

10_03_2007

[NCCOS EMS](#)

NCCOS Completes Successful Audit to Assure Environmental Stewardship at CCFHR

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Environmental Management System (EMS) Audit for the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) was conducted September 10-14, 2007 by six members of the NCCOS EMS Audit Team. Preliminary comments by the EMS Audit Team indicate that CCFHR had a successful audit. The primary objectives of the audit were (1) to measure stewardship of natural resources by CCFHR and its employees to support NCCOS's mission and balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals, and (2) to discern how CCFHR builds effective natural resource and environmental stewardship in the private, local, state, and tribal sectors through education, technical assistance, and outreach. Audit Team members (two members per team) conducted twenty minute individual employee interviews. CCFHR senior management was interviewed individually for several hours by the EMS Audit Team. The official report is expected by mid November, 2007. For more information contact David Johnson at (252) 728-8746 or David.Johnson@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

10_17_2007

[NCCOS EMS](#)

EMS Implementation Leads to Reduced Costs and Increased Efficiency in Laboratory Analyses

Scientists at the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research have incorporated new analytical technologies to significantly reduce usage of solvents in daily operations. The new technologies allow for automated chemical analysis combining two or more analytical detection techniques simultaneously in efforts to identify toxins and other chemical analytes of interest. This innovation reduces the use of solvents by combining sequential operations into one. This reduces research time, saves solvent and chemical usage, significantly reduces disposal amounts and costs, and is an important action component in NCCOS's Environmental Management System. For more information contact Peter Moeller at (843) 762-8867 or Peter.Moeller@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Charleston Lab, go to: <http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=general&pageName=Charleston%20home%20page>

12_12_2007

[NCCOS EMS](#)

Hazardous Waste Removal Plan Improves Environmental Stewardship

A first-ever timetable for collection of hazardous waste will further the role of the National Centers For Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) in protecting environmental and public health at its coastal facilities. With the new schedule, which began in September, employees move hazardous waste into an on-site hazmat storage bunker once a month

and the collected waste is shipped out every six months. Smaller quantities in the laboratories will reduce potential exposure and injury to workers. During hurricane season, smaller quantities in the bunkers will mean less chance of contaminated water sources and airborne contaminants. The plan also helps NCCOS become compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and state regulations. For more information, contact Joseph Bizzell at (252) 728-8718 or Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

12_12_2007

NCCOS EMS

Stormwater Plan will Safeguard Estuarine Waters while Educating the Public

Contractors have completed an innovative stormwater development plan designed to safeguard estuarine waters surrounding a National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) facility. The plan, distributed in October, recommends several techniques for improving runoff from Pivers Island, North Carolina. These techniques include oil-water separator technology, check dams, cisterns, infiltration through wetland areas, and Smart Sponge filters designed to trap oil and destroy bacteria. A proposed educational trail will allow the public to observe these practices in use. Once implemented, the techniques will upgrade the quality of discharge waters, improve the island's appearance, and serve as a model for new approaches to reduce adverse impacts of runoff. The plan is a collaborative effort between the NCCOS Center for Fisheries and Habitat Research, the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Duke University Marine Laboratory, all of whom share the island. The three institutions will now seek funding for implementation of the plan. For more information, contact Carolyn Currin at (252) 728-8749 or Carolyn.Currin@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

01_16_2008

NCCOS EMS

CCFHR Personnel Learn about NCCOS EMS Policies

A National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science facility conducted Environmental Management System (EMS) awareness training in its auditorium January 8, 9, and 11. Although EMS online training is an annual requirement, personnel are unable to submit questions or to voice concerns while using that method. As a result, EMS representatives held the training as a public forum. This allowed personnel to attend a presentation, voice concerns and ask questions of their center EMS representatives. For more information, contact Joseph Bizzell at (252) 728-8718 or Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

01_31_2008

SSMC Tenant Board Meetings

Purpose

Tenant Board Meetings are held quarterly to ensure ample dialogue, information exchange, dissemination and coordination amongst tenants at the Silver Spring Metro Center Campus (SSMC) and National Capital Region (NCR).

Facilities Operational Initiatives:

Energy Conservation Initiatives

The SSMC Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Project has evolved and been renamed the Energy Audit Study. This effort was brought to NOAA by Foulger-Pratt as an effort to reduce energy. Since the inception, NOAA has contracted with Washington Gas Company (WGC) to conduct a Preliminary Energy Audit Study. NOAA/AGO is scheduling a kick off meeting for the Study by WGC. A report by WGC will identify areas of concern that would require a more in-depth study to determine action needed to reduce energy consumption, resulting in cost savings.

Science Center Dimming System Replacement

The dimming system for the lighting in the Science Center is scheduled to be replaced during of the week of March 10-14, 2008. Once installed the system will allow for better control of the lights, tenants will be able to preset lighting scenes when necessary. The dimming system for the NOAA Auditorium was replaced in May 2007.

Cooling Tower Replacement – Campus-wide

The Cooling Tower equipment for SSMC II, III and IV has reached the end of its useful life cycle of approximately fifteen years. As a result, a determination has been made for equipment replacement over the next three fiscal years. The first replacement is scheduled for fiscal year 2008 and has been approved in the FY2008 Tenant Board Budget. Each unit will be examined and a determination made regarding the upgrade/replacement required.

Aerator Replacement – LEED Requirement

Foulger-Pratt replaced aerators on all bathroom and kitchen sinks on campus. This initiative is directly related to the mandate to ensure compliance with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirement for certification (SECO is aware and supports this initiative). Building Management has received a few complaints concerning the additional time it takes to fill coffee pots or containers. However, no major complaints have been expressed as we continue to educate the tenants on the environmental mandates for efficiency.

