

NOAA Provides Safe Navigation for the Volvo Racers—and for You!

NOAA is helping to ensure safe navigation for the Volvo Ocean Race competitors. Many of the products that the Volvo racers are using, as well as educational opportunities, are available to the public at www.noaa.gov.

NOAA Provides Key Support for Volvo Racers

➤ Emergency Response

NOAA is standing by to provide lifesaving help in case any of the Volvo boats face an emergency. Each boat is outfitted with Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs). EPIRBs send out identifying information via NOAA satellites to a NOAA-operated control center in Suitland, Maryland. After pinpointing the location of a distress signal, the signal is routed to a Rescue Coordination Center, operated by the U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Air Force. NOAA Satellites and Information's SARSAT Program also alerts the Volvo Ocean Race Operations Center directly about a potential distress situation, because in many cases, other Volvo race boats would be able to provide the most immediate assistance to another yacht in distress.

For more information:

- www.sarsat.noaa.gov/emercns.html

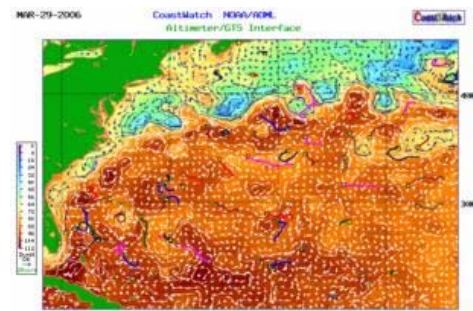


➤ Forecasts and Observations

NOAA provides forecasts of weather and currents to help the Volvo racers plan how to get to the finish line as quickly as possible. NOAA model outputs, provided by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and CoastWatch, are used to create graphics for each leg of the race. NOAA also provides real-time observations of water levels, coastal currents, and other weather and ocean data that—combined with nautical charts and positioning information—help the Volvo racers safely navigate the Chesapeake Bay. The information is used by the Volvo Ocean Race meteorologist in making forecasts for the race fleet, and it is featured on www.oceanraceadventure.net. The Volvo Ocean Race also uses NOAA National Weather Service weather and forecasts that are available to the general public.

For more information:

- www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- coastalpredictioncenter.chesapeakebay.net
- www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/VOR
- coastwatch.noaa.gov
- www.nws.noaa.gov



➤ Charts

NOAA is preparing the chart for the Volvo Ocean Race when it begins Leg 6 from Annapolis to New York City. The chart, developed by the NOAA Ocean Service's Office of Coast Survey, includes the start line, exclusion zones, and other information needed by the race organizers and fleet for an official start and safety considerations. NOAA has worked with the race committee on additional information for the in-port race.

For more information:

- chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/staff/charts.htm

➤ Tracking Whale Sightings

NOAA is helping Volvo racers avoid running into whales during their race legs along the Atlantic Coast. NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources is monitoring and reporting sightings of endangered North Atlantic right whales, based on aerial observations, and provides this information to Volvo race organizers to assist the fleet in avoiding whales during their migration season. Each race boat also carries an educational placard about whale sightings.

For more information:

- whale.wheelock.edu/whalenet-stuff/reportsRW_NE



You Can Use NOAA—Even if You're Not a Volvo Racer

NOAA is delighted to be able to share science and information with attendees at events associated with the Volvo Ocean Race's time in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as with people around the world via the internet.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, with funding and support primarily from the NOAA Ocean Service and NOAA Fisheries, worked with Ocean Race Chesapeake and other organizations to develop a web site, **Ocean Race Adventure**, that uses the Volvo Ocean Race to teach about weather and ocean sciences. The web site includes an online ocean science program, including a contest about the race, and other weather and environmental information from the Chesapeake Bay to around the globe.

For more information:

- www.oceanraceadventure.net



Thomas Jefferson, NOAA's newest hydrographic survey ship, operated by the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, is featured at the Baltimore Waterfront Festival. The 208-foot ship will be in port for three days and will be open for public tours and gatherings, showcasing the expertise of the NOAA Commissioned Corps and NOAA civilian wage mariners as well as the ship's state-of-the-art survey and technological capabilities. In Annapolis, visit the 56-foot **Bay Hydrographer**, a multipurpose ship that primarily collects data used to update navigation charts.

For more information:

- www.oma.noaa.gov/publications.tjfler.pdf
- nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/bayhydro/index.htm
- www.noaacorps.noaa.gov



While you are in Baltimore, be sure to stop by the Maryland Science Center to see more NOAA technology in action, including the **Magic Planet** and plasma screen that are part of the Maryland Science Center's role as a Maryland Official Race Tracking Station.