|  |
| --- |
| NOAA Header |
| **NOAA In Your State****Florida** |
| *“NOAA's work touches the daily lives of every person in the United States and in much of the world. Our products and services are the result of the hard work of NOAA’s dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the country. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state. The entries are listed by region, statewide, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”** Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphereand NOAA Administrator |

|  |
| --- |
| where is florida |

 |
| Due to congressional redistricting after the 2010 Census, we have tried to ensure that all changes in districts and locations have been accurately reflected. Corrections to the district and location for any entry may be sent to NIYSupdate@noaa.gov. |
| ***FL******Coastal*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Habitat Conservation****Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program**Deep-sea coral habitats are complex structures that provide habitat for many diverse fish and invertebrate communities including commercially important species such as grouper, snapper, sea bass, rockfish, and crab. The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the nation’s resource for information on deep-sea coral and sponge ecosystems. The Program—called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—worked with other NOAA offices and external partners to conduct research cruises off the Southeastern U.S. Using sonar technology and remotely operated and manned submersibles, new deep-sea coral reefs were discovered off the Southeastern seaboard. This field research also provided targeted analyses of:* Existing information about deep-sea coral ecosystems.
* The distribution and intensity of fishing activities that may damage deep-sea corals in federal waters.
* Coral and sponge bycatch in fisheries.

Findings will not only improve knowledge about deep-sea life off the Southeastern U.S., but will also inform the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s efforts to manage commercial and recreational fisheries that depend on these and other important habitats.<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/corals/deepseacorals.html>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Fishery Statistics Office**Field agents serve as the principle data collection agent for marine fisheries throughout the Southeast U.S. (NC-TX). They implement and coordinate surveys involving the collection of fishery related data from the public. Responsibilities and functions are to develop, implement, operate, and manage an integrated fishery statistical data acquisition program for research and fishery management. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is the headquarters for the Southeast Port Agent program. Field agents are stationed in Panama City, St. Petersburg, Naples, Key West, Miami, Tequesta, and New Smyrna.<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/interview/>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services****National Water Level Observation Network**NOS operates 16 long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Florida which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Fernandina Beach, Mayport, Trident Pier, Lake Worth Pier, Virginia Key, Vaca Key, Key West, Naples, Fort Myers, St. Petersburg, Clearwater Beach, Cedar Key, Apalachicola, Panama City, Panama City Beach, and Pensacola In 2011, NOAA’s Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) strengthened existing National Water Level Observation Network stations along the Florida coastline including: Apalachicola, Cedar Key, Fort Meyers, and Lake Worth. Strengthened water-level stations were designed by engineers from CO-OPS to withstand the storm surge and waves of a Category 4 hurricane. Also, CO-OPS continued its two-year effort to add meteorological sensors to National Water Level Observation Network stations, with 20 stations being upgraded in FY2010. The upgrades included the installation of wind, barometric pressure, and air temperature sensors.[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/)**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Coastal Services Center****Coastal Storms Program**More than $2.8M has been directed toward storm and climate resiliency issues throughout the Gulf of Mexico from 2007-2012. Resources have supported two grant competitions with the products and services generated now being applied to the Climate Community of Practice network being established by the Gulf Sea Grant offices. A program evaluation of goals/outcomes and an economic assessment determining the benefit of the Program to the Gulf and the Nation will be ongoing throughout FY2013 with results available early FY14. [http://ww.csc.noaa.gov/csp/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/csp/)**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Integrated Ocean Observing System Program****Regional Association - Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System**U.S. IOOS® is envisioned to be an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) is one of these Regional Associations. GCOOS seeks to establish a sustained observing system for the Gulf of Mexico that will provide observations and products needed by users in the region for the purposes of detecting and predicting climate variability and consequences, preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems, ensuring human health, managing resources, facilitating safe and efficient marine transportation, enhancing national security, and predicting and mitigating against coastal hazards.<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/gcooswp>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Integrated Ocean Observing System Program****Regional Association - Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association**U.S. IOOS® is envisioned to be an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) is one of these Regional Associations. SECOORA coordinates coastal and ocean observing activities, and facilitates continuous dialogue among stakeholders so that the benefits of a sustained coastal and ocean observing system can be realized. SECOORA’s vision is to protect people by providing comprehensive information and tools, conserve the marine environment by providing ocean current, wind, and ecosystem condition information, and enhance the coastal economy by providing information and models to facilitate more effective decision-making.http://secoora.org/**National Ocean Service (NOS)****National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science****Mussel Watch Program**Mussel Watch sites in Florida were sampled pre- & post-oiling in response to the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) incident. Sites were sampled for contaminant analysis (PAHs and trace elements) of oyster tissue and sediments, plus benthic infaunal analysis. Contaminant data are being used to determine the impact of the DWH event on seafood safety. <http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/about/coast/nsandt/musselwatch.aspx>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science****Phytoplankton Monitoring Network**The Phytoplankton Monitoring Network is a research-based volunteer program educating the public on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Volunteers serve as data collectors for marine and freshwater algae blooms at more than 250 coastal sites in the U.S. and Caribbean. Monitoring is conducted at least twice a month, year-round, measuring salinity, water temperature and collecting phytoplankton samples using a plankton net. Volunteers include middle and high schools, colleges and universities, aquariums, state and national parks, national estuarine research reserves, national marine sanctuaries, museums, non-profit organizations, master naturalists, and individuals. Data collected helps NOAA researchers predict when and where HABs occur. Accurate predictions and event monitoring can assist state and federal agencies to issue timely warnings about shellfish consumption and other public health worries.[http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/pmn](http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/pmn/about.aspx) **National Ocean Service (NOS)****National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services****Florida Operational Forecast of Harmful Algal Blooms**NOAA and partners provide twice-weekly forecasts on harmful algal blooms (HABs) along the west coast of Florida, the east coast of Florida and the Florida panhandle. The HAB Forecasting System relies on satellite imagery, real-time and forecast winds, and field samples to provide information on the location, extent, and movement of HABs. <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Coral Reef Conservation Program**NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together multidisciplinary expertise from over 30 NOAA offices and partners with state and federal agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations and community coastal resource managers to protect, conserve and restore coral reef resources that sustain livelihoods and economic development. In response to identified threats and management priorities developed by coral reef managers in Florida, NOAA invests in coordinated management approaches for the Florida Reef Tract (extending from the southeast Florida coast through the Keys and out to the Tortugas Banks) and monitoring and assessing pollutant impacts to south Florida coastal waters.In addition, NOAA funds are also allocated to implement conservation programs designed to increase the size, abundance and protection of coral reef species. Examples of projects include biogeographic assessments to characterize the distribution of coral reef species in the Florida Reef Tract and benthic sampling and assessing fish spawning aggregation sites throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A large yellow ‘MApCO2’ monitoring buoy sits roughly three feet above the waterline at the reef near Cheeca Rocks, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The Cheeca Rocks buoy - which is part of the Atlantic Ocean Acidification Test Bed, funded by NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program - measures concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and ocean, aiding researchers studying ocean acidification and the impacts to coral reef ecosystems.