

01\_28\_2009

NCCOS EMS

**Audit Confirms NCCOS's EMS Commitment**

The external auditor's summary report indicate that NCCOS operations are in conformance with all seventeen elements of the ISO 14001:20045(E) Standard. In so doing, NCCOS declared conformance to the EMS requirements of Executive Order. 13423, "*Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management.*". In FY09, we will continue to expand our EMS, continue improving our facilities, and continue to follow the EMS metrics in order to measure our progress, performance, and successes. You all are all to be commended for your efforts and contributions in helping NCCOS to meet this very important goal of achieving such a high level of conformance. Upon receipt of the final full report, that and any additional information will be available on the NCCOS EMS website. For more information, contact Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3020 or [B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov](mailto:B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov). (HQ)

02\_04\_2009

SAFETY

**NCCOS Achieves Zero Lost Time Safety Record**

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) facilities maintained an exemplary zero lost time injury incident ratio for calendar year 2008. NCCOS personnel worked 744,600 man-hours without any lost time incidents for the five NCCOS locations. This safety record was achieved by adherence to safe work practices during all employee activities, including laboratory research, boating operations, field research and collections, as well as daily office activities. According to the National Safety Council and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, this record is extraordinary when compared to industry averages documented under the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for federal agencies. The current BLS industry average rate is 4.24 total case rate (TCR) and the NOAA TCR is 1.28, while Commerce's TCR is 1.06. For 2008, NCCOS had a TCR of zero. These results were validated with the Chief of Safety and Occupational Health at NOAA's Safety and Environmental Compliance Office. For further information, contact Rick Meitzler at (843) 762-8840 or [Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov](mailto:Rick.Meitzler@noaa.gov). (CCEHBR)

02\_18\_2009

SAFETY

**Training Increases Center's Capacity to Complete Critical Field and Lab Missions**

Three Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) and five NOAA Fisheries employees completed an American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid class on January 23, 2009. The Small Boat Operators who completed the class provide critical field and laboratory support for ongoing investigations supporting NOAA's primary mission. The class included CPR, first aid, AED, and blood-borne pathogen training, and complies with OSHA and the National Safety Council standards and recommendations. The training also satisfies the NOAA Small Boat Program requirement for Small Boat Operator first aid training. For more information, contact Roger Mays (252) 728-8798 or [Roger.Mays@noaa.gov](mailto:Roger.Mays@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)

**Small Boat Operations Workshop Increases Teamwork and Small Boat Operational Safety**

Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) Small Boat Operators (SBO) developed annual revisions of Written Risk Assessments and CCFHR Supplemental Small Boat Policy during a three-day workshop in January. In response to the April 2008 NOAA Small

Boat Policy, Small Boat Operators Manuals (SBOM) and Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) for CCFHR small boats and small boat operators were also developed for implementation by April, 2009. The SBOM provides operational information on each NOAA small boat to the operator and crew. The PQS is a proficiency standard for each small boat or task performed on a small boat that every SBO and crewmember must complete to be authorized to work aboard a small boat and/or on a specific mission. Since completion of this workshop, CCFHR SBOs are now prepared to go into the field and complete their PQS requirements. For more information, contact Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or [Roger.Mays@noaa.gov](mailto:Roger.Mays@noaa.gov). (CCFHR).

*03\_04\_2009*

### NCCOS EMS

#### **NCCOS receives a 2009 Energy Champion Program Award**

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) won a 2009 Energy Champion Program Award for conserving energy and lowering energy costs. In compliance with an Executive Order requiring Federal facilities to reduce energy costs, CCFHR facility management reduced the number of lighted areas within all buildings, while maintaining safety and security requirements, and replaced energy inefficient lighting with energy efficient lighting. 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 the Center 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](mailto:Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov), Randy Grady at (252) 728-8768 or [Randy.Grady@noaa.gov](mailto:Randy.Grady@noaa.gov), or Mark Fonseca at (252) 728-8729 or [Mark.Fonseca@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.Fonseca@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)

### SAFETY

#### **Safety Council Provides Information Exchange and Guidance**

The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research's Safety Officer and Deputy Director represented NOAA, NOS, and NCCOS at the North Carolina Federal Safety and Health Council Meeting held February 24, 2009. The council exchanged resource information and received guidance on ergonomic risk reduction, chemical casualties, and decontamination procedures. Council representatives included the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (1970) authorizes regional Councils and Federal Management and Safety Officers are encouraged to serve on these councils. For more information, contact Jeff Govoni at (252) 728-8727 or [Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov) or Joseph Bizzell at (252) 728-8718 or [Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Bizzell@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)

*03\_11\_2009*

### NCCOS EMS

#### **Designer of Laboratory Renovation Project Exemplifies Commitment to Safety and Environmental Management**

The renovation of a suite of 10 laboratories has increased safety, improved compliance with Environmental Management Systems, and demonstrated efficiency in harmful algal bloom research at the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR).

