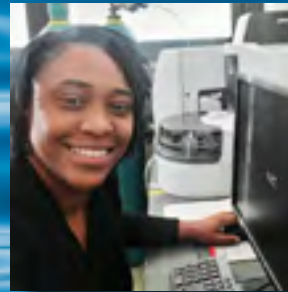


NOS

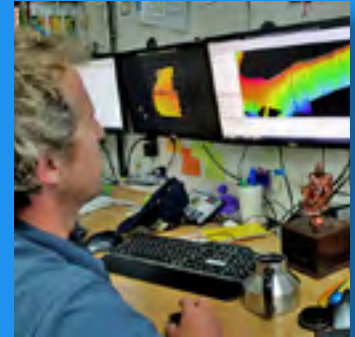
National Ocean Service

CAREERS



National Ocean Service Careers

What's it like to work at NOS?



The National Ocean Service (NOS) provides data, tools, and services that support coastal economies and their contribution to the national economy.

OUR MISSION: Provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our Great Lakes, ocean, and coasts.

OUR VISION: The nation's coastal and Great Lakes communities, ecosystems, and economies are thriving and resilient to current and future environmental threats.



What Careers Are Available?

| NOS EMPLOYEE CAREER PATH EXAMPLES | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| NOS PROGRAM OFFICE | TITLE | POTENTIAL JOB DUTIES | LOCATION | EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND |
| Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services | Engineering and Development Branch Chief | Actively manage water level, meteorological, and oceanographic stations as well as current water meters | Silver Spring, MD (and occasionally on a NOAA ship) | M.S. in Structural Engineering; BEng. in Civil Engineering |
| | Oceanographer | Calculate annual tide and current predictions for the U.S. to help mariners safely and efficiently navigate our waters | Silver Spring, MD | B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and Atmospheric Science |
| Management and Budget Office/ Budget Execution Division | Budget Analyst | Manage the budget and spending for the NOS headquarters by working with leadership and stakeholders to identify priorities and execute funds | Silver Spring, MD | B.S. in Accounting |
| Management and Budget Office/ Communications and Education Division | Communications Specialist | Plan, coordinate, and implement strategic communications and outreach efforts to key internal and external audiences for NOAA Program Office, conveying the accomplishments and impact for all program activities | Silver Spring, MD | B.A. in Government and Latin Studies |
| National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science | Research Ecologist | Design and conduct cutting-edge research to understand how coastal wetlands respond and adapt to rising sea levels and other environmental stressors, such as storms, droughts, and nutrient pollution | Beaufort, NC | Ph.D. in Oceanography; M.S. in Ecosystems Ecology; B.S. in Marine Biology |
| | Environmental Scientist | Provide expert guidance and science products to coastal managers focusing on sustainable aquaculture | Charleston, SC | M.S. in Environmental Science; B.S. in Chemistry |
| National Geodetic Survey | Cartographer | Analyze remote sensing data to contribute to map-making and to support NOAA's Emergency Response aerial imagery program | Silver Spring, MD | M.A. in Geography; B.S. in Geography |
| | Geodesist | Measure and model Earth's changing gravity field to establish an accurate height system for the nation | Silver Spring, MD | Ph.D. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering Sciences; B.S. in Physics |
| | Management and Program Analyst | Oversee budget planning; contribute to accurate performance measurement and milestone development; facilitate engaging meetings; and appropriately respond to inquiries from other agencies | Silver Spring, MD | M.S. in Public Policy, B.S. in Electrical Engineering |
| Office for Coastal Management | Coastal Management Specialist | Review annual grant awards and programs; approve performance measure submissions; and contribute to five-year management plan development | Oakland, CA | M.A. in International Environmental Policy; B.S. in Environmental Science |
| | National Coral Reef Monitoring Program Coordinator | Coordinate teams as they plan their projects, collect data, and share results with partners and the public | Silver Spring, MD | Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries; B.S. in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Continued: Office for Coastal Management | Senior Coastal Hazards Specialist | Serve as a trainer and product developer specializing in effective risk communication and state-of-the-art nature-based strategies | Charleston, SC | B.S. in Geology |
| | Senior Geospatial Analyst | Create accurate economic and demographic data for coastal management decisions and effectively communicate data through maps, applications, technical assistance, and training | Charleston, SC <i>with frequent travel throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, and Caribbean Regions</i> | M.S. in Environmental Studies; B.S. in Biology and Environmental Studies |
| Office of Coast Survey | Navigation Response Team Surveyor | Effectively and efficiently operate and maintain a 34-foot survey vessel; a mobile integrated multibeam and side-scan sonar mobile integrated survey team (MIST) kit for missions involving vessels of opportunity in disaster areas; two autonomous surface survey vessels; and one autonomous underwater survey vessel | Hancock County, Mississippi | M.S. in Hydrography; B.S. in Marine Science |
| | Physical Scientist | Efficiently plan hydrographic (seafloor mapping) projects for NOAA ships and contract partners | Silver Spring, MD <i>(and occasionally on a NOAA ship)</i> | M.S. in Geology; B.A. in Geology |
| | Physical Scientist | Create accurate maps of the ocean floor, which will serve as the basis for updating nautical charts and which will be used by field parties collecting data | Seattle, Washington | B.A. in Geography and Norwegian Language |
| Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | Deputy Superintendent | Manage facility, vessel, and diving operations and coordination with fishery management agencies | Scituate, MA | M.S. in Marine Science |
| | Education Coordinator/IT Support | Collaborate with NOAA partners to promote, develop, organize, execute, and evaluate ocean literacy and stewardship programs in schools throughout American Samoa | American Samoa | B.Ed in Elementary Education, Special Education |
| | Graphics/Webmaster | Create innovative posters, flyers, signs, murals, displays, outreach materials; retouch and archive photos; develop exciting web pages; edit videos; program kiosks | Port Angeles, WA | A.A. in Digital Design |
| | Program Coordinator | Coordinate a marine science and conservation education program, the Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans, which is tailored to raise awareness of ocean issues and motivate youth in traditionally underserved communities to pursue careers in marine science or resource protection | Oxnard, California | M.S. in Marine Resource Protection; B.S. in Physical Oceanography |
| | Research Specialist - Geographic Information Systems | Develop accurate maps, complete exciting research diving missions (as a part-time underwater photographer, videographer and film producer), and develop engaging websites | Monterey, CA | M.S. in Marine Science; B.A. in marine biology |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Office of Response and Restoration | Chemist | Provide emergency chemical hazard assessments for the U.S. Coast Guard when there is an oil or chemical spill in the U.S. coastal zone or in large navigable waterways | Seattle, Washington | M.S. in Inorganic Chemistry, B.S. in Chemistry |
| | Environmental Scientist | Accurately assess damage from oil spills and hazardous waste sites by determining what animals and habitats have been affected by contaminant releases and what can be done to mitigate those effects | Seattle, Washington | M.S. in Environmental Engineering; B.S. in Math |
| | Marine Debris Hurricane Response Coordinator | Coordinate the dynamic long-term response activities for hurricane-generated marine debris (Caribbean) by engaging partners and tracking the removal/disposal processes | San Juan, Puerto Rico | M.S. in Biological Oceanography; B.S. in Industrial Microbiology |
| | Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator | Investigate and develop strategies to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts of marine debris in the Pacific Islands Region; facilitate information-sharing between the regional and the national marine debris community and the national-level Marine Debris Program | Hilo, Hawai'i | M.S. in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science; B.A. in Marine Science |
| U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System | Deputy Director | Manage the office's strategic planning and implementation, which includes budget execution and staffing, in coordination with regional and national partners | Silver Spring, MD | Ph.D. in Marine Science |
| | Environmental Compliance Coordinator | Ensure compliance with environmental regulation conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and federal environmental statutes; explain to the public environmental laws, environmental history, and the importance of understanding NEPA and other environmental federal/state laws that were established to preserve the natural environment. | Silver Spring, MD | M.S. in Law with a specialty in Environmental Law; B.S. in Environmental Management |
| | U.S. Animal Telemetry Network Coordinator | Oversee the Animal Telemetry Network program, including collaborating effectively with regional associations; efficiently managing program funds; collaborating and networking in the telemetry community; and managing the ATN Data Assembly Center, where different sources of telemetry data are aggregated and made available to the public | Silver Spring, MD <i>(and occasionally on a NOAA ship)</i> | M.S. in Ocean Engineering; B.S. in Electrical Engineering |

*The information above is based on current NOAA-NOS employee experience and does not supersede position requirements on USAJOBS.

What advice do current NOS employees have for prospective employees?



Q: Do I need a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) degree?

A: No! NOS has many positions in the communications, budget, administration, media, and education fields, not just STEM positions.

Q: In addition to completing required coursework, what else can I do to prepare for my career while I'm in high school and college?

A: Research your high school and college course options. If you can take classes abroad and learn about how other countries approach coastal and ocean issues, take advantage of those opportunities.

Q: What other skills might be beneficial for my career toolbox?

A: Develop a marketable skill, such as scientific diving or computer mapping. But more importantly, develop your writing, speaking, and social skills, because these are what shape the prospective employer's first impressions of you.

Q: What if I cannot find a job or internship in the field that most interests me?

A: Do not be afraid to stay in a position for a couple years that is outside your primary area of expertise. It could broaden your skill set and help build your network!

Check out these career profiles to learn more about the various positions within [NOS](#)!



Check out these career profiles to learn more about positions within [NOAA](#)!

