

N O S V I S I O N

A nation with safe, healthy, and productive oceans and coasts

N O S M I S S I O N

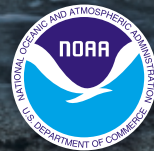
To provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our oceans and coasts



THE NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

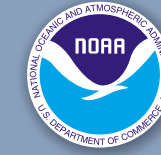
is the nation's premier science agency for oceans and coasts with 1,700 scientists, natural resource managers, and other highly trained specialists who:

- *Provide state-of-the-art nautical charting, geospatial positioning, and tidal and water-level monitoring.*
- *Protect places, including areas within the National Marine Sanctuary System.*
- *Support coastal state management of 27 national estuarine research reserves.*
- *Respond to hazardous oil and chemical spills, assess damages to the environment, and restore habitats back to health.*
- *Empower states to protect coastal resources and guide economic development.*
- *Enable coastal managers to make better decisions through targeted training programs in the United States and abroad.*
- *Assess, monitor, and predict impacts from natural and human-induced environmental hazards such as climate change, harmful algal blooms, hurricanes, erosion, habitat loss, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise.*
- *Advance ocean and coastal management internationally.*
- *Promote global standards and protocols for open exchange of scientific information to improve environmental decision making.*



N A T I O N A L O C E A N S E R V I C E

oceanservice.noaa.gov



NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE



AMERICA'S OCEANS AND COASTS:

Safe, Healthy, and Productive

Our oceans and coasts touch every American every day – providing us with places to live, food to eat, jobs, commerce, recreation, energy, even medicines that heal. In the face of growing challenges, the National Ocean Service is leading the way to keep coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems safe, healthy, and productive.

CLIMATE CHANGE | **PORT CONGESTION**
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION | **SEA-LEVEL RISE**
POPULATION GROWTH | **POLLUTION**
DROUGHT | **WATER QUANTITY & QUALITY**
CORAL BLEACHING | **SHORELINE EROSION**
MARINE DEBRIS | **FLOODS**

Addressing these challenges and protecting America's oceans and coasts requires:

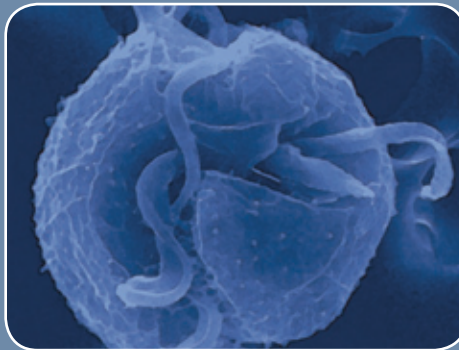
OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, and RESTORATION

to help communities and ecosystems withstand the effects of more than 50 percent of the population living near the coasts on just 17 percent of total U.S. land area.



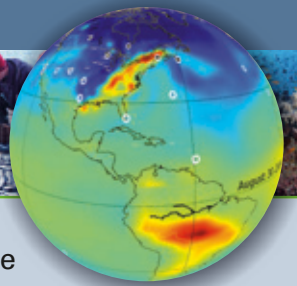
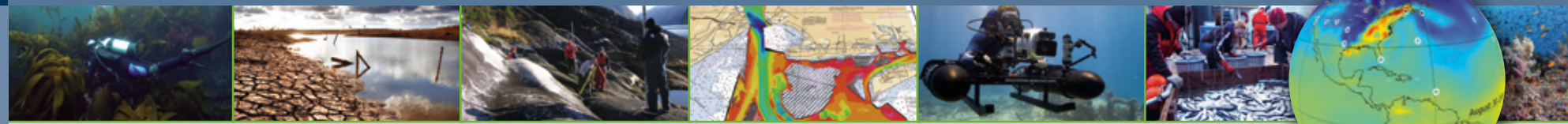
OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

to fight pollution that has rendered almost 50 percent of tested U.S. estuaries and 12 percent of coastal waters unfit for swimming, fishing, or aquatic life.



SAFE AND EFFICIENT NAVIGATION

to ensure the U.S. Marine Transportation System continues to enable shipping of more than 95 percent of foreign trade, which currently generates one trillion dollars each year for the U.S. economy.



THE NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE LEADS THE NATION and the world in promoting: Productive and sustainable ocean and coastal ecosystems • Coastal communities that effectively manage the risk of hazards and climate change • Safe and efficient maritime transportation • Environmental education that inspires action to protect precious resources. **THE NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE AND OUR PARTNERS** will help grow our nation's coastal economy while sustaining a healthy and productive environment through achievement of these *eight major goals*:

1 PREPARE THE COASTS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE...

through tools and information to help communities better utilize coastal resources in a rapidly changing environment.

- *Inform community land-use decisions with tools and information addressing impacts of coastal flooding and sea-level rise*
- *Guide coastal development through national climate change adaptation policies*
- *Acquire and restore habitats to protect coasts from impacts of sea-level rise*

2 CREATE TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS...

through innovative integration of ocean and coastal science and technologies.

- *Improve navigation, ecosystem management, and coastal development strategies with Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (map once, use many ways)*
- *Develop integrated ecosystem assessments for NOAA's eight regional ecosystems by 2015*
- *Develop an Integrated Ocean Observing System to deliver innovative products and services*

3 PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY...

by providing early warning systems for threats through systematic ocean assessments and by ensuring that timely data reaches NOAA partners to help them take actions to protect human health.

- *Prevent unnecessary beach closures with timely and accurate pathogen forecasts*
- *Provide harmful algal bloom forecasts for U.S. coastal waters to protect human health and coastal economies*
- *Update environmental health and hazard resilience indices in real time*

4 SUSTAIN COASTS AND ECONOMIES...

through promotion of economic security while sustaining environmental health and productivity.

- *Ensure safe movement of goods that contribute more than 1 trillion dollars to the nation's economy*
- *Promote energy security through environmentally sound ocean development*
- *Improve food safety through monitoring and assessment*
- *Mitigate escalating costs of coastal disasters*

5 MONITOR CHANGING OCEANS AND COASTS...

by ensuring accurate, timely, and relevant observations of dynamic environments so communities have the right data from the right place at the right time.

- *Chart 3,000 square nautical miles for safe navigation each year*
- *Drastically reduce the number of ships running aground by providing real-time information at major ports*
- *Map U.S. coral ecosystems for management and protection*
- *Provide coastal land use change analysis*

6 PROTECT RESOURCES AT RISK...

through conservation and responding to environmental threats at home and abroad to prevent damage to critical watersheds and other resources.

- *Reduce marine debris and abandoned fishing gear on U.S. coasts*
- *Acquire or designate special places for long-term protection*
- *Provide ecological characterizations to meet management needs*

7 RAISE THE NATION'S COASTAL CONSCIENCE...

by connecting people with oceans and coasts, linking protection with future prosperity, and prompting individual, community, and global action.

- *Raise community awareness about coastal risks and provide tools to reduce loss*
- *Inspire more volunteers to improve the nation's oceans and coasts each year*
- *Encourage ocean literacy and protection through education and training for all ages*

8 FOSTER ACTION BY ALL NATIONS...

to better manage our global ocean and coasts.

- *Enhance long-term U.S. and global economic security through ocean and coastal resource management and protection*