[http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/) **National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Florida Coastal Management Program**Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to implement the National Coastal Management Program in Florida. OCRM provides the coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect, restore and responsibly develop our nation’s coastal communities and resources by balancing the often competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/fl.html>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Response and Restoration****Marine Debris Program**NOAA is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to remove “lobster condos” or “casitas” and other marine debris from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The casitas smother the seafloor by shading out the substrate and concentrate the lobsters, allowing for increased harvest through illegal fishing. The debris is located using side-scan sonar, and then removed for proper disposal. Through education and outreach, NOAA works to inform the public about the harm done by marine debris.<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/welcome.html>**National Weather Service (NWS)****National Data Buoy Center****Florida Buoys** The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation’s coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate.NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations. NDBC also operates NOAA’s network of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART®) stations, for the early detection and real-time reporting of tsunamis in the open ocean. Data from the DART®s are used by the National Weather Service Tsunami Warning Centers in Alaska and Hawaii to provide tsunami forecasts, warnings, and information.<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>***Statewide*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Habitat Conservation****Restoration Center**NMFS Restoration Center works with private and public partners in Florida to restore mangrove forests, oyster bars, and submerged aquatic vegetation beds; remove invasive species; improve storm water management; establish wetland buffers; and remove marine debris and derelict fishing gear. Almost 185 projects have been constructed in the state since 1996 through the Community-based Restoration Program. The recently completed Clam Bayou Project on Sanibel Island restores tidal flow to a bayou impacted over the years by area development. This project will benefit more than 100 acres of mangrove habitat, more than 20 acres of oyster bars, and 120 acres of seagrass beds. Through the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program, the Restoration Center also collaborates with other agencies, industry, and citizens to protect and restore coastal and marine resources in Florida threatened or injured by oil spills, releases of hazardous substances, and vessel groundings.<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/regional/southeast.html> <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/> <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/factsheet/pdf/Florida/DARRP_FloridaREV_08.pdf> **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Region****Southeast Regional Office****Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program**The NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET currently serves seven areas of the country: California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Gulf of Mexico B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds. Please see regional funding opportunity for priorities and eligibility details.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/outreach/B-WETmainpage.htm>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Region****Southeast Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center**NMFS studies, protects and conserves living marine resources to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. NMFS’ Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center are responsible for living marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean. Using the authorities provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and other federal statutes, the Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center partner to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammals and other protected resources, develop and ensure compliance with fishery regulations, restore and protect habitat, and recover threatened and endangered species in waters off Florida and throughout the Southeast Region.The Southeast Regional Office conducts mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive energy and coastal development activities, participates in state and regional habitat planning and restoration efforts, provides assistance during hazardous material incidents and hurricane events, and participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects. In addition to the Miami Facility, SEFSC has a laboratory in Panama City, Florida.[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/) and [http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/)**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Law Enforcement****Southeast Division**The mission of NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. Office of Law Enforcement’s Southeast Division is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Fla., with field offices in Port Orange, Miami, Marathon, Niceville and St. Petersburg, as well as in North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Texas and Louisiana. <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/se_southeast.html>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Coastal Services Center****Gulf of Mexico Alliance**To maintain high-quality constituent service, the NOAA Coastal Services Center provides regional staff members to work closely with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the coastal states represented on this board. These staff members also coordinate the deployment of NOAA products and services in this region. <http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/pdfs/gulf_glance_1008.pdf>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Coast Survey****Navigation Manager**NOAA’s navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Florida. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Florida and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Charleston, SC, St. Petersburg, FL, and Mobile, AL to support mariners and stakeholders in the East, South and Panhandle of Florida.[http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/service/navmanagers](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/reps.htm)**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) brings together conservation partners to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on these important lands that are threatened by development. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. To date, the program has protected more than 90,000 acres of land nationally and two projects have been completed in Florida, with one more ongoing in 2012. CELCP was established in 2002 as a companion the *Coastal Zone Management Act* (CZMA) and reauthorized in 2009.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Automated Surface Observing Systems****Florida Stations**The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 50 ASOS stations in Florida.<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/asos_09/FL_asos.pdf> and <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/asos/>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Cooperative Observer Program****Florida Sites**The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals’ energy bills monthly. There are 151 COOP sites in Florida.<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/coop_09/FL_coop.pdf> and <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>**National Weather Service (NWS)****NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards****Florida Transmitters**NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 32 NWR transmitters in Florida.<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/nwr_09/FL_nwr.pdf> and <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****National Sea Grant College Program****Florida Sea Grant Program**NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach (extension and communications). Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Florida Sea Grant College Program, based at the University of Florida, focuses research on marine biotechnology, fisheries, aquaculture, seafood safety, coastal ecosystem health, water quality, boating and waterways, coastal habitat, and coastal hazards. In conjunction with its research, Florida Sea Grant also provides support to graduate education. Citizens, industry and policy makers are kept informed on a variety of marine and coastal issues, ranging from safe navigation to seafood quality and safety, through a cadre of more than 20 marine extension agents and specialists serving the 35 coastal counties of Florida.[http://www.flseagrant.org](http://www.flseagrant.org/)***FL- 2******Apalachicola*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Apalachicola Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**The 246,000 acre Apalachicola Reserve was designated in 1979 and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Located in the Florida panhandle, the Apalachicola Bay basin is a wonder of natural diversity, featuring 1,162 plant species, 315 species of birds, over 180 species of fresh, estuarine and saltwater fish, and 57 species of mammals, as well as the greatest assortment of amphibians and reptiles in North America above Mexico. The Apalachicola Reserve engages visitors in their LEED silver certified 18,000 square foot Nature Center that features three large walk-around tanks housing plants and animals representative of river, bay and gulf habitats and their connectivity. Between 60 to 85 percent of the local population make their living directly from the fishing industry, most of which is done in Reserve waters. Research projects that target commercial fisheries management and the food web are a high priority at the reserve. Additionally, the Reserve maintains a long-term water quality monitoring program and a highly sophisticated geographic information systems (GIS) database, which is used to educate coastal managers and visiting researchers about the area and its ecology. <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/ReservesMap.aspx> ***Panama City*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Panama City Laboratory**The Panama City Laboratory conducts research critical to the management of fisheries and habitats of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Species of interest include reef fishes (snappers, groupers, tilefishes, and others), coastal pelagic fishes (mackerels and tunas,), and sharks (coastal and pelagic species). Focal habitats include inshore and offshore reef systems, marine protected areas and other essential fish habitats for these groups. Specific research activities focus on distribution, abundance, movement, migration, stock identification, predator-prey relations, age and growth, reproductive biology and recruitment. The laboratory also conducts Highly Migratory Species shark assessments and research on threatened and endangered species (sawfish, gulf sturgeon).<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/labs/panama>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Shark Fishery Observer Programs**The shark bottom longline and shark driftnet observer programs cover vessels fishing in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; primarily in US waters from North Carolina through Texas. The shark gillnet observer program primarily monitors vessels off east Florida and Georgia, and more recently in the Gulf of Mexico and North Carolina. <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/labs/panama/species/shark/sharks.htm>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Regional Office****Panama City Field Office**The Panama City Field Office is located at the Panama City Laboratory of NMFS’ Southeast Fisheries Science Center. This office oversees NMFS’ habitat protection programs in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Panhandle, and in the adjacent waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to conducting mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive energy and coastal development activities, the Panama City Field Office participates in state and regional habitat planning and restoration efforts, provides assistance during hazardous material incidents and hurricane events, and participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/hcd.htm>***Tallahassee*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****National Geodetic Survey****Geodetic Advisor**The Geodetic Advisor is a jointly funded National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in the state to provide liaison between NOS and the host state. The Geodetic Advisor guides and assists the state's charting, geodetic and surveying programs through technical expertise. The program is designed to fill a need for more accurate geodetic surveys, and is in response to the desire of states to improve their surveying techniques to meet Federal Geodetic Control subcommittee standards and specifications. The surveys provide the basis for all forms of mapping and engineering projects and monitoring of the dynamic Earth. This program also provides technical assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects.<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/ADVISORS/AdvisorsIndex.shtml>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Florida Coastal Management Program**Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement the National Coastal Management Program in Florida. OCRM provides the DEP with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect, restore and responsibly develop our nation’s coastal communities and resources by balancing the often competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation. The Florida coastal zone is the entire state but the coastal zone is divided into two tiers. Only coastal cities and counties, which include or are contiguous to state water bodies, are eligible to receive coastal management funds.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/fl.html>**NOAA Office of Education****Educational Partnership Program****NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center**The NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center (ECSC) is led by Florida A&M University, in collaboration with nine schools: Bethune Cookman University, Creighton University, Delaware State University, Jackson State University, Morgan State University, University of Miami Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. ECSC educates a new generation of environmental scientists in NOAA-related sciences, and develops the natural and social science tools for integrated assessments of ecosystem health in support of coastal environmental decision-making. The ECSC addresses coastal and marine environmental issues through research collaborations with the National Ocean Service and selected sites of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).[http://www.ecsc.famu.edu](http://www.ecsc.famu.edu/)**National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Tallahassee WFO**This NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of the Florida Panhandle, southwestern Georgia, and southeast Alabama. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Climate Program Office****Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments**The Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC) was established as a cooperative agreement between NOAA's Climate Program Office and the University of Florida. SECC aim is to use advances in climate sciences, including improved capabilities to forecast seasonal climate and long-term climate change, to provide scientifically sound information and decision support tools for agricultural ecosystems, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, and coastal ecosystems of the Southeastern USA. Cooperating institutions are Auburn University, Florida State University, University of Alabama-Huntsville, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Miami with funding from NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program.[http://seclimate.org/](http://iri.ldeo.columbia.edu/)**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, Florida State University** The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. University partners include Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University, NOVA Southeastern University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of the Virgin Islands. Strategic Partnerships also include the southeast regional CIs (CIOERT, NGI and CICS-M) and access is offered to high performance computing, research vessels and unique research facilities now being constructed with funding being provided by the Dept. of Commerce through NIST at UM/RSMAS and NOVA CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.