

C C M A

## CENTER FOR COASTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

# Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment

### MISSION

*To assess and forecast coastal and marine ecosystem conditions through research and monitoring*

### WHO WE ARE

The Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment (CCMA) is comprised of three branches and is one of five centers within NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). We accomplish our mission through a combination of field research and data analysis to support marine resource management decisions at local, regional, and national levels.

### Biogeography Branch

The Biogeography Branch conducts research on the distribution and ecology of marine plants and animals. From field studies and other surveys, we create maps, reports, and tools that document ecosystem conditions, anticipate changes in the environment and meet social and economic needs. Our work is conducted nationwide in estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems with an emphasis on marine protected areas (MPAs) and coral reefs.

### COAST Branch

The Coastal Ocean Assessment, Status and Trends (COAST) Branch conducts integrated environmental and water quality monitoring and assessments to define the status and trends of estuarine, coastal, marine, and Great Lakes ecosystems. Our scientists evaluate pollution and its toxic effects and develop systems to predict and detect harmful algal blooms (commonly known as "red tide").

### RCAS Branch

The Research Coordination and Support (RCAS) Branch is critical to implementation of the CCMA mission through the development of communications and outreach, technical publications, and research coordination across NCCOS and NOAA. Our ability to conduct and share our research, monitoring and assessment portfolio with our partners requires a suite of support services which are the responsibility of this branch.



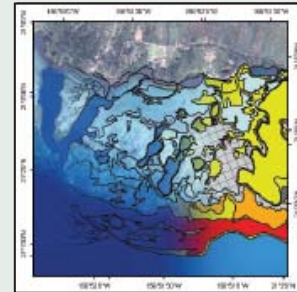
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<http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov>

**CCMA** conducts science to support management that focuses on 4 thematic areas: 1) address the threat of harmful algal blooms, 2) understand the impacts of coastal contamination, 3) prepare for the impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems, and 4) conduct coastal and marine spatial planning.

### **CCMA takes the guesswork out of marine spatial planning**

When state and federal planners want to know where to place aquaculture, alternative energy facilities or protect fish spawning areas, they come to CCMA for expert advice. We help planners evaluate “what if” scenarios such as the impact of new development or proposed changes in sanctuary boundaries.



### **CCMA helps states find and combat coastal contamination**

CCMA helps state and federal authorities respond to disasters, pinpoint contamination “hotspots,” and measure the effects of contamination on wildlife. We are home to Mussel Watch, one of the longest-running and most extensive contaminant monitoring programs in US history.



### **CCMA assesses the ecological impacts of climate change**

CCMA develops models to assess and predict the impacts of human uses and natural events on coastal and marine ecosystems. These models are used to assess how aspects of climate change—including changing seawater chemistry and temperatures—will affect marine resources along the nation’s coastlines.



### **CCMA helps states protect the public from toxic algae**

For ten years, CCMA has been providing coastal states with advanced warning and accurate information on harmful algal blooms, more commonly known as “red tides,” which produce toxins dangerous to humans and wildlife. Our forecasts help states like Maine and Florida prepare and protect citizens by identifying which beaches and shellfish beds will be affected by a bloom.



### **MORE INFORMATION**

For a list and description of CCMA projects and related products and publications, visit:  
<http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov>

#### **or contact:**

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