02_13_2008

NCCOS EMS

CCEHBR Staff Participate in Community Cleanup

On February 2, staff from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's (NCCOS) Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) volunteered in their first Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup of the year. Nine volunteers filled 17 bags of trash along a particularly well-littered mile of road in Charleston County, SC. CCEHBR volunteers have participated in this community service project three times a year for the past 18 years and have filled a total of 829 bags of trash

representing 6.23 tons of litter. For more information, contact Pete Key at (843) 762-8596 or Pete.Key@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Charleston Lab, go to: <http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=general&pageName=Charleston%20home%20page>

03_05_2008

NCCOS EMS

Recycling Building Materials Illustrates NCCOS EMS Resourcefulness

Staff at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) took recycling to new heights the week of February 17 when they salvaged roofing materials from a demolished outbuilding. During demolition of an old dive locker, maintenance staff removed the entire roof and used the material to construct a new generator building. Staff also removed weather-resistant double doors and vinyl from other buildings slated for demolition, and reused this material for the generator building. Staff's decision to reduce waste while saving money illustrates their commitment to NOAA's Environmental Management System policies. The demolition is a part of ongoing efforts to modernize the aging CCFHR campus. Construction crews currently are dismantling and awaiting permit approval to remove three additional buildings: a larval laboratory building, a seawater laboratory building, and a statistics building. For more information, contact David Johnson at (252) 728-8746 or David.Johnson@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

NCCOS EMS Continues to Improve Environmental Awareness and Involvement throughout the Organization

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Environmental Management System (EMS) Team conducted an annual review to discuss upcoming internal (June 2008) and external (November 2008) audits. At the workshop, held February 25-29, 2008 at the NCCOS Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, SC, participants reviewed EMS aspects and impacts and went over Executive Order 13423 "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management" which establishes more aggressive goals and directs Federal agencies to implement sustainable practices. All local EMS Facility Teams met by phone to review the Charter, clarify roles and responsibilities of each facility team, and provide a briefing on the planned audits. They also considered plans aimed at improving environmental stewardship and energy conservation within NCCOS. Meeting minutes and additional information will be distributed by next week and posted on the NCCOS EMS website at <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/>. For more information, contact your NCCOS EMS Representative or Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS, go to: <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

03-12-2008

NCCOS EMS

Laboratory Benches and Cabinetry Get New Life at Corals Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina

The Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) recycled bench tops and associated cabinetry into its new corals research building. The laboratory benches and cabinetry were removed from marine biotoxins labs being renovated. After decontamination and new paint, the materials are ready for service in the Corals Laboratory. The decision to reduce waste and save money at the same time illustrates CCEHBR management and staff's strong commitment to the NCCOS Environmental Management System. For more information, contact Malcolm Meaburn at (843) 762-8526 or Malcolm.Meaburn@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Charleston Lab, go to: <http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=general&pageName=Charleston%20home%20page>

SAFETY

Quarterly Information Sharing Reinforces NCCOS Safety Culture

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) staff attended a quarterly information-sharing meeting March 6 to review new requirements and issues concerning NCCOS safety and the Environmental Management System (EMS). Topics included new small-boat training requirements, the online safe driving course, safe drinking water and water filter effectiveness, safety accomplishments of 2007, and an updated schedule for mold-remediation projects. The talk also addressed an EMS directive to decrease energy use at NCCOS facilities. The reduced energy use requirement calls for determining baseline energy consumption, and using that information to track energy use over time. Ongoing quarterly meetings at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research reinforce and enlarge the NCCOS safety and EMS culture already in place at the facility. For more information, contact David Johnson at (252) 728-8746 or David.Johnson@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

3_19_2008

NCCOS EMS

Reducing and Reusing Water Lowers Environmental Footprint of HML Operations

Building managers at the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML) have efficiently recalibrated the sensors in a water cooling tower, saving 1.7 million gallons of water a year. When conducting a repair to the tower, they used the opportunity to recalibrate the sensors to the manufacturer's recommended specifications which improved the operation of the supply system and created the large savings in water and budget. This is one of several measures recently implemented at HML to reduce water use. These measures contribute to an effective use of resources as HML conducts its part of the NOAA mission. For more information, contact Martin Burnett at (843) 762-8808 or Martin.Burnett@noaa.gov, or Cleve Robertson at (843) 762-8934 or Cleve.Robertson@noaa.gov. For more information on The Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML) operated by NCCOS, go to: <http://www.hml.noaa.gov/>

THE PEOPLE

NCCOS HQ Welcomes Long-Time Center Staff Member

Bernie Gottholm has been reassigned to National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Headquarters from the Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment to serve as the NCCOS Environmental Management System (EMS) Coordinator. Bernie has been with the National Ocean Service since 1976 as an Oceanographer and has been involved with such projects as the Exxon Valdez Damage Assessment Study and the Northeast Monitoring and National Status and Trends Programs. Bernie has managed several programs and, as such, has acquired an array of management and administrative skills. In his role as NCCOS EMS Coordinator, Bernie will be actively involved with the environmental and EMS activities at NCCOS's five Centers and other subparts of the organization. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS, go to: <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

3_26_2008

THE PEOPLE

It's Official: NCCOS Employee Trades White Collar for Green

Bernie Gottholm has been officially reassigned to Headquarters Staff as the NCCOS Environmental Management System (EMS) Coordinator. As such, Bernie's responsibilities include: authority and responsibility for coordination and management of EMS, providing guidance and oversight, and will serve as liaison between the NCCOS Director, Deputy, and staff. He will be NCCOS's Environmental Management Representative; coordinate EMS meetings, audits, management reviews, and briefings, and have responsibility for documentation and records management. NCCOS also recognizes and appreciates Rick Meitzler for serving as the previous Coordinator, including during its implementation. Rick will continue to be NCCOS's Safety Officer and Environmental Compliance Officer, along with being the Safety Officer and Environmental Compliance Officer for Hollings Marine Lab and the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, as well as their EMS coordinator.