<http://www.ci-mas.org/about_04.html>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Northern Gulf Institute, Florida State University**The National Gulf Institute (NGI) was established at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, in October 2006. NGI is a consortium of universities led by Mississippi State University, in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi, Louisiana State University, Florida State University, and Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The fundamental philosophy of NGI is integration: integration of the land-coast-ocean-atmosphere continuum; integration of research to operations; and integration of individual academic institutional strengths into a holistic research and educational program specifically geared to the needs of Northern Gulf of Mexico users. Among NGI’s major NOAA research collaborators are the National Weather Service, the Coastal Services Center, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, the National Ocean Service, the National Coastal Data Development Center, the National Data Buoy Center, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Sea Grant Office. NGI conducts research under four scientific themes, focusing on the northern Gulf of Mexico: ecosystem management; geospatial data integration and visualization in environmental science; climate change and climate variability effects on regional ecosystems; and coastal hazards.[http://www.ngi.msstate.edu](http://www.ngi.msstate.edu/)**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Total Column Ozone Measurements**NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory makes measurements of the column amounts of ozone between the earth's surface and the top of the atmosphere at a number of locations around the United States, including Tallahassee, FL. The observations are obtained with ground-based spectrometers that measure the attenuation by ozone of ultraviolet light. This integrated ozone amount is critical in determining the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface. Excess ultraviolet radiation is responsible for human skin cancer and is also harmful to other biogenic organisms. Column ozone measurements monitor changes in the stratospheric ozone layer resulting from human-produced chlorine and bromine compounds that destroy ozone. With controls now in place on the manufacture and use of these ozone-destroying compounds, it will be important to monitor the ozone layer for the expected recovery and determine whether other factors such as long-term climate change are influencing this recovery.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/about/ozone.html>***FL-3******Gainesville*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Recruiting - Training - Research Program**The Southeast Fisheries Science Center’s Recruiting Training Research Program is a joint program between NMFS and the University of Florida. The program recruits top undergraduates into the field of fisheries population dynamics and careers with NMFS; provides training via continuing education courses for NMFS employees; and conducts population dynamics and stock assessment research in support of the NMFS mission in a unique collaboration of undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral associates, university faculty, and NMFS biologists. This program recently moved to the University of Florida from Virginia Tech (Fall 2011).<http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/rtr/index.shtml>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Florida**The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. University partners include Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida Stat University, NOVA Southeastern University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of the Virgin Islands. CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.http://www.ci-mas.org/about\_04.html***FL- 4******Jacksonville*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Regional Office****Fernandina Beach Field Office**The Fernandina Beach Field Office is strategically located near the center of the endangered North Atlantic right whale’s calving area. This office coordinates right whale recovery activities in the Southeast Region, as well as outreach and communication on management and recovery activities.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pr.htm>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services****Air Gap Measuring System**NOAA and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) worked together to install an air gap system in record time on the Dames Point Bridge in Jacksonville, FL. Due to a recent bridge maintenance project, the air gap, or bridge clearance, was reduced for cruise traffic that enters the St. John’s River and passed under the Dames Point Bridge. The air gap measuring system provides crucial bridge clearance information to Carnival and other large vessels transiting under the Dames Point Bridge. With the installation of equipment beneath the bridge for the maintenance project this clearance margin will be even less. The response to this request will support the cruise ship business, which generates $3.4M in revenue for the Port of Jacksonville, not to mention the economic impact to the local community.<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/customview.pl?screen=MO8IFKwM> **National Weather Service (NWS)****Center Weather Service Unit****Jacksonville** Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in Hilliard, the Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) staff provides aviation forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for their use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in northern Florida, parts of Alabama, southern Georgia and southern South Carolina.<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/zjx>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Jacksonville WFO**This NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of 15 counties in northeast Florida and 13 counties in southeast Georgia. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/)***FL- 5******Orlando*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division****Science On a Sphere® - Orlando Science Center**Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes.<http://www.sos.noaa.gov/>**FL-6*****St. Augustine*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve**The 73,352-acre Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) Reserve was designated in 1999 and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Reserve includes salt marsh and mangrove tidal wetlands, oyster bars, estuarine lagoons, upland habitat and offshore seas in Northeast Florida. The Reserve is located in the East Florida subregion, south of Jacksonville and sandwiching St. Augustine. It contains the northernmost extent of mangrove habitat on the east coast of the United States, some of the highest dunes in Florida, measuring 30-40 feet, salt and freshwater marshes, cypress and hardwood swamps, shell mounds and xeric hammocks. The Reserve is mapping these habitats and studying observed habit migrations and species distribution to determine forcing functions of these changes.The Matanzas Inlet is the last naturally occurring inlet on the east coast of Florida that has not been subject to dredging and other manmade disturbances.. The Reserve supports many resident and migratory fish and waterfowl, and a variety of threatened and endangered species, including the manatee, the least tern, and the loggerhead, green and leatherback turtles. It also serves as calving grounds for the endangered Right Whale. The scientific information collected at the Reserve through its research and monitoring activities informs management decisions and policies, and a focus of the Reserve is to interpret that scientific information for the benefit of coastal decision makers and planners.<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/ReservesMap.aspx> ***St. Augustine*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Regional Office****St. Augustine Field Office**The St. Augustine Field Office is co-located with the State of Florida’s Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. This office is responsible for implementing NMFS’ habitat protection programs in northeastern Florida. In addition to conducting mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive coastal development activities, the St. Augustine Field Office participates in state and regional habitat planning and restoration efforts and in the planning processes for major federal water development projects.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/hcd.htm>***FL-8******Titusville*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division****Science On a Sphere® - U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame**Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain what are sometimes complex environmental processes, in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.<http://www.sos.noaa.gov/> and <http://sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/sites.php>***Titusville*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Climate Reference Network****Titusville Station**The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operational network of climate stations. Data from the USCRN will be used in operational climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) manages the USCRN. The USCRN will also provide the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service and NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research jointly manage USCRN.