



## NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Regional Offices, Regional Science Centers and Related Labs and Research Stations

### Regional Offices

**Alaska Regional Office— Juneau, AK:** The Alaska Region of NMFS works with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the state of Alaska, and other federal agencies to sustainably manage living marine resources in the ocean off Alaska. Regional employees oversee the nation's marine steward responsibilities in Alaska, including 70 percent of the U.S. Continental Shelf and the nation's most prolific fishing grounds.

**Northeast Regional Office – Gloucester, MA:** The Northeast Regional Office is comprised of five divisions: Sustainable Fisheries; Habitat Conservation; Protected Resources; Fisheries Statistics; and State, Federal, and Constituent Programs. Key species managed in the Northeast Region include the northeast “multispecies complex” (cod, haddock yellowtail flounder etc...), Atlantic sea

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March 2008

scallops, herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are Atlantic salmon, northern right whales, and Atlantic shortnose sturgeon.

**Northwest Regional Office– Seattle, WA:** The Northwest Regional Office is composed of five divisions: Sustainable Fisheries, Habitat Conservation, Protected Resources, Salmon Recovery, and Hydropower. Key fish species managed in the Northwest Region are West Coast groundfish and halibut, and Pacific salmon and steelhead. Key marine mammal and endangered species in this region are Puget Sound killer whales and Pacific salmon and steelhead.

**Pacific Islands Regional Office– Honolulu, HI:** This office manages fishery programs related to the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the U.S. island jurisdictions of the Pacific Ocean. It is focused on matters relating to domestic and international fisheries management, habitat conservation, and protected marine resources. It provides support for the Department of State in negotiating new multilateral, international fishery management agreements to govern fishing for highly migratory pelagic species in the Pacific; and manages the operational obligations of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty in American Samoa.

**Southeast Regional Office– St. Petersburg, FL:** The Southeast Regional Office is composed of four divisions: Sustainable Fisheries; Habitat Conservation; Protected Resources; and Operations, Management and Information, which houses constituent services and grants. The region manages 175 fish species or multispecies complexes in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Sea under 17 fishery management plans. Key fisheries include the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean reef fish fisheries, South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery, and Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic shrimp fisheries. Key marine mammals and endangered species in this region are right whales, bottlenose dolphins, corals, Johnson’s seagrass, and a variety of sea turtles.

**Southwest Regional Office– Long Beach, CA:** The Southwest Regional Office is responsible for the management and protection of living marine resources and their habitat in the Southwest. Its marine programs cover California and the tuna fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of the Americas. The Office is comprised of three divisions: Sustainable Fisheries, Habitat Conservation, and Protected Species Management.

Complete details on the Regional Offices can be found at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/regional.htm>

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## Regional Science Centers and Related Labs and Research Stations

**Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) – Seattle, WA:** The AFSC compiles and analyzes broad databases on fishery, oceanography, marine mammals, and environmental research. These data are used to develop policies and strategies for fisheries management within the U.S. EEZ, monitor and assess the health of the region's marine mammal populations, and develop the scientific understanding and predictive methodologies needed to implement NOAA Fisheries' ecosystem approach to management. In addition to ongoing survey and assessment activities, the AFSC is engaged in cutting-edge research on emerging issues such as global warming and the loss of sea ice in the Bering Sea. Other laboratories and field stations include:

- **Auke Bay Laboratories:** The Auke Bay Laboratories include the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (TSMRI) and the Little Port Walter Field Station (LPWFS). The TSMRI is a new facility in Juneau (Lena Point) completed in 2007 and designed to meet the research needs of NMFS ecosystem approach to management, while maintaining scientific research throughout Alaska on fish stocks, other marine creatures, marine habitats, and the chemistry of marine environments. Scientific information from this facility is widely used by commercial interests such as fishing industries and by governmental agencies involved in managing natural resources. The LPWFS is the oldest year-round biological research station in Alaska and has been host to a wide variety of fisheries research projects since 1934. The station is located on U. S. Forest land in the Tongass National Forest and is accessible only by boat or floatplane.
- **Kodiak Laboratory– Kodiak, AK:** The Kodiak Laboratory is the primary facility for the RACE Shellfish Assessment Program, which conducts a wide range of research on various fish, crab, and shellfish species native to Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea waters.
- **Newport Laboratory– Newport OR:** The Newport Laboratory is the primary facility for the RACE Fisheries Behavioral Ecology Program. The goal of the Program is to provide critical information needed to improve survey techniques, to improve predictions on population abundance, distribution and survival, and to conserve populations of economically significant resource species and their habitats.

**Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) – Woods Hole, MA:** The NEFSC focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. Woods Hole is also the homeport for the NOAA Ships *Albatross IV*, *Delaware II*, and *Henry B. Bigelow*. The related labs and field stations include:

- **James J. Howard Laboratory– Sandy Hook, NJ:** The primary mission of James J. Howard Laboratory is to conduct research in ecology, leading to a better understanding of both coastal and estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on nearshore marine populations.

- **Milford Laboratory– Milford, CT:** The Milford Laboratory's present research emphasizes aquaculture and habitat-related work. A well-integrated aquaculture program includes studies of the culture of fish and shellfish to develop methods suitable for commercial use as well as for stock enhancement and restoration. Nearshore habitats are being studied to determine what characteristics make a habitat suitable for a particular species.
- **Narragansett Laboratory– Narragansett, RI:** The Narragansett Laboratory's research is conducted on the effects of changing oceanographic and ecological conditions on the productivity and health of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf ecosystem in relation to the recovery of depleted fish stocks. Studies are also conducted on the demography and ecology of shark populations in response to oceanographic conditions to provide information for shark management plans for sustaining those populations.
- **National Systematics Laboratory– Washington, DC:** The National Systematics Laboratory describes and names new species, and revises existing descriptions and names based on new information, of fishes, squids, crustaceans, and corals of economic or ecological importance to the United States.
- **Maine Field Station– Orono, ME:** The Maine Field Station is involved in the conservation of living marine resources in Maine, particularly Atlantic salmon.

**Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) – Seattle, WA:** The NWFSC conducts research to help conserve and protect living marine resources (i.e., salmon, groundfish, killer whales) in the northeast Pacific Ocean, primarily in the California Current off the Washington and Oregon coast, as well as inland rivers and streams of Washington, Oregon and Idaho where anadromous fish such as salmon occur. Seattle is also the homeport for NOAA Ships *John H. Cobb*, and *Miller Freeman*. The related research stations include:

- **Manchester Research Station– Manchester, WA:** Manchester Research Station is a world leader in salmon culture technology, and is also one of very few places where groundfish such as lingcod and Pacific halibut have been successfully reared. Some of the main activities at Manchester include research on captive broodstocks, fishery enhancement, fish genetics and PIT-tag technology.
- **Mukilteo Research Station– Mukilteo, WA:** Scientists at Mukilteo Research Station facility focus on understanding the lifecycle of marine species and the impacts of toxins and pollutants on anadromous and marine fish and invertebrates. Scientists rear marine flatfish and juvenile salmon for pollution studies and maintain a culture laboratory for algae and zooplankton. There is a high-quality seawater system for fish rearing.
- **Newport Research Station– Newport, OR:** The Newport Research Station is part of Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, and serves as a hub for collaborative research between government and university scientists. Some major areas of study include surveying stocks of Pacific groundfish, identifying essential fish habitat, investigating fish disease and studying the links between the ocean food web and global climate change. Newport also has a special laboratory for the study of fish immunology.
- **Pasco Research Station– Pasco, WA:** Scientists at the Pasco Research Station are engaged primarily with research on the migration and survival of anadromous fish. The particular focus of this research is improving the ability of salmon to migrate through the Columbia River dam system.



- **Point Adams Research Station– Hammond, OR:** The Point Adams Research Station is an ideal site for studying estuarine and near-ocean habitats. NWFSC staff maintain a research vessel here, and study ecology especially in relation to the transitioning of salmon between fresh and salt water.

**Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) – Honolulu, HI:** The PIFSC conducts monitoring and research on marine fisheries, Hawaiian monk seals and cetaceans, sea turtles, and coral reef and other ecosystems in the central and western Pacific. It is responsible for providing scientific advice for the conservation and management of both domestic and international fisheries as well as on protected species and marine habitats. Scientists conduct work in five research investigations: Coral Reef Ecosystem, Ecosystem and Oceanography, Fish Biology and Stock Assessment, Fishery Monitoring and Socioeconomics, and Protected Species. The PIFSC also utilizes two other facilities: the Kewalo Research Facility located on the Honolulu docks, has seawater capabilities for conducting research on live large pelagic fishes, monk seals, and sea turtles, and the Aiea Research Facility that has wet lab capabilities for fisheries research. The Center is also the homeport for NOAA ships *Oscar E. Sette* and *Hi'ialakai*.

**Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) – Miami, FL:** The SEFSC, which is located on Virginia Key, provides overall direction, science planning and coordination for the Southeast region. The Science Center also has a Sustainable Fisheries Division and a Protected Resources & Biodiversity Division. The Sustainable Fisheries Division conducts vital research on the distribution and abundance of living marine resources managed under the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* and international fishery agreements. The Division operates an observer program to obtain catch/effort and biological information from the U.S. large pelagic fleet; and provides science support to NMFS Highly Migratory Species program (tuna, shark, swordfish, etc...). The Protected Resources and Biodiversity Division conduct critical research on sea turtles, marine mammals, and other endangered/threatened species as required by the *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act*, and international agreements. The Center also conducts needed research in other key areas including: coral reefs, marine protected areas, and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration effort. The related labs include:

- **Beaufort Laboratory– Beaufort, NC:** The Beaufort Laboratory conducts research that emphasizes development of stock assessments for Menhaden Catch commercially important species in the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts.
- **Galveston Laboratory– Galveston, TX:** The Galveston Laboratory provides scientific information on the management of commercial and recreational shellfish and finfish, conservation of coastal habitats, and protection of threatened and endangered marine species of the Gulf of Mexico.

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- **Panama City Laboratory– Panama City, FL:** The Panama City Laboratory current research program encompasses a spectrum of projects including basic fishery biology, ecology, routine monitoring and data collection, and habitat mapping. Fisheries of primary interest are reef fishes, mackerels, and sharks and rays. Habitat research addresses coral and rocky reefs, seagrasses, and shallow continental shelf waters.
- **Pascagoula Laboratory– Pascagoula, MS:** The Pascagoula Laboratory monitors the number, distribution, and health of marine resources and their habitats. The lab also conducts experiments with fishing gear to improve harvests and reduce the bycatch of unwanted species. Pascagoula Laboratory is also the homeport to the NOAA Ships *Gordon Gunter* and *Oregon II*.

**Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) – La Jolla, CA:** The SWFSC scientists conduct marine biological, economic and oceanographic research, observations and monitoring on living marine resources and their environment throughout the Pacific Ocean and in the Southern Ocean off Antarctica. The La Jolla facility houses the Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division, Fisheries Research Division, Protected Resources Division, the Director’s Office, and Operations, Management and Information. San Diego is the homeport for the NOAA Vessel *David Starr Jordan*. The related labs include:

- **Pacific Fisheries Environmental Laboratory – Pacific Grove, CA:** The Pacific Fisheries Environmental Laboratory is home to the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Group. The Group was formed in 1969 to develop databases and to conduct research on fishery-related effects of natural environmental variability over a broad range of scientific, management, and operational concerns of the government and the fishing industry of the United States.
- **Santa Cruz Laboratory– Santa Cruz, CA:** The Santa Cruz Laboratory’s research focuses on several topics, including the ecology of groundfish, economic analysis of fishery data, Klamath and Sacramento River salmon studies, and coastal habitat issues affecting the San Francisco Bay and the Gulf of Farallones.

Complete details on these Science Centers and related laboratories and research stations can be found at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/science.htm>