

# Appendix D. Major Data Sets and Observations

## D.1 Major Data Sets and Observations Managed by the NOAA National Data Centers (NNDC)

ASOS	Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS). Meteorological data and observations from approximately 900 NWS and FAA weather observing sites employing the ASOS.
CARDS	Comprehensive Aerological Reference Data Set (CARDS). A data set of global upper-air data from radiosonde observations.
COADS	Comprehensive Ocean Atmosphere Data Set (COADS). A data set of global marine surface meteorological observations from the global oceans taken by observers aboard U.S. and foreign vessels.
COOP	Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) Network. Data set containing the daily maximum and minimum temperatures and precipitation from approximately 8,000 sites of the U.S. volunteer observing network operated by the NWS.
DMSP	Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP). Environmental data collected by DMSP satellites to monitor meteorological, oceanographic, and space weather conditions in support of operational requirements of the DoD, as well as other sectors of the Federal government.
EOS	Earth Observing System (EOS). Environmental data from the NASA Earth Observing Satellite system.
GHCN	Global Historical Climatology Network (GHCN). A data set of daily temperature, pressure, and precipitation data from a network of global stations with long-series data for the purpose of monitoring global change.
GOES	Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES). Environmental data and derived imager/sounder products from GOES satellites.
NEXRAD	Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD). Data from the Next Generation Weather Radar system, which comprises approximately 180 Weather Surveillance Radar-1988 Doppler (WSR-88D) sites throughout the United States and selected overseas locations. This system is a joint effort of the United States Commerce Department, Defense Department, and Transportation

Department. The controlling Agencies are the National Weather Service (NWS), the Air Weather Service (AWS), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- NPOESS National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS). Environmental data collected by the single, national program that will result from the merging of the military and civilian operational meteorological satellite systems. The NPOESS is designed to employ three or more satellites to integrate remote sensing, surface data collection, and search and rescue payloads. This system will eventually replace both the POES and DMSP systems.
- NPP NPOESS Preparatory Program (NPP). Environmental data collected by NASA satellites that will be prototyping the instrumentation expected to be aboard the converged NOAA/DoD NPOESS satellites.
- POES Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES). Level 1b environmental data and derived products from NOAA's polar orbiting satellites.
- USHCN U.S. Historical Climatology Network (USHCN). Contains a subset of COOP data from a network of sites with long-series observations—some beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century—and data that have been validated and corrected for biases to monitor climate change.

## D.2 Representative Environmental Stewardship Data Sets and Observations Managed by NOAA Centers of Data

- CALCOFI** California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CALCOFI). Long-term California Current pelagic ecology time-series data from more than 30 research-vessel cruises by a consortium of marine research institutions since 1951. Includes approximately 50,000 plankton samples and 20,000 hydro casts.
- CORS** The National Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) Network. The CORS Network collects and distributes Global Positioning System (GPS) observational data sets to support 3-dimensional positioning. These data are made available around-the-clock on the World Wide Web.
- EFH** Essential Fisheries Habitat Consultation Tracking System (EFH). A database of NMFS consultations and recommendations regarding EFH permit requests, as required by Congressional mandate.
- MORATORIUM PERMITS**  
Vessel Moratorium Permits. Permits for Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands under a program to place a moratorium on new entries into the fisheries for 3 years.
- MRFSS** Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics System (MRFSS). Recreational fishing catch-effort data used to estimate the impact of marine-recreational fishing on the Nation's marine resources.
- NOSHDB** National Ocean Service (NOS) Hydrographic DataBase (HDB). The HDB contains the entire NOS digital hydrographic archive, covering approximately 5,000 surveys. It is available to the public on CD-ROM.
- NPAC** North Pacific Commercial Fisheries Data (NPAC). Confidential commercial catch-effort data collected at sea by observers aboard vessels fishing on the Northwest and Alaska fishing grounds.
- NWLON** National Water-Level Observation Network (NWLON). This network is presently composed of 175 water-level stations, including 36 stations in the Great Lakes. More than 80 of the stations have been in continuous operation

for more than 50 years, including nine stations in operation for more than 100 years.

- PORTS Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems (PORTS). A network of real-time reporting water-level and current stations in major U.S. harbors. Each of the six PORTS has from one to four current meters in operation at any one time. Long-term ancillary data sets being collected include water temperature and density, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, and air temperature.
- PPS Processed Products Database (PPS). Information from fishery product processors and distributors on products, plants, and employment.
- SVDBS Research Surveys DataBase System (SVDBS). A time series of fish and invertebrate ecology abundance and distribution data collected by historical research vessel trawl surveys in the Northeast region.
- WPLLOD Western Pacific Long-line Observer Data (WPLLOD). Commercial catch and sea turtle, seabird, and marine mammal interaction data collected by observers at sea in the western Pacific.