<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn>***FL-10******St. Petersburg*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Response and Restoration****Regional Resource Coordinator**The Office of Response and Restoration’s (OR&R) Regional Resource Coordinator (RRC) based in St. Petersburg provides scientific and technical expertise and timely response to oil spills or hazardous materials releases to collect information, samples, and evidence that are time dependent and critical to support natural resource damage assessments throughout the coastal US. Specifically, RRCs work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams and are responsible for determining and quantifying injuries to NOAA trust natural resources through determination of injuries and pathway, and demonstration of causal mechanisms. RRCs document the severity, geographic extent, and likely duration of the injury. The goal of the RRCs efforts is to determine the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use.[http://response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/)***FL-11******Tampa*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services****Tampa Bay PORTS®**A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Tampa Bay. Real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation and include available for water level from four stations, currents from three stations, and meteorological data from eight locations.[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/)**Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)****Marine and Aviation Office****Aircraft Operations Center**The airplanes of the Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) are flown in support of NOAA's mission to promote global environmental assessment, prediction and stewardship of the Earth's environment. NOAA's aircraft operate throughout the United States and around the world; over open oceans, mountains, coastal wetlands, and Arctic pack ice. These versatile aircraft provide scientists with airborne platforms necessary to collect the environmental and geographic data essential to their research. NOAA demonstrates a challenging and multi-disciplinary approach to meeting the responsibilities as the "Earth Systems Agency." The AOC provides capable, mission-ready aircraft and professional crews to the scientific community wherever and whenever they are required. Whether studying global climate change or acid rain, assessing marine mammal populations, surveying coastal erosion, investigating oil spills, flight checking aeronautical charts, or improving hurricane prediction models, the AOC flight crews continue to operate in some of the world's most demanding flight regimes.Aircraft based at the AOC include Lockheed WP-3D Orions (or Hurricane Hunters), a Gulfstream IV, and DeHavilland Twin Otters. The Hurricane Hunter Lockheed WP-3D Orion and the Gulfstream IV-SP high performance long range aircraft are among the most advanced airborne environmental research planes flying today. These aircraft give scientists a unique platform for the study of tropical cyclones and other severe storms, global climate change, air chemistry and pollution oceanography, arctic ice formation, and many other environmental issues.The AOC and the aircraft are operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in staff positions throughout NOAA.<http://www.moc.noaa.gov/hb/index.htm> and [http://www.aoc.noaa.gov](http://www.aoc.noaa.gov/)***FL-13******St. Petersburg*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****National Seafood Inspection Program****Southeast Inspection Branch**The National Seafood Inspection Program conducts a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis. The office offers a wide range of services to the area's fishermen and fish processors including process and product inspection, product grading, lot inspection, laboratory analysis, and training. All edible foodstuffs, ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fishmeal used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification.<http://seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/>***Tampa Bay*****National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Tampa Bay Area WFO**This NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of the western portion of Florida. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbww> ***FL-14******Melbourne*****National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Melbourne WFO**Located at the Melbourne Regional Airport, this NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for east Central Florida and adjacent coastal waters. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb>***Seffner*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****National Seafood Inspection Program****Central Florida Lot Inspection Office**The National Seafood Inspection Program conducts a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis. The office offers a wide range of services to the area's fishermen and fish processors including process and product inspection, product grading, lot inspection, laboratory analysis, and training. All edible foodstuffs, ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fishmeal used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification.<http://seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/>***St. Petersburg*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Region****Southeast Regional Office**The Southeast Regional Office headquarters are located in St. Petersburg, adjacent to the University of South Florida campus. The Southeast Regional Office manages and conserves living marine resources and habitat of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic and U.S. Caribbean to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. The Southeast Regional Office is responsible for over 40 percent of all federal fishery management plans nationwide, which cover hundreds of species, ranging from diverse, relatively sedentary and vulnerable coral reef fish, like the popular snappers and groupers, to wide ranging pelagic species, like mackerel and mahi mahi. More than 70 marine mammal stocks and 18 threatened or endangered species, including the North Atlantic right whale, five sea turtle species, Johnson’s sea grass, and two important reef-building coral species, also occur in this region. The Southeast Regional Office consults on 40 percent of the nation’s coastal development permits, provides fish passage and ecological flow recommendations at dozens of barriers, supports large-scale conservation and restoration programs aimed at protecting essential fish habitat and coastal communities from development, subsidence, sea level rise, and storms, and engages partners in regional collaboration.[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/)***Tampa*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Aircraft Operations Center****Puma UAS**Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are used by NOAA to monitor and understand the global environment and bridge the gap measurements made on Earth’s surface and on satellites.<http://noc.nwave.noaa.gov/>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of South Florida**The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. University partners include Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida Stat University, NOVA Southeastern University , University of Puerto Rico, University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of the Virgin Islands. Strategic Partnerships also include the southeast regional CIs (CIOERT, NGI and CICS-M) and access is offered to high performance computing, research vessels and unique research facilities now being constructed with funding being provided by the Dept. of Commerce through NIST at UM/RSMAS and NOVA CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.<http://www.ci-mas.org/about_04.html>***FL-17******Sebring*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Climate Reference Network****Sebring Station**The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operational network of climate stations. Data from the USCRN will be used in operational climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) manages the USCRN. The USCRN will also provide the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service and NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research jointly manage USCRN.<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn>***Miami*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)****National Oceanographic Data Center - NOAA Library and Information Services Division****National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center Library**The National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center Library is a branch of NOAA’s Miami Regional Library. The library specializes in hurricanes and tropical meteorology. The collection includes books and journals on hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, hurricane damage, economic impact, disaster awareness, mitigation, handwritten weather records, anecdotal hurricane experiences, videos, slides, information on coastal storm-related building and construction, wind studies, and newspaper articles of hurricane damage.