Four in-house laboratory managers submitted designs to architects who translated them into working blueprints for the 10,000 square-foot facility. Features include electrical upgrades, seamless chemical-resistant flooring materials, energy efficient lighting, environmentally friendly hand soaps, reusable paper products, and efficient sharing of lab and office spaces and safe access for visiting scientists, scholars, and the public. The remodeled facility demonstrates powerful and cost-effective benefits to this kind of ground-up scientist and architect collaboration in the design phase, a critical step generally not found in most workplace design and construction programs. The current issue of NOAA World ([http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa/feb2009\\_around\\_1.html](http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa/feb2009_around_1.html)) highlights this unique approach to laboratory design from a scientist's perspective. For more information, contact Tod Leighfield at (843) 762-8631 or [Tod.Leighfield@noaa.gov](mailto:Tod.Leighfield@noaa.gov). (CCEHBR)

*03\_18\_2009*

### NCCOS EMS

#### **Video Conferencing Reduces Carbon Footprint**

During a recent Doctoral oral comprehensive exam, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) staff reduced their environmental impact by using the new IP-friendly videoconferencing system at the Center. Another academic scientist located in a foreign country also participated simultaneously on a similar system. The ability to videoconference and work interactively with the student, including creation of diagrams on a white board, allowed for a thorough test of the student's ability to advance to candidacy while avoiding an estimated 1.4 tons of carbon dioxide emissions that would have been generated had the NCCOS scientist flown to and from the meeting. For more information, contact Mark Fonseca at (252) 728-8729 or [Mark.Fonseca@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.Fonseca@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)

### SAFETY

#### **Recent Training Increases Dive Safety for Dive Operations**

Divers at the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) completed annual refresher training December 10-11, February 5-6, and March 5-6. The sessions included mandatory training in oxygen administration, recognition, and treatment of diving accidents and injuries, dive rescue, decompression tables and in-water diving emergency drills. The NOAA dive master gave lectures followed by in-the-water skills practice on the proper use of lift bags for scientific diving. As a result of having more CCFHR divers trained in the use of lift bags, dive masters now have more flexibility in scheduling divers to complete underwater tasks safely. The training sessions were held at the CCFHR facility and the United States Marine Corps Aviation Survival Training Center at Cherry Point. For more information, contact Brian Degan at (252) 728-8704 or [Brian.P.Degan@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.P.Degan@noaa.gov), or Roger Mays at (252) 728-8798 or [Roger.Mays@noaa.gov](mailto:Roger.Mays@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)

*03\_25\_2009*

### EMS HOT ISSUES

#### **Award Win Underscores Environmental Leadership and Commitment**

As announced in a Commerce-wide email on March 18, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) won a 2009 DOC Environmental Stewardship Award for their Environmental Management System (EMS). NCCOS's EMS ensures environmental goals are a part of all aspects of the Program Office and promotes the highest level of environmental

stewardship. The system encompasses five organizational research centers geographically distributed from South Carolina to Alaska. Jack Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service, said in an email to all of NOS on March 20, “we have all looked to NCCOS to lead the way. This recognition indicates that the time has come for the rest of us to begin down the path. We will be working with all of the office directors to identify opportunities for NOS to lead in this area.” For more information, contact Gary Matlock at (301) 713-3020 or [Gary.C.Matlock@noaa.gov](mailto:Gary.C.Matlock@noaa.gov) or Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3020 or [B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov](mailto:B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov). (HQ)

*Significance:* Because of conscientious efforts to incorporate care of the environment into day-to-day activities, NCCOS employees are making their workplaces even better, and their efforts heighten NOAA’s awareness of the need to remain vigilant and committed to doing what is right.

### NCCOS EMS

#### **Good Environmental Management Promotes Continual Improvement of Recycling Program**

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science’s (NCCOS) report to the Environmental Protection Agency, to comply with the annual 2008 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), shows a continual improvement in the organization’s recycling program. Recycled hazardous materials across NCCOS now include: general chemicals and hazardous wastes, antifreeze, computers, metals (cans and scrap), glass, plastic, paper and catalogs, cardboard, CD-ROMs, building demolition material, furniture, fluorescent lamps, lubricating and hydraulic oils, refrigerants, paint, tires, and printer toner cartridges. A total of 72 tons (8 percent) of the 835 tons of solid waste generated by NCCOS facilities were recycled in fiscal year 2008. This reflects a recycling rate reduction from FY 2007 due to an increase in demolition waste from projects for which there were no recycling options. For more information, contact one of your EMS Local Facility Representatives (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/nccos/>), or Bernie Gottholm at (301) 713-3028 x168 or [B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov](mailto:B.William.Gottholm@noaa.gov). (HQ)

04\_15\_2009

### NCCOS EMS

#### **Chemical Substitution Eliminates Mercury Use at Oxford Facility**

By researching and changing vendors of water quality testing reagents, the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research at Oxford has eliminated mercury-containing compounds from their wet lab facility. Ammonia nitrogen reagents used previously contained 3.3% mercuric chloride; an environmental and safety exposure risk that cost in excess of \$1500 a year in waste disposal fees. Switching to the YSI 9500 photometer and associated reagents resulted in no change in data quality, with costs of the conversion fully recoverable within one year. For more information, contact John Jacobs at (410) 226-5193 or [John.Jacobs@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Jacobs@noaa.gov), AK Leight at (410) 226-5193 or [AK.Leight@noaa.gov](mailto:AK.Leight@noaa.gov), or Jay Lewis at (410) 226-5193 or [Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov](mailto:Jay.Lewis@noaa.gov). (CCEHBR-Oxford)

### SAFETY

#### **Workshop Provides Information on Hurricane Preparedness and Response**

The Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) represented NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science at the National Weather Service’s (NWS) Annual (Regional) Partners Workshop held March 31, 2009. The workshop

discussed decision and support services provided by the NWS within the context of the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Floyd, which resulted in extensive coastal flooding. The North Carolina Coastal Flooding Improvement Plan and the development of a new Advanced Circulation and Simulated Waves Nearshore were described and discussed. The workshop enhanced CCFHR's capabilities in preparing for and responding to hurricanes, thus protecting both employees and government property during extreme events. For more information, contact Jeff Govoni at (252) 728-8727 or [Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Govoni@noaa.gov). (CCFHR)