



NOAA In Your State



Rhode Island



NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [coastal programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

[Highlights of NOAA in Rhode Island](#)

NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow and Okeanos Explorer	Newport	RI-1
Narragansett Laboratory	Narragansett	RI-2
Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute	Narragansett	RI-2
Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Prudence Island	RI-1

The state of Rhode Island also has two Labs and Field Offices and one National Estuarine Research Reserve.

RI-1

Newport

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [NOAA Ships Henry B. Bigelow and Okeanos Explorer](#)

The NOAA Ships *Henry B. Bigelow* and *Okeanos Explorer* are managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, and are homeported at the United States Naval Station in Newport. The *Henry B. Bigelow* supports the science and research missions of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and its supporting laboratories. The *Okeanos Explorer*, known as "America's ship for ocean exploration," is dedicated solely to exploration. The ship conducts operations around the globe, mapping the seafloor, exploring shipwrecks, and characterizing largely unknown areas of the ocean. Interesting seafloor features can be discovered with the deep-water multibeam sonar mapping system and investigated by the ship's remotely-operated vehicles among other sensors and systems. With telepresence technology, the exploration team can send live video images from the seafloor to scientists and other audiences ashore. Both vessels are operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps in concert with NOAA Professional Mariners. 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 aircrafts, conduct diving operations, and serve in other NOAA staff positions. NOAA Professional Mariners perform the deck, engineering, steward, and survey tech functions aboard NOAA vessels, providing critical support to OMAO marine operations.

RI-1, 2

Newport, Providence

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Narragansett Bay PORTS®](#)

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Narragansett Bay at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level data are available at five stations, meteorological data at ten locations. Along with the meteorological data, visibility sensors (fog) are installed at three