

# PROTECTED SPECIES PROGRAM AND NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE COOPERATION

*Link NOS and Office of Protected Resources missions in order to further mutual program goals on protected marine resource issues, communicating a single NOAA message to the public.*

## Marine Ecosystem Management



Hawksbill Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Enhance capability for reducing mortality of Northern Right whales from ship collisions via collaboration on the NMFS Ship Strike Strategy.

Partner on stranding and unusual mortality events through the development of a NMFS/NOS MOU for both response and laboratory testing.

Develop innovative GIS capacity using expertise and capability of NOS to support an Atlantic-wide sea turtle conservation strategy.

Developing and implementing various protected species recovery plans with the National Marine Sanctuary program (NMSP).

## Research Coordination

Conduct multi-year population studies of hump-back whales in the North Pacific Basin (SPLASH), including funding of west coast U.S. surveys, streamlining of research permitting requirements, and development of common materials promoting the program.

Monitor marine mammal and ocean health in cooperation with Hollings Marine Laboratory.

Conduct research, monitor coral species and collaboratively manage coral disease outbreaks in the Florida Keys with the National Marine Sanctuary Program.



Northern Pacific Right Whale, *Eubalaena glacialis*



Steller sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus*

## Outreach and Education

Proactively collaborate on an education and outreach strategy for the recovery of protected species and their habitat through a collaborative working group with NMSP and Office of Law Enforcement.

Launch a new program, “*Ocean Etiquette: Promoting Responsible Encounters in the Marine Environment*,” to address common concerns on teaching the public how to lessen impacts while enjoying recreational activities in the marine environment.

Collaborate on the NOAA Fisheries Acoustics Program National Lecture Series.

The Protected Species Program is committed to establishing creative, collaborative partnerships with the National Ocean Service to make efficient use of our combined expertise and resources to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