Thanks to both of them, a smooth transition of NCCOS EMS responsibilities from Rick to Bernie has already begun. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov, or Alicia Jarboe at (301) 713-3020 or Alicia.Jarboe@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS, go to: <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

4_02_2008

NCCOS EMS

Regional Conference Continues Eco-Friendly Theme

Organizers of the 16th annual Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium (SEAMAMMS) in Charleston continued the tradition of hosting an eco-friendly conference by incorporating environmental consciousness into different parts of the event. Electronic files were provided instead of printed abstract books to reduce paper waste, and attendees used biodegradable plates, napkins, and utensils. Hot and cold drink cups were made of PLA plastic, a compostable material derived from U.S.-grown corn. Fair Trade coffee was served during breaks, and other food and beverage items were purchased locally from businesses that provide organic and environmentally sustainable

goods and services. For more information, contact Lori Schwacke at (843) 762-8868 or Lori.Schwacke@noaa.gov, or Katie Dombrowski at (843) 762-8919 or Katie.Dombrowski@noaa.gov. (HML)

4_09_2008

SAFETY

Silver Spring Facility Employees Hold All-Day Focus on Safety

To coincide with the National Ocean Service's Safety Day, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Silver Spring Metro Center (SSMC) personnel participated in safety presentations throughout the day on April 9, 2008. All managers, supervisors, employees, contractors, and partners located in NCCOS Headquarters, the Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, and the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research watched a presentation on office safety, which laid out roles facilitating a safe workplace and provided simple safety steps designed to avoid office mishaps. Safety Team members reacquainted staff on the SSMC Occupant Emergency Plan and Shelter-in-Place procedures, SSMC Emergency Procedures and use of the Quick Reference Guide. Also included was a discussion of actions NCCOS is taking to comply with the FY 2008 National Ocean Service Environmental, Health, and Safety Action Plan. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov, or Hal Stanford at (301) 713-3020 or Hal.Stanford@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS, go to: <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

4_16_2008

NCCOS EMS

Three NCCOS Environmental Management System Team Members Complete Required Lead Auditor Training

Three members from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Environmental Management System (EMS) Team, Richard Meitzler (Hollings Marine Lab), Raluca Semeniuc (Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research), and Joseph Bizzell (Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research) completed EMS Lead Auditor training during March 2008. This training is focused on attainment of three sets of defined competencies: auditing, environmental management systems, and team leadership. The course curriculum follows the basic steps of an EMS audit, from preparation and evaluation to reporting and corrective action. Attendees learn auditing processes and procedures using the Guidelines for Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing (ISO 19011:2002) standard, as well as the ISO 9001:2000 and 14001 standards. Upon successful completion of the course and examination, candidates are accredited to the internationally recognized standard and are RABQSA International (<http://www.rabqsa.com/>)-qualified. This training not only helps meet EMS performance objectives, but also ensures future success and the ability to evaluate achievement of environmental performance and sustainable operations. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov, or Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov. (HQ)

SAFETY

NCCOS Promotes Sustainable Workplace Safety & EMS

The Cooperative Oxford Laboratory held annual Environmental Safety and Health refresher training March 31 to April 4, 2008 for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and contractor staff. Training highlighted the in-place safety plans to meet NOAA and regulatory requirements. Training topics included: emergency evacuation, the Hazard Communication Plan, the Chemical Hygiene Plan, the NCCOS Environmental Management System, handling, shipping, and receiving dangerous goods, CPR, first aid, oxygen delivery, proper handling of chemicals, and forklift safety. A facility walk-through inspection was also conducted. For more information, contact Jay Lewis at (410) 226-5193 x119 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov, or Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Cooperative Oxford Lab go to:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=oxford&pageName=Oxford%20home%20page>

NCCOS Supports NOAA Small Boat Safety

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) hosted a "Train the Trainer, NOAA Small Boat Component Workshop" from March 31 to April 4. Eleven individuals from across the U.S. and representing the line offices of NOAA were trained to present an eight-hour course to all NOAA Small Boat Operators (SBO). The goal is to have all SBOs trained in this NOAA Component within the next 12 months. There are nearly 800 NOAA SBOs, operating over 400 vessels at 93 different locations throughout the U.S. At Friday's closing session, the NOAA Small Boat Safety Program Coordinator, Lieutenant G. Mark Miller, called this training a milestone in the NOAA Small Boating Program. Lt. Miller thanked the course presenters, Marine Rescue Consultants, as well as numerous CCEHBR and Hollings Marine Laboratory personnel for planning and logistical support. For more information, contact Paul Bauersfeld at (843) 762-8570 or Paul.Bauersfeld@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR, HML)

NOS Safety Day Recognized Through Safety Meeting

Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research and Hollings Marine Laboratory personnel attended an all-hands staff meeting covering various safety matters on Tuesday, April 8 timed to coincide with NOS Safety Day declaration for the same week. Topics covered were motor vehicle and boat safety; safety during hurricanes, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes for both at work and home planning; and Material Safety Data Sheet preparation and electronic record keeping in lieu of hard copies.. For more information, contact Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR, HML)

Massive Mold Remediation Project Completed at NCCOS Facility

Thanks to completion of a \$440,000 mold remediation project, all employees at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) are now working in a mold-

free environment. The seriousness of CCFHR's mold problem became apparent in late 2005 when a mold assessment at the facility found unsafe levels of mold growth in five buildings. A project to remediate the mold began in 2006 and consisted of two phases. Phase I focused on reducing humidity and repairing building problems that contributed to mold growth. This work included installing thermostatically controlled attic fans, new centralized air conditioning, and air-handling equipment. Phase II then thoroughly removed the mold, and disinfected offices, laboratories, ductwork, and public spaces. For more information, contact David Johnson at (252) 728-8746 or David.Johnson@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

4_30_2008

NCCOS EMS

NCCOS-wide Conservation Activities Initiated on Earth Day Promote Stewardship

Lending a hand in the worldwide effort marking Earth Day April 22, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science facilities started new projects to better the environment. At the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, employees plan to discuss environmental management issues using a new intranet site. At the Silver Spring, MD, Metro Center facility, a member of the Environmental Management System (EMS) team provided two containers—at his own expense—for recycling plastic bags. The two centers in Charleston, SC (the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research and the Hollings Marine Lab), using a guiding philosophy that the best way to show EMS benefits is through the wallet, planned to send out ideas for staff to increase gas mileage with personal and government fleet vehicles and boats. Though individually the efforts are small, adding to an array of other global efforts they can help make a difference. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3020 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ)

