



N A T I O N A L O C E A N S E R V I C E

# America's Oceans and Coasts

safe, healthy, and productive

The **National Ocean Service** (NOS), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce, is focused on ensuring that ocean and coastal areas are **safe, healthy, and productive**. NOS scientists, natural resource managers, and specialists serve America by ensuring safe and efficient marine transportation, providing innovative science and technology solutions to coastal challenges, and conserving coastal and marine places.

## To protect coastal communities, NOS...

- Assesses the effects of natural hazards such as climate change, hurricanes, tsunamis, and erosion
- Provides tools, information, and training to help coastal decision makers choose wisely
- Responds to, assesses, and cleans up after oil and chemical spills
- Provides tools and information needed to restore damaged natural resources
- Improve and support habitat restoration and conservation

## In observing our oceans and coasts, NOS...

- Leads efforts to develop an integrated ocean observing system
- Measures and predicts tides and currents
- Monitors sea-level rise and provides data for tsunami and storm warnings
- Provides accurate aerial photography and coastal survey maps along 95,000 miles of coastline
- Develops ecosystem forecasts

## In support of safe, efficient, and environmentally sound marine transportation, NOS...

- Provides updated nautical charts and hydrographic surveys to navigators and mariners
- Coordinates more than 1,100 global positioning reference stations
- Develops the standards, specifications, and techniques needed to establish accurate elevations
- Delivers real-time oceanographic information
- Conducts hazardous obstruction surveys and emergency response

## To reduce ocean and coastal health risks, NOS...

- Evaluates and addresses contaminants and monitors cleanup efforts to improve water quality
- Studies, monitors, and assesses both natural and human impacts on ecosystems
- Provides early-warning systems and forecasts for threats to human health and coastal economies
- Forecasts harmful algal blooms
- Establishes links between land use and chemicals in the marine environment

## To protect coastal and marine places, NOS...

- Manages national marine sanctuaries, estuarine research reserves, and marine protected areas
- Helps to conserve the Nation's coral reefs
- Works to identify, reduce, and prevent debris in the marine environment
- Monitors sentinel habitats to assess environmental change
- Preserves our Nation's maritime heritage

[oceanservice.noaa.gov](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov)

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NOAA IOOS® supports development of a coordinated network of people and technology that work together to generate and disseminate continuous data on our coastal waters, Great Lakes, and oceans.

[ioos.noaa.gov](http://ioos.noaa.gov)

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OCS is the nation's nautical chart maker. OCS collects, manages, and compiles the data and information necessary to maintain the national suite of 1,000 nautical charts, hydrographic surveys that measure water depth, and historic maps and charts.

[nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov)

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OCRM provides leadership and direction to state and territorial coastal programs and estuarine research reserves; works with coastal managers to develop a scientifically-based national system of marine protected areas; and supports effective management and sound science to protect coral ecosystems.

[coastalmanagement.noaa.gov](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov)

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OR&R works to prevent and mitigate harm to coastal resources. It is the primary NOAA office that responds to oil spills and hazardous material releases. OR&R also works with federal, state, and tribal natural resource trustees to restore damaged coastal resources.

[response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov)

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IPO is the focal point for NOS's international activities to enhance U.S. and international capabilities for integrated ocean and coastal management.

[nosinternational.noaa.gov](http://nosinternational.noaa.gov)

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MBO is the focal point for all planning, management, and budget activities.

## CENTER for OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS and SERVICES (CO-OPS)

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CO-OPS collects and distributes oceanographic observations and predictions to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maritime commerce. The center provides water level and coastal current oceanographic products, measures and predicts tides throughout the nation, and is responsible for disseminating this information to the public.

[tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov)

## NATIONAL CENTERS for COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE (NCCOS)

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NCCOS conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessment, and technical assistance for managing coastal ecosystems and society's use of them. These activities fit within a framework of five environmental stressors: climate change, extreme natural events, pollution, invasive species, and land and resource use.

[coastalscience.noaa.gov](http://coastalscience.noaa.gov)

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ONMS protects and manages 13 sanctuaries and one marine national monument encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of U.S. ocean. Important habitats like breeding and feeding grounds, coral reefs, kelp forests, and historical shipwrecks are represented within the system of sanctuaries.

[sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

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CSC provides state and local organizations with the skills, tools, and data needed to manage the nation's coastal resources and communities.

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NGS develops and maintains a national system of positioning data needed for transportation, navigation, and communication systems, land record systems, mapping and charting efforts, and defense operations.

[geodesy.noaa.gov](http://geodesy.noaa.gov)