



CENTER FOR OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS & SERVICES

[HTTP://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV/](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/)

Mike Szabados, Director

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MISSION: To provide accurate, reliable, and timely tide, water level, current, and other coastal information, which supports safe and efficient navigation, the understanding of climate change, coastal hazards preparedness and response, and sound ecosystem management.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Oceanographic predictions, real-time observations and forecasts
- Tidal zoning and correctors for charting and shorelines
- Tidal datums for charting, marine boundaries, and property
- Long-term sea level information to monitor climate change
- Inundation analyses to manage and restore coastal ecosystems
- Data collection, quality control, and analysis standards

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DRIVERS

Legislative Drivers:

- Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments
- Coast and Geodetic Survey Act
- Tsunami Warning and Education Act

Policy Drivers:

- Committee on the Marine Transportation System National Strategy
- Ocean Action Plan
- Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Reports
- Ocean Research Priorities Plan

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

- **Budget Line:** Tide and Currents Data Base
- **FY08 Budget:** \$29.0 million
- **Personnel:** 119 FTE

KEY PARTNERS

- Commercial and recreational mariners
- Coastal zone managers
- Local emergency managers
- State transportation and port authorities
- U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Expanding the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®)** to four new locations in the Gulf of Mexico and on the West Coast while enhancements were made to existing PORTS® along some of the Nation's busiest waterways. NOAA PORTS® provides accurate, real-time oceanographic and meteorological data to mariners and can reduce the risk of vessel groundings as well as increase the amount of cargo moved through a port. PORTS® data are accessible online at <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports.html>.
- **Releasing three new products that use data from PORTS®.** These products include a Web site that delivers a brief paragraph capturing the conditions of an estuary, port, or harbor in real time; a Web site that allows users to customize PORTS® displays to include plots from any station and data type; and an application that allows PORTS® users with Internet access on their mobile phones to view PORTS® data products directly on their mobile devices.
- **Installing NOAA "Sentinels of the Coast"** at four locations in the Gulf of Mexico. These water-level observing stations are built to withstand Category 4 hurricanes and deliver real-time storm-tide data during severe coastal weather events. NOAA water-level and meteorological data are key components of coastal decision making before, during, and after major storms.
- Initiating a two-year effort to **add meteorological sensors to National Water Level Observation Network stations**, with 25 stations upgraded in fiscal year 2008. The upgrades included the installation of wind, barometric pressure, and air temperature sensors, followed by monitoring and validation of the data. NOAA water-level and meteorological data have long been key components of safe navigation, marine weather forecasting, and coastal decision making.
- **Conducting major tidal current surveys** in Alaska, Florida, New York, and New Hampshire to update tidal current predictions at over 200 locations in the last three years.

ORGANIZATION

- The **Engineering Division** is responsible for the engineering design, development, procurement, testing, and maintenance of measurement systems and develops engineering system requirements, standards, and standard operating procedures for the Center's ocean observing systems.
- The **Field Operations Division** operates and maintains the oceanographic and Great Lakes observing systems needed to support the protection of life and property.
- The **Oceanographic Division** assesses oceanographic requirements, plans programs and projects to meet those requirements, and ensures the quality of all data collected by CO-OPS.
- The **Information Systems Division** provides computer-based system and application support services to the Center.