SAFETY

Small Boat Operators Across the Nation Receive NOAA Safety Training

The Vessel Operation Coordinator (VOC) at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) has completed NOAA's "Train the Trainer" class, and is now qualified to teach NOAA's component boat classes. CCFHR's VOC is one of 22 NOAA employees trained over the past few months to provide mandatory training to small boat operators throughout the U.S. The required eight-hour class reviews the newly released "NOAA Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual." It also teaches risk assessment procedures, while building leadership and team coordination skills. The training aims to improve mission safety and efficiency for all small boat operations. Small boat operators at every NOAA facility must complete the training by April 2009. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

5_14_2008

NCCOS EMS

Chemical Disposal Agreement Benefits NCCOS EMS

A Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) with ARM Environmental Services of Columbia, SC has led to the recycling and beneficial reuse of 100% of solvents generated at the CCEHBR Charleston and Oxford (COL) laboratories. CCEHBR was also successful in recycling 95-100% of all hazardous chemicals generated in 2007. We anticipate CCEHBR will eventually recycle 95-100% of all hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals generated. The BPA initiated in September 2006 through the NOAA Eastern Regional Acquisition Division was developed to reduce costs to NOAA, promote NCCOS's Environmental Management System, improve efficiency, and commit NCCOS laboratories to dispose of chemical wastes by recycling wherever possible. For more information, contact Jay Lewis at (410) 226-5193 x119 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov, or Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR-Oxford)

SAFETY

NOAA in the Carolinas Conference Stresses Hurricane Preparedness

Emergency managers, meteorologists, academia, and staff gathered May 6 at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) to learn about hurricanes and recent advances in forecasting methods. The daylong NOAA conference featured Jay Barnes, renowned hurricane historian, plus guest speakers from the National Weather Service, including the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and CCFHR. A key forecasting change to begin this year is the NHC's release of real-time forecast data. Data currently are released at nine-hour intervals. NWS staff explained a variety of radar models that improve predictions. They also focused on the many forms of hurricane dangers, ranging from wind and tornadoes, to storm surge and freshwater flooding from rain. On the topic of mariner safety and marine forecasting, experts demonstrated how satellite data compares to buoy data for observations of wave spectra and, in particular, large swells. These observations will improve storm wave forecasts. For more information, contact David Johnson at (252) 728-8746 or David.Johnson@noaa.gov, or Jeff Govoni at (252) 728-8727 or Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>
5_21_2008

SAFETY

New In-Depth Training Will Increase Level of Care for Injured Divers

About two-thirds of all divers at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research have completed a new Divers Alert Network (DAN) course. DAN's Diving First Aid for Professional Divers teaches a higher level of care for injured divers than was previously provided. It also saves time and money by combining courses previously taught individually. All divers scheduled for annual renewal in 2008 have completed the new course. The remaining divers will complete the course when their certification expires in 2009. The course consists of three elements that meet annual refresher training required by the NOAA Diving Program, including CPR first aid, and oxygen delivery to injured divers. It also provides training in hazardous marine life injuries. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

5_28_2008

SAFETY

Local Emergency Personnel Learn about Center's New Emergency Plan

Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) management met with local emergency officials May 14 to explain CCFHR's new Occupant Emergency Plan, and to ask for comments on the plan. Management called the meeting to ensure effective communication with emergency services personnel in preparation for a potential catastrophic event. Police, sheriff, and fire department officials listened to CCFHR's plan for responding to earthquakes, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, chemicals spills, etc. They then toured the facility to see where laboratories are located, where hazardous materials and chemicals are stored, where staff will shelter in place, and other staff relocation areas. Management also provided officials with copies of the Occupant Emergency Plan, as well as with the layout and site plans for the facility. As a means of testing the plan, the Beaufort Police Department offered to conduct a bomb threat drill at the facility in the near future. For more information, contact Joseph Bizzell (252) 728-8718 or Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

6_04_2008

NCCOS EMS

NCCOS Vessel Conversion to Soy Fluid Promotes Environmental Stewardship

Hydraulic fluids for the winch and A-frame systems onboard the R/V Laidly were recently converted to soy fluid hydraulic all-season biodegradable oil, obtained from Environmental Lubricants Manufacturing, Inc. After the change in hydraulic fluid, the safe working load for each system was retested, as required. In all respects, the new bio-based fluids appear to be performing at least as well as the old petroleum-based oils. A switch to bio-based fuel is being pursued. For more information, contact Jay Lewis at (410) 226-5193 x119 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov, or Captain Skip Collier at (410) 226-5193 x109 or Skip.Collier@noaa.gov or icollier@dnr.state.md.us. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Cooperative Oxford Lab go to:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=oxford&pageName=Oxford%20home%20page>

Electronic Work Order Tracking System Will Automate Maintenance Requests

A new system for submitting and tracking maintenance work orders at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) will reduce paperwork to save time and trees. On May 19, CCFHR staff stopped submitting paper requests for facility maintenance assistance and began using the electronic Work Order Tracking System (eWOTS). The eWOTS system serves as a central repository that allows facilities management to search for, and track the progress of, work orders. The system will help facilities management account for spending on facility-related items, and will verify the number of work hours spent to complete maintenance requests. In addition, requests for work order approvals will automatically move through the chain of command, versus manually moving from desk to desk. This will enable staff to more quickly complete

work requests. For more information, contact Ronnie Bradley at (252) 728-7604 or Ronnie.Bradley@noaa.gov, or Randy Grady at (252) 728-7768 or Randy.Grady@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

SAFETY

NCCOS and Partners Improve Boat Safety During 4th Annual Vessel Emergency Preparedness and Survival Awareness Training

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and United States Coast Guard (USCG) joined forces to present the 4th annual safety-at-sea training program for operators, researchers, and other crew on May 12 and 13, 2008 at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, Oxford, Maryland.

