



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA CELEBRATES WORLD OCEAN DAY *Recognizes Fifth Anniversary of the UN Atlas*

NOAA joins 14 of its partner organizations today to celebrate World Ocean day by marking the fifth anniversary of the UN Atlas of the Oceans. The Atlas is a pioneering online encyclopedia containing a wealth of information on the world's oceans.

The Internet-based Atlas of the Oceans contains information relevant to sustainable development of the oceans and to the advancement of ocean science. It allows policymakers, resource managers, academics and other experts to access, contribute and continuously update a globally-relevant marine ecosystem information system. To access the Atlas of the Oceans, visit <http://www.oceansatlas.org>

"NOAA is proud to have been a key contributor in establishing the Atlas," said Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "When the Atlas was launched in 2002, we were optimistic that it would significantly enhance public literacy of the world's oceans and five years later we are heartened to see its recognition as a valuable tool."

The Atlas includes background on the oceans, from how they were formed to their physiology, biology and climatology; the uses of the oceans, from food to shipping, mining and energy; and other ocean issues, such as sustainability, food security and global change. It also includes a geographic dimension to enable users to explore materials for their own region of interest.

Currently the atlas contains more than 4,000 entries on a vast range of themes, ranging from fisheries biology to ocean law, to undersea prospecting for pharmaceuticals to maritime transport and telecommunications. About 100,000 people access the UN Atlas of the Oceans website each month.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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