

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE MANAGEMENT & BUDGET OFFICE

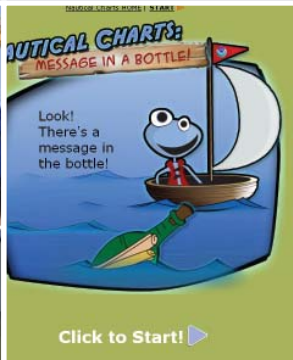
highlights

The NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET OFFICE (MBO) is the focal point for all planning, management, budget, internal and external communications, and education activities.

In fiscal year 2008, MBO continued to provide key planning, management, and leadership expertise; developed key Web products and services; and organized events to communicate both internally and externally the significant work of the National Ocean Service.

NOAA HOSTS EDUCATORS' CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

In July, Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, joined NOAA scientists in Silver Spring, Maryland, to teach K-12 educators how to integrate the science of Earth's changing climate into their classroom lesson plans. During "Earth Then, Earth Now: Our Changing Climate," 250 participants investigated the basic science of climate change, as well as global impacts on the atmosphere, ocean, and every continent and ecosystem around the world. NOAA and NASA co-sponsored the two-day event in partnership with Ride's science education company, Sally Ride Science™, and was webcast live. Educators also engaged in hands-on activities during many concurrent sessions and received ideas for bringing climate science into their classrooms to create a healthier planet. During an educator street fair, participants had an opportunity to interact with Federal agencies and organizations on the front lines of climate change research.



NOAA RESTORATION DAY EVENTS IN MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

In June, 200 NOAA employees and partners participated in the fifth annual NOAA Restoration Day in two states – one in Maryland and the other in Virginia. The Maryland event took place at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the site of the first NOAA Restoration Day in 2004, and the Virginia event took place at York River State Park. Restoration activities included planting underwater Bay grasses grown previously within 22 NOAA office tanks, native oyster seeding on an offshore reef, planting more than 2,000 wetland plants, performing coastal bottom mapping via boat, clearing brush, and fish seining. The event was organized by the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

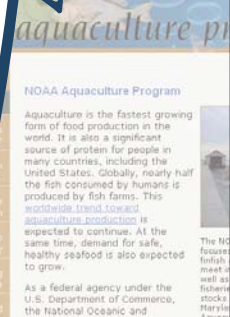
Throughout 2008, NOS provided Federal leadership in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and its regional priorities. Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas initiated the Gulf Alliance in 2004 with a goal of increasing regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. In 2006, the Gulf Alliance released the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, a three-year statement of action that identified five Priority Issues for the region that could be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at the local, State, and Federal levels. The issues include water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds; wetland and coastal conservation and restoration; environmental education; identification and characterization of Gulf habitats; and the reduction of nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems. NOAA played a key role in implementing many actions identified in the Governors' Action Plan and also supported the Gulf States' efforts to create a sixth Priority Issue Team centered around coastal community resilience. NOS continues its leadership role in the Gulf Alliance by participating in all six of the Priority Issue Teams and coordinating across NOAA to identify specific activities that will support this next phase of the Alliance.

NEW PUBLIC WEB SITES LAUNCHED

In 2008, six new Web sites were launched to provide the public, Congress, NOAA, and NOS constituents with information related to NOAA and NOS activities. Three of the Web sites are for NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System Program (<http://ioos.noaa.gov>), NOAA Aquaculture (<http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>), and NOAA's exhibit at the Nauticus Museum in Norfolk, Virginia (<http://nauticus.noaa.gov>). The remaining three are redesigned Web sites for the NOS International Program Office (<http://nosinternational.noaa.gov>), the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (<http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org>), and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (<http://coralreef.gov>). Additionally, design and production of a high-end Ocean Today Kiosk were undertaken in collaboration with partners throughout NOAA and several external organizations. Two Ocean Today Kiosks are in the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History's new Ocean Hall, opening in September 2008. Ocean Hall is planned as a 30-year exhibit and is a collaborative effort between NOAA and the Smithsonian. Similar kiosks will be installed at regional museums and aquaria throughout the Nation.

NOS DEBUTS 'NAUTICAL CHARTS' EDUCATIONAL TOOL

NOS Education launched a new multimedia elementary education program, Nautical Charts, at the March annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association in Boston. Designed in cooperation with the Office of Coast Survey for students in Grades 3-5, this media-rich activity teaches young people about charting and navigation. The multimedia activity uses animation to teach chart symbols, safe boating, and why nautical charts are important. The activity concludes with participants learning about the history and artifacts of the USS Monitor shipwreck, now part of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. Nautical Charts is online at http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/nautical_charts/.



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