Dynamic hands-on training improved the ability of potential crew to respond safely to boating emergencies. Nearly 50 participants practiced donning floatation and survival gear, escaping from hatches, jumping into the water, climbing into life rafts, launching flares, tossing life rings, using an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator, and responding rapidly to bursting pipes, leaking hulls, and other emergencies simulated in a Damage Control Unit. Life boats were contributed by the United States of America Services, Inc., and the USCG supplied the Damage Control Unit. For more information, contact Captain Skip Collier at (410) 226-5193 or Skip.Collier@noaa.gov or lcollier@dnr.state.md.us, or Shawn McLaughlin at (410) 226-5193 or Shawn.McLaughlin@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Cooperative Oxford Lab go to:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=oxford&pageName=Oxford%20home%20page>

Cooperative Oxford Lab's R/V Laidly Commended During Inspection

Rear Admiral Jonathan W. Bailey commended the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory for continuing a high level of proficiency operating the R/V Laidly, in his annual vessel inspection report to the Director of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, dated May 15, 2008. The report states, "there are no specific risk concerns associated with the boat's material condition, management, operations, or level of emergency preparedness. As noted last year, the excellent safety training program by this organization could be a model for other NOAA Small Boat operators." This is the third consecutive year that the vessel has achieved high levels of commendation on vessel operations at the Oxford Lab.

For more information, contact Jay Lewis at (410) 226-5193 x119 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov, or Captain Skip Collier at (410) 226-5193 x109 or Skip.Collier@noaa.gov or lcollier@dnr.state.md.us. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR)

Cooperative Oxford Lab go to:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=oxford&pageName=Oxford%20home%20page>

6_18_2008

The EMS Internal Auditors Have Arrived, Aim Is Eco-Awareness Leadership

Starting this week, various members of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Environmental Management System (EMS) team fanned out to each of NCCOS's Centers and labs with the goal of ascertaining the level of staff participation in environmental stewardship. Through a series of easy questions, the team members need to gauge, without passing judgment, the level of compliance with NCCOS's EMS, which was implemented in 2005. In preparation for this audit, the EMS team produced a series of five Spotlight factsheets and two Eco-notes newsletters for all staff, and updated the look of the website (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/>). This internal audit is in anticipation of an external audit, scheduled for later this year. As Executive Order 13423 makes clear, the Federal government needs to reduce waste, reuse and recycle, and save energy wherever and whenever possible. Simply by having an EMS, NCCOS is at the forefront of NOAA's compliance with the Executive Order. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3020 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ) *Significance:* As NCCOS's early commitment to EMS begins to bear fruit, internal audits are an important method of learning how the program office as a whole is advancing.

NCCOS EMS

Reduced Electricity Use Will Cut Costs and Conserve Energy

To conserve energy and lower the power bill, the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) has officially cut back on electricity use. On June 11, CCFHR management instructed staff to reduce the number of lighted areas within all buildings, while maintaining safety and security requirements. CCFHR implemented the measure after learning of a projected 16.2 percent increase in electricity costs, owing in large part to an increased demand for fossil fuels. This action will enhance the environmental friendliness of CCFHR's Beaufort campus and promote the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Environmental Management System. For more information, contact Jeff Govoni at (252) 728-8727 or Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

SAFETY

NOAA Small Boat Operators Receive Safety Training in Collaborative Approach

Small boat operators from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and NOAA Fisheries completed mandatory training June 3 and 4 at the Beaufort, NC lab of the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR). CCFHR's Vessel Operations Coordinator (VOC), along with a small boat officer from NOAA Fisheries in Pascagoula, MS, trained 13 small boat operators from NCCOS and 11 from NOAA Fisheries. The required eight-hour class reviews the newly released "NOAA Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual." It also teaches risk assessment procedures, while building leadership and team coordination skills. The training is designed to improve mission safety and efficiency for all small boat operations. Small boat operators at every NOAA facility must complete the training by April 2009. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. For more information on

NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

Air Compressor to Enhance Employee Safety and Conserve Energy

This week the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) in Charleston, SC, installed a commercial air compressor on site. Initially purchased as a safety measure to ensure properly inflated tires for federal vehicles and boat trailers, it's also available to all CCEHBR and Hollings Marine Laboratory staff for personal vehicles. The two Center staffs combined commute an estimated two thousand miles per week, and fully filled tires help mitigate driving risks. Further, properly inflated tires reduce fuel use, lowering the cost of commuting and contributing to an Environmental Management System goal of energy conservation. For more information, contact Paul Bauersfeld at (843) 762-8570 or Paul.Bauersfeld@noaa.gov, or Paul Comar at (843) 762-8558 or Paul.Comar@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Charleston Lab, go to: <http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=general&pageName=Charleston%20home%20page>

6_25_2008

NCCOS EMS

Renovated Labs Going Green

The Harmful Algal Bloom and Analytical Response branch of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's (NCCOS) Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research has recently moved into renovated space outfitted with new green products. By means of the GSA Advantage website, the staff is now utilizing environmentally friendly products such as biodegradable trash bags, 30% post-consumer recycled paper towels and paper towel holders and bio-based hand soap. These products will help to reduce the environmental impact of the lab in line with the NCCOS Environmental Management System. For more information, contact Tina Mikulski at (843) 762-8562 or Tina.Mikulski@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) Charleston Lab, go to:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/default.aspx?category=general&pageName=Charleston%20home%20page>

SAFETY

Chemical Fume Hood Inspections Assure Health and Safety of Laboratory Personnel

To ensure Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) staff remain safe from chemical exposure, a certified fume hood inspector tested and certified 13 chemical fume hoods located in nine research laboratories. Chemical fume hoods primarily protect workers from inhaling hazardous matter emitted from harmful chemicals. The hoods draw in toxic and flammable vapors or other airborne contaminants that might enter the general laboratory atmosphere. It is, therefore, important that all fume hoods are functioning properly and inspected annually. Inspectors check for visual smoke

containment, exhaust system performance, air flow pattern, vibration and noise level. The annual inspections demonstrate that the health and safety of laboratory personnel and building occupants is a primary goal of CCFHR management. For more information, contact Joseph Bizzell at (252) 728-7718 or Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov. For more information on NCCOS' Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Beaufort Lab go to: <http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/>

7_02_2008

NCCOS EMS

EMS Internal Audits Complete; Preliminary Conclusions Point to Strong Environmental Awareness, Commitment

An internal audit of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Environmental Management System (EMS) was conducted June 17-25, 2007. The audit ran concurrently at NCCOS's Charleston, SC, Beaufort, NC, Silver Spring and Oxford, MD, and Kasitsna Bay, AK facilities, in accordance with the EMS Audit Plan for fiscal year 2008. Audits consisted of interviews and discussions with staff, on-site observation and inspection, and a review of facility records and relevant documents. The audit determines whether the NCCOS EMS conforms to International Standard (ISO) 14001 for an EMS, meets NOAA's EMS Standards, and demonstrates continual improvement. Members of the audit team found that across NCCOS, environmental commitment is high. A report will be completed and delivered to NCCOS Management for use in the 2008 NCCOS EMS Management Review. An external audit, conducted by an independent organization, is scheduled for the first quarter of FY09. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ)

SAFETY

Safety Given Extra Emphasis throughout June

In general, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) tends to emphasize safety awareness slightly more in June; however, the requirements of operating laboratory facilities, and the nature and timing of field operations dictate that safety awareness be a well-focused, year-round effort.

Silver Spring, MD: NCCOS HQ, the Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, and the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research

National Safety Council handouts were emailed to all staff on CPR/AED, distracted driving, and poison and fall prevention. Also, all staff were encouraged to review the local SSMC Hazard Communication and Occupant Emergency plans, and were encouraged to clean up their office spaces.

Charleston, SC: The Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research and the Center for Human Health Risk at the Hollings Marine Laboratory
The two Centers in South Carolina (including their partner agencies) participated in hazardous materials/chemical hygiene refresher training, and had an all-hands hurricane planning meeting, focusing on emergency evacuation, state and local plans, and best practices for work and family situations. Additionally, the City of North Charleston re-

authorized NCCOS-trailerred boats and tow vehicles to use the convention hall as a hurricane safe haven. Also this month, better management and monitoring of tire pressure in boat trailers and vehicles used by CCEHBR and HML personnel completed its first year. Lastly, fire egress and life safety reviews were conducted and updated for HML and CCEHBR facilities and posted on the HML intranet.

Oxford, MD: The Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research
CCEHBR's Cooperative Oxford Laboratory held its annual boat safety training for all boat users at the facility (and some from NCCOS HQ), consisting of basic boating safety, emergency response, specialized drills, and the use of survival suits and life boats in a pool setting. Hurricane preparedness information was posted, and an email with a link to the NOAA hurricane preparedness web site was sent to facility personnel, encouraging all to review facility safety plans and to prepare for possible disasters at work and at home. Also, a new electronic Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) system, MSDSONline, came into service, and training was provided to federal staff, contractors, and on-site partners. Due to schedule conflicts, the Lab's safety meetings were held earlier, but consisted of emergency evacuation, the Hazard Communication Plan, the Chemical Hygiene Plan, the NCCOS EMS, handling, shipping, and receiving dangerous goods, CPR, first aid, oxygen delivery, chemical handling, and forklift safety. Lastly, staff continues to conduct monthly safety inspections, and Comprehensive Environmental, Safety, Health, and Security plans were updated to prepare for the EMS audits.

Beaufort, NC and Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, Seldovia, Alaska: The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research

Similar to Silver Spring, CCFHR emailed National Safety Council information to all staff on lightning safety, injury rates in the United States, distracted driving, and poison and slip, trip, and fall prevention.

All in all, NCCOS continues to be a safe place to work. For more information, contact Hal Stanford at (301) 713-3020 or Hal.Stanford@noaa.gov. (HQ)

7_16_2008

[NCCOS EMS](#)

Montgomery County Recycling Expansion Benefits NCCOS EMS Goal to Reduce Waste

Effective July 1, 2008, Montgomery County, MD expanded its recycling program to accept plastic bottles, containers, and lids—including jars, pails/buckets, and food-grade tubs—in its recycling program. The Silver Spring Metro Center Environmental Management System (SSMC EMS) Facility Team will be posting signs at each of the recycling stations as a reminder to employees. An email to all NCCOS SSMC staff was distributed providing a link to the Division of Waste Services

(http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dep/solidwaste/collectionservices/material_detail.asp?categoryID=16) where more information on how to recycle/dispose of plastic bottles, containers, and lids can be found. Several staff provided input and information

on this expanded recycling program. For more information, contact one of your EMS Local Facility Representatives (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/nccos/>) or contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ)

7_30_2008

NCCOS EMS

Internal Audit Findings Put to Paper NCCOS's Commitment to Environmental Awareness

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Environmental Management System (NCCOS EMS) Team is pleased to present the final report of the internal EMS audits conducted in June. Emailed to everyone at NCCOS, the report provides a program-wide glimpse as to how our NCCOS EMS plan stands now, with references to each of the centers and labs. The findings and recommendations for improvement show progress at each site, but that continuing local management review is necessary. For the next round of external audits in October or November, initiating the recommended improvements soon would ensure EMS and International Organization for Standardization (ISO 14001) conformity. The team appreciated everyone's assistance during the audits, and they are available to answer questions concerning this report, or to discuss options for future actions under consideration. The report is archived at <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/>. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov, or Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov. (HQ, CCEHBR)