<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib/lib1/nhclib/index.htm>***Pembroke Park*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Response and Restoration****Scientific Support Coordinator**NOAA's Emergency Response Division (ERD) strives to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources from oil and hazardous chemical spills. ERD's multi-disciplinary Scientific Support Team has decades of experience in responding to oil spill emergencies. Led by its nine regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs), ERD's response to spill emergencies has gained a reputation for rapid, well thought out, yet cost effective environmental protection decisions. The SSC based in Miami works directly with U.S. Coast Guard spill response teams by providing critical scientific support to the federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) during spills of oil or hazardous materials. SSCs use oil spill trajectory estimates, chemical hazards analyses, and assessments of the sensitivity of biological and human-use resources to help the OSC make timely operational decisions. SSCs provide guidance, experience, and resources to develop spill preparedness plans that help identify the spill response action with the greatest environmental benefit.http://response.restoration.noaa.gov***FL-18******Fort Pierce*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research, and Technology, Florida Atlantic University**The Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research, and Technology(CIOERT) is a consortium led by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University that includes the University of North Carolina - Wilmington, University of Miami and SRI International. CIOERT explores and studies the nation's ocean frontiers using innovation and cutting edge technologies under the themes: develop advanced underwater technologies, explore and research the frontier regions of the eastern U.S. Continental Shelf and Slope and beyond, and vulnerable deep and shallow coral ecosystems.<http://cioert.org/>***Key Largo*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of National Marine Sanctuaries****Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**Designated in 1990, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary protects 2,900 square nautical miles of waters, surrounding the Florida Keys, from south of Miami westward to encompass the Dry Tortugas, excluding Dry Tortugas National Park, using an approach that addresses the variety of impacts, pressures, and threats to the Florida Keys ecosystem. The sanctuary is administered by NOAA and is jointly managed with the State of Florida. Within the boundaries of the sanctuary lie spectacular, unique, and nationally-significant marine resources, from the world’s third largest barrier reef, extensive seagrass beds, mangrove-fringed islands, and more than 6,000 species of marine life. Together, these habitats support the life cycles of a rich array of tropical marine and estuarine organisms, endangered and protected species. Numerous historic shipwrecks and lighthouses within the sanctuary typify the rich cultural heritage of the Florida Keys, which in addition, may contain evidence of human activity and the remains of animals from 15,000 years ago.<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/>***Key West*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of National Marine Sanctuaries****Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Eco Discovery Center**Designated in 1990, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary protects 2,900 square nautical miles of waters, surrounding the Florida Keys, from south of Miami westward to encompass the Dry Tortugas, excluding Dry Tortugas National Park, using an approach that addresses the variety of impacts, pressures, and threats to the Florida Keys ecosystem. The sanctuary is administered by NOAA and is jointly managed with the State of Florida. Within the boundaries of the sanctuary lie spectacular, unique, and nationally-significant marine resources, from the world’s third largest barrier reef, extensive seagrass beds, mangrove-fringed islands, and more than 6,000 species of marine life. Together, these habitats support the life cycles of a rich array of tropical marine and estuarine organisms, endangered and protected species. Numerous historic shipwrecks and lighthouses within the sanctuary typify the rich cultural heritage of the Florida Keys, which in addition, may contain evidence of human activity and the remains of animals from 15,000 years ago.<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/>The Center, sponsored and operated by Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, South Florida Water Management District, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges of the Florida Keys, and Eastern National, opened its doors in 2007 to take visitors on a journey into the world of the native plants and animals of the Keys, both on land and underwater. Featuring more than 6,000 square feet of interactive and dynamic exhibits, visitors leave with an increased awareness and appreciation of the need to protect and conserve the ecosystem of South Florida. The Center’s theater features “Reflections of the Florida Keys,” a short film on the diverse ecosystem of the Florida Keys by renowned filmmaker Bob Talbot. Mote Marine Laboratory’s Living Reef exhibit, which includes a 2,500-gallon reef tank with living corals and tropical fish, highlight the coral reef environment.<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/eco_discovery.html>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Key West WFO**This NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Monroe County. This office also provides marine warnings and forecasts for the area covering the waters of the lower Keys and Florida Bay west to the Dry Tortugas and 60 miles south into the waters of the Atlantic, including the Florida Straits. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/> ***Miami/Virginia Key*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)****National Oceanographic Data Center - NOAA Library and Information Services Division****NOAA Miami Regional Library**The NOAA’s Miami Regional Library supports coastal and open ocean programs, tropical and hurricane meteorology, air-sea interaction, ocean physics, chemistry, acoustics, atmospheric chemistry, and marine geology. Special collections include: NOAA Laboratories Technical Report Series for atmospheric sciences, the Harris B. Stewart Collected Papers, foreign and Caribbean meteorological reports, handwritten local weather records, WHOI technical reports and dissertations, film loops of weather, and historical weather data of Key West and Miami.<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib>***South Florida Coastline*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)****Coral Reef Watch Environmental Monitoring****Coral Reef Watch Program**The Coral Reef Watch program is a collaborative effort between NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) and NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). Remote monitoring stations in the Florida Keys, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands continually observe meteorological and oceanographic parameters. These data are transmitted to AOML where they are processed by artificial intelligence-based software and compared with NESDIS-supplied satellite data. The integrated data are used to predict, monitor, and model incidences of coral bleaching and other coral-related biological events. AOML is also involved in FL Keys environmental monitoring.Since 1992, a network of 7 monitoring stations in the Florida Keys and Florida Bay, called C-Man stations, has been established through a cooperative effort between AOML and the Florida Institute for Oceanography. These stations monitor and report meteorological and oceanographic parameters from their locations. The data is quality controlled and maintained for distribution at AOML and is used by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and research scientists to monitor and study coral-reef-related issues such as coral bleaching. Local mariners and recreational fishermen have also found the data to be useful in planning their excursions.<http://www.coral.noaa.gov/seakeys/index.shtml>***FL-19******Naples*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**The 110,000 acre Rookery Bay Reserve was designated in 1978 and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Located south of Naples on the Florida Gulf Coast, the Reserve is situated near one of the fastest growing business and retirement areas in the Nation. The Reserve protects a nearly pristine subtropical mangrove forested estuary. The total estimated surface area of open waters within the boundary is 70,000 acres representing 64 percent of the reserve. The Reserve has pioneered innovation in natural resource management by working with a broad array of stakeholders to protect and restore vital habitat and species within them. The Rookery Bay Coastal Training Program serves as a leader in the state, bridging the gap between science and policy by bringing diverse stakeholders together to solve complex coastal issues. The Reserve offers dynamic visitor experiences through their Environmental Learning Center and associated land and water trails highlighting the important ecosystems of the area. Education programs offered through the Center provide dynamic information about estuarine ecosystems and are often hands on and exploratory targeting teachers, students, and the general public.