8_06_2008

SAFETY

Eco-Friendly Non-Skid Deck Coating Gets Trial Run on R/V Hildebrand

Vessel maintenance staff at a National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science facility applied a new non-skid coating to a heavily used section of deck to test its suitability and durability. The environmentally safe product contains slip and fall protection materials that should increase the safety of NOAA scientists and boat crew members. The non-toxic, water-based product also deadens sound. If the new coating performs as expected, staff will use it to restore the entire deck of the Hildebrand research vessel. In addition to increasing crew safety, use of this product will reduce the amount of toxic chemicals used in the manufacture and application of the non-skid coating. As part of ongoing vessel maintenance and repairs, the Hildebrand's non-skid decking is scheduled for replacement during fiscal year 2009. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. (CCFHR)

8_13_2008

NCCOS EMS

EMS Language Now Available for Use in Contracts

Example EMS Language for use in Statements of Work for new and existing contracts has been added to the NCCOS EMS web site (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/>). These were modified slightly from language found on the FedCenter web site, initially developed by the Environmental Protection Agency. NCCOS Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives are encouraged to review the language and to begin to

incorporate these statements, or a similar statement that they may wish to develop, that will include EMS into contracts. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ)

8_20_2008

NCCOS EMS

Conference Provides Solutions for Reducing Energy Consumption

The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research facilities management learned to reduce energy consumption at government facilities during the 2008 Government Energy Conference held August 3-7 in Phoenix, Arizona. The national conference, which is held annually, helps federal agencies reduce energy use and costs to meet federal energy mandates. Attendees at this green event learned to identify ways to meet these mandates while effectively performing their jobs. The conference offered training and resources for improving energy performance at facilities. It also provided an opportunity for facility professionals to exchange information and to network with colleagues. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is working to educate and motivate staff to become more energy efficient in order to reduce energy consumption by 20 percent. Information gained at this conference will help CCFHR staff achieve this ambitious goal as part of the NCCOS EMS program. For more information, contact Randy Grady at (252) 728-8768 or Randy.Grady@noaa.gov. (CCFHR)

9_10_2008

HOT ISSUES

Advance Preparations and Emergency Plans Help NCCOS Weather Storms Today and Tomorrow

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) executed its pre-arranged emergency contingency operations plans in advance of Tropical Storm Hanna's landfall in the Carolinas. Many measures taken well in advance of the storm, for any storm, paid off last week. Plans for staff in both Beaufort and Charleston to secure buildings, boats, and vehicles; those facilities close if the order comes. Emergency reports and updates via the NCCOS Emergency Incident Response System (EIRS) help NCCOS Headquarters know conditions at each location and employee whereabouts in real-time. At the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR), management instructs personnel to



report on their status by calling individual supervisors, and by reporting online to the EIRS. Employees seal doors with sandbags and evacuate, then the Center Director, Deputy Director, and Facilities Operations Specialist inspect the buildings and grounds to ensure emergency preparations are complete. Noteworthy preparatory work over the past several years included

demolishing an old trailer laboratory and a maintenance building on the island, which saved valuable time better spent securing the main facility. At the Center for Human Health Risk (CHHR) and Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR), staff preparedness and partner coordination and response are crucial. CCEHBR and CHHR hold an all-hands meeting to alert employees and contractors to possible storm conditions, after which staff implement preparation procedures. The Center has an arrangement in place with Charleston County Emergency Operations Center to send boats and vehicles to covered storage inland. Also, IT staff secure CCEHBR's systems within the facility and take backups of data to a secured inland, off-site location. One week before a storm, CHHR and CCEHBR employees start scouring their grounds for potential flying construction debris. CCEHBR's laboratory in Oxford, MD moves their boat R/V Laidly to a predetermined secure mooring location. After a storm, CCEHBR's director can post a message to the phone system for staff members calling in to notify them of the facility's status. For this event, none of the Centers sustained damage, and all hands reported in safe. For more information, contact Alicia Jarboe at (301) 713-3020 or Alicia.Jarboe@noaa.gov, or Jeff Govoni at (252) 728-8727 or Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov, or Susan White at (843) 762-8993 or Susan.White@noaa.gov, or Geoff Scott at (843) 762-8508 or Geoff.Scott@noaa.gov. (HQ, CCFHR, CCEHBR, and CHHR)

SAFETY

Emergency Evacuation Procedure for Small Boats Promotes Hurricane Safety

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science employees worked alongside National Fisheries Service employees Aug. 29 to practice a small boat evacuation plan in preparation for a Category 3 or larger hurricane. Small boats at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) represent a considerable investment, and if not properly secured, could become a significant hazard during a catastrophic storm. Evacuation plans require CCFHR employees to move all small boats inland from Pivers Island, NC. To practice the plan, workers trailered a 19-foot work boat inland to NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) office in Newport, NC. The cooperative effort between CCFHR and the NWS began last summer when CCFHR employees installed 50 earth anchors in a field adjacent to the NWS office. The anchors create a parking lot capable of tying down 22 small boats on trailers. For more information, contact Brian Degan at (252) 728-8704 or Brian.P.Degan@noaa.gov, or Annie Gorgone at (252) 728-8609 or Annie.Gorgone@noaa.gov. (CCFHR)

9_17_2008

NCCOS EMS

Fuel Oil Shortage Agreement Conserves Fuel for Others' Benefit

The Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) and the Center for Human Health Risk at the Hollings Marine Laboratory (CHHR-HML) facilities are active participants by mutual agreement with their electric & gas provider for fuel switching in times of short supply. This agreement allows them to voluntarily substitute their internal boiler operations to an alternate fuel (such as diesel fuels or fuel oil) upon request, which frees up more natural gas for the provider's non-commercial (i.e., residential) customer base should the supply become limited. This system has been

employed in past years for situations such as ice storms, periods of excessive demand and planned or unplanned service shortages or unexpected service events, such as Hurricane Ike's impact on the Texas gulf coast refinery operations earlier this week. This is a good example of a locally coordinated pre-planned energy saving best practice that works. For more information, contact Martin Burnett at (843) 762-8808 or Martin.Burnett@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR, CHHR)

SAFETY

Emergency Care Certification Classes Held to Promote Safe Work Environment

Staff at a National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) facility completed workplace safety training Sept. 3 to fulfill federal mandates requiring annual certification of laboratory staff, small boat operators, and divers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to teach their workforce how to respond to on-site medical emergencies in the laboratory and in the field. The NOAA Small Boat Policy also requires similar training. NCCOS uses the American Heart Association's Heartsaver course to teach basic techniques of first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automatic external defibrillation, blood-borne pathogens, and proper use of personal protective equipment. About 80 staff members have completed the 8-hour course, and currently are certified to provide basic first aid to co-workers. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. (CCFHR)

9_24_2008

NCCOS EMS

NCCOS's Electronics Stewardship is Golden

For the fiscal year ending September 2008, 100% of eligible computers purchased by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) meet the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool's (EPEAT, <http://www.epeat.net/>) Silver and Gold tiers of environmental performance. Of the 98 laptops purchased this year, 90 meet the criteria for Gold status, as do all 143 desktops, 8 laptops meet the criteria for Silver status; and of 120 monitors purchased, all meet EPEAT Silver status. The remaining electronics purchases, where there is no EPEAT standard, have ENERGY STAR features that will be enabled. The environmental benefits, in equivalents, are as follows: the energy savings are equivalent to 4.01 households (11340 kWh/household/year); greenhouse gas reduction equivalent to removing 2.24 passenger cars from the road (4.62 metric tons CO₂/car/year). Solid waste reduction is equivalent to 1.37 households (1931 kg municipal solid waste/household/year), hazardous waste reduction is equivalent to the weight of 151 standardized bricks, toxic material reduction is equivalent to the weight of 3.9 bricks, and mercury reduction is equivalent to 1.21 mercury fever thermometers. The following equivalents include all materials inputs, including those from upstream sources: primary materials savings equivalent to the weight of 368 full-size refrigerators; air emissions reduction equivalent to 102 metric tons and; water emissions reduction equivalent to 0.24 metric tons. The calculated life cycle-based energy cost savings is over \$24,400. This is yet another example of NCCOS continuing to lead by example in its use of an Environmental Management System (EMS) as the primary approach for addressing environmental aspects and improving overall environmental performance, a part of a continuing effort to help NOAA and the Department of Commerce achieve the

goals of EO 13423. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3020 or B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov. (HQ)

SAFETY

Advanced Emergency Care Training to Improve First Aid for Divers

In a continuing effort to improve emergency care for divers, the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) staff trained four divers Sept. 8 using the Divers Alert Network (DAN) course. DAN's Diving First Aid for Professional Divers teaches a higher level of care for injured divers than the minimum NOAA standard. The training components include Basic CPR and First Aid, Basic Life Support for Professional Divers, Advanced Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries, and Hazardous Marine Life Injuries. Currently, 19 of 24 divers at the CCFHR in Beaufort, NC have completed an advanced DAN course. All CCFHR divers are scheduled to complete DAN's Diving First Aid for Professional Divers by 2009. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or Roger.Mays@noaa.gov. (CCFHR)

Facility Fire Inspection Exemplary

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's Center for Human Health Risk (CHHR) at the Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML) underwent a formal annual fire inspection with the James Island Fire Department on September 17, 2008. The three hour and 45 minute inspection resulted in no findings and no violations. This is "an exemplary achievement in a diverse facility with multiple agencies and the inherent hazard of everyday laboratory activities," according to the James Island Fire Marshal. CHHR staff and HML partners continue to maintain their workspaces in accordance with all requirements of fire safety. For more information, contact Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8842 or Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov, or Katie Dombrowski at (843) 762-8919 or Katie.Dombrowski@noaa.gov. (CHHR)

10_01_2008

NCCOS EMS

NCCOS-CCEHBR-Cooperative Oxford Lab EMS Team Shows Off Facility to NCCOS EMS and NOAA Green Team

A representative from NOAA's Green Team (http://www.seco.noaa.gov/ECS_Teams/green_team/green_team_index.html) and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Environmental Management System (NCCOS EMS) leadership had a chance to see the geothermal Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling system at NCCOS's Oxford laboratory, one lab of the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research. The newly installed system is expected to improve energy efficiency and reduce dependency on propane fuel by using ground water as a renewable source of energy for heating and cooling the main lab building. The system will replace aging facility equipment while attempting to meet Executive Order 13423 goals of renewable energy, and reduce by 30% energy and greenhouse gas emissions by 2015. Also that afternoon, Oxford's local EMS team hosted a round table discussion with the group from Silver Spring concerning local EMS successes, and they reviewed issues regarding the upcoming external EMS audit. For

more information, contact Bob Wood (410) 226-5193 or Bob.Wood@noaa.gov, or Jay Lewis (410) 226-5193 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR)

Green Powered Lawn Mower Completes Six Month EMS Test

To improve its environmental footprint, the Oxford Laboratory purchased a battery-powered push mower this year. This purchase allows the facility to reduce air emissions, natural resource consumption, hazardous materials use, and noise during weekly grass cutting—all NCCOS EMS significant environmental aspects. The Neuton 6.2 mower runs for 45-60 minutes, cutting 1/3 acre of grass on a single charge of its sealed lead-acid battery. Additional batteries can be easily exchanged to continue cutting as needed. Battery recharge takes 8 hours at a cost of approximately 10 cents. Results to date have exceeded expectations; it performs as well as the gas-powered mower, even in tall or wet grass. The change results in a savings of approximately 24 gallons of fuel, and an unknown level of air emissions. It also reduced the need for fuel storage and improved the laboratory's pollution prevention posture during the 24-week trial. For more information, contact Tom Brush (410) 226-5193 or Tom.Brush@noaa.gov, or Jay Lewis (410) 226-5193 or Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov. (CCEHBR)