<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/ReservesMap.aspx>***FL-20******West Palm Beach*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Regional Office****West Palm Beach Field Office**The West Palm Beach Field Office is co-located with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s South Florida Office. This office is responsible for implementing NMFS’ habitat protection programs in southeastern Florida. In addition to conducting mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive coastal development activities, the West Palm Beach Field Office conducts coral research and restoration activities, supports the planning activities of the Federal Highway Administration and Florida Department of Transportation, participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects, and works with state government and stakeholders to reduce the impacts of fishing on coral reef habitat..<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/hcd.htm>***FL-21******Miami*****National Weather Service (NWS)****National Centers for Environmental Prediction****National Hurricane Center**Located at Florida International University’s University Park campus in Miami and collocated with the Miami NWS Weather Forecast Office, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) is responsible for hurricane forecasts for the Atlantic ocean, the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Eastern North Pacific Ocean. While NHC is Best is best known for its hurricane forecast and warning program, its other responsibilities include extensive year-round marine and aviation forecasts, as well as warning programs for tropical and subtropical regions of the North Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Eastern North Pacific, including adjacent land areas. To fulfill all of these responsibilities, the NHC prepares and distributes tropical weather forecasts that employ the latest electronic equipment. It also conducts relevant training for courses for meteorologists and emergency response officials from around the world. NHC works very closely with the World Meteorological Organization. The University Park Campus of Florida International University in Miami, which hosts the NHC, also houses a statewide center for hurricane mitigation and research.<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> **National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Miami WFO**Located at Florida International University and collocated with the National Hurricane center, this National Weather Service Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around the clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of southern Florida, except for the Florida Keys. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events {over land and sea} including hurricanes and tropical storms, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation, and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support for critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. The Warning Coordination Meteorologist actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. These relationships are invaluable in helping to prepare people to respond appropriately when threatened by severe weather or other hazards. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations and the local Doppler Weather Radar. The radar provides critical information about current weather conditions for the forecasters to issue tornado warnings or flood and flash flood warnings.<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl//> ***FL-22******Fort Lauderdale*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Regional Office****Fort Lauderdale Field Office**The Fort Lauderdale Field Office analyzes the impacts of projects in southeastern Florida on species and habitat protected by the *Endangered Species Act*. These analyses ensure important projects can be completed without jeopardizing the sustainability of threatened and endangered species or the habitat critical to their recovery.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pr.htm>***Boca Raton*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, Florida Atlantic University**The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. University partners include Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida Stat University, NOVA Southeastern University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of the Virgin Islands. Strategic Partnerships also include the southeast regional CIs (CIOERT, NGI and CICS-M) and access is offered to high performance computing, research vessels and unique research facilities now being constructed with funding being provided by the Dept. of Commerce through NIST at UM/RSMAS and NOVA CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.<http://www.ci-mas.org/about_04.html>***FL-23******Fort Lauderdale-Davie*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, NOVA Southeastern University**The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. University partners include Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University, NOVA Southeastern University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Florida, University of South Florida, and University of the Virgin Islands. Strategic Partnerships also include the southeast regional CIs (CIOERT, NGI and CICS-M) and access is offered to high performance computing, research vessels and unique research facilities now being constructed with funding being provided by the Dept. of Commerce through NIST at UM/RSMAS and NOVA CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.<http://www.ci-mas.org/about_04.html>[***Hollywood***](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/)**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****National Seafood Inspection Program****South Florida Lot Inspection Office**The National Seafood Inspection Program conducts a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis. The office offers a wide range of services to the area's fishermen and fish processors including process and product inspection, product grading, lot inspection, laboratory analysis, and training. All edible foodstuffs, ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fishmeal used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification.<http://seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/>***FL-24******Pembroke Park*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Office of Weather and Air Quality****United States Weather Research Program Join Hurricane Testbed**The United States Weather Research Program (USWRP) brings together federal agencies with the academic and private sectors to move research ideas and technologies into operational weather forecasts. NOAA, through the USWRP, is providing support for the Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT) project, located at the National Hurricane Center that operationally tests research products competitively gathered from the hurricane research community. If the tests are successful, the JHT transitions them into operations for accelerating the improvement hurricane track and intensity forecasts at landfall.http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/jht/index.shtml***FL-25******Everglades City*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Climate Reference Network****Everglades City Station**The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operational network of climate stations. Data from the USCRN will be used in operational climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) manages the USCRN. The USCRN will also provide the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service and NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research jointly manage USCRN.<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn/>***Miami*****National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)****Satellite Assisted Search and Rescue Local User Terminal****Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution**The Communications Station (COMMSTA) Miami is a key member of the Coast Guard’s Atlantic Area Communications Systems (LANTCOMMSYS) and one of four COMMSTA’s on the east coast of the United States. They provide communication services to Coast Guard vessels and aircraft, to the Navy and other agencies, and to the maritime public. They also house two NOAA Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) antenna and associated ground equipment. These ground systems, referred to as Local User Terminals (LUTs) can receive signals, relayed through polar orbiting satellites, from ships, aircraft or individuals in distress. The location of the distress signal is automatically forwarded to the SARSAT Mission Control Center, which notifies the appropriate Rescue Coordination Center. SARSAT is part of an international humanitarian effort helping to improve the rescue of person’s in distress and has saved more than 6,000 lives in the United States since 1982.<http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/>***FL-26******Key Largo*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Office of Ocean Exploration and Research*****Aquarius* Undersea Research Laboratory**NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research focuses on interdisciplinary exploration, systematic research, advanced technology development, and communication of results through education and outreach. Aquarius Reef Base is a world-class undersea research facility and shore base dedicated to coral reef science, ocean observations, technology development, and outreach and education. Located three and a half miles off Florida, at a depth of 60 feet, Aquarius is supported by a shoreside facility in Key Largo, Florida and a program office at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov> and http://www.explore.noaa.gov and <http://www.uncw.edu/aquarius/>***Key West*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami**The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) was established in 1977 in the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). CIMAS serves as a mechanism to promote synergisms between University scientists and those in NOAA. CIMAS research is largely partnered with Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and recently with NOAA Satellites and Information Service. CIMAS carries out research in seven theme areas: (1) climate research and impacts; (2) tropical weather; (3) sustained ocean and coastal observations; (4) ocean modeling; (5) ecosystem modeling and forecasting; (6) ecosystems management; and (7) protections and restoration of resources.<http://www.ci-mas.org/about_04.html>***FL-27******Miami/Virginia Key*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Region****Southeast Fisheries Science Center**NMFS’ Southeast Fisheries Science Center is headquartered on Virginia Key, Miami, Florida, and is comprised of five laboratories (Galveston, TX; Pascagoula, MS; Panama City, Fl; Miami, Fl; and Beaufort, NC) and two satellite facilities (Lafayette, LA and Stennis Space Center, MS). The Southeast Fisheries Science Center implements a multi-disciplinary science and research program in support of living marine resource management. The Science Center develops the scientific information required for fishery resource conservation; fishery development and utilization; habitat conservation; the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles and other protected species; impact analyses and environmental assessments for management plans and/or international negotiations; and pursues research to answer specific needs in areas of population dynamics, fishery economics, fishery engineering, food science, and fishery biology. The Science Center contributes to the needs of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate and International Fishery Commissions, Fishery Development Foundations, bilateral and multi-lateral fisheries organizations, government agencies, and the general public.[http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/)**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Protected Resources & Biodiversity Division, Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program**NMFS authorizes organizations and volunteers under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* to respond to marine mammal strandings throughout the United States. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is responsible for marine mammal stranding responses in the southeast region of the United States. This includes the beaches from North Carolina to Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; coordinating stranding events, monitoring stranding rates, monitoring human caused mortalities, maintaining a stranding data base for the southeast region, and conducting investigations to determine the cause of unusual stranding events including mass strandings and mass mortalities. The Southeast Region stranding coordinator is in Miami, Florida and the Southeast Region Stranding program administrator is in St. Petersburg, FL (NMFS Southeast Regional Office employee). Stranding network members who are authorized to respond to stranding events are located throughout the region.<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/> and <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/mammals/strandings.htm>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Pelagic Observer Program**The Pelagic Observer Program is based at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Miami Lab, and is responsible for the collection of catch, bycatch, and effort data from U.S. Pelagic Longline vessels operating in the northwestern Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. This fleet targets primarily swordfish and tunas and operates year round. Observers are deployed from a number of ports, as far north as Newfoundland, Canada; throughout the East Coast of the United States, the United States Gulf Coast, and as far south as Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Pelagic Observer Program staff lives throughout the Southeast Region.<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/fisheries/observers/pelagic>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Protected Resources & Biodiversity Division - Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network**The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network collects information on and documents strandings of marine turtles in the Southeast and Atlantic regions. The network, headquartered in Miami, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen state regions from Maine through Texas, and portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data from network partners throughout the region are compiled and included in a centralized database.<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/turtles/strandings.htm>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Social Science Research Group**The Social Science Research Group conducts applied socioeconomic and cultural research on the use and management of living marine resources under federal jurisdiction from *North Carolina to Texas and in the U.S. Caribbean*. Scientists interpret available fisheries information from an economic and cultural perspective; develop models and estimate relationships to evaluate the economic and socio-cultural effects of fishery policies on fishers and fishing communities; provide research results and advice to the three fishery management councils in the southeast jurisdiction (South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico); and supply social science support for other NMFS programs.http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/socialscience**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory****NOAA Laboratory**The Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) is a federal research facility that houses approximately 160 employees on a permanent basis. Research at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) improves the understanding and prediction of both hurricane track and intensity, the ocean’s role in annual to multi-decadal climate variability, and human impacts on coastal ecosystems. AOML research encompasses oceans and climate, the global impacts of increased carbon dioxide and ocean acidification, ocean and human health studies, and the ocean’s influence on regional rainfall and hurricanes. AOML is also a major partner in the collection and interpretation of oceanographic data collected via ships, satellites, aircraft, drifting buoys, and floats.[http://www.aoml.noaa.gov](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/)***FL Keys/Cheeca Rocks*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory****Atlantic Ocean Acidification Testbed**This temporary monitoring buoy is part of the Atlantic Ocean Acidification Test Bed, funded by NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program. The large yellow ‘MApCO2’ buoy sits roughly three feet above the waterline and along with subsurface instruments, simultaneously measures the concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and ocean. This test bed includes studies of coral community productivity and calcification rates, along with coral growth and bioerosion rates, and tests advanced technologies for monitoring ocean acidification and the impacts to coral reef ecosystems. Understanding how coral reef communities interact with the surrounding chemical environment is critical towards improving understanding of how ocean acidification unfolds within local ecosystems.<http://ww.oar.noaa.gov/oceans/ocean-acidification>***Key Biscayne*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Monitoring the Surface Atmosphere - Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network**NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) operates a Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network to measure the distribution and trends of carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4), the two gases most responsible for human-caused climate change, as well as other greenhouse gases and volatile organic compounds. Samples are collected weekly at fixed locations and on several commercial ships. The air samples are delivered to the ESRL laboratory, located in Boulder, CO. The observed geographical patterns and small but persistent spatial gradients are used to better understand the processes, both natural and human induced, that underlie the trends. Air samples have been collected at Key Biscayne since 1972. Researchers at NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory collect the samples. Depending on the wind direction, samples collected at Key Biscayne may represent air that has been influenced by carbon sources and sinks in North America, or air that has been over the Atlantic Ocean. These measurements help determine the magnitude of carbon sources and sinks in North America.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/about/climate.html> |
| **NOAA’s Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs**[**http://www.legislative.noaa.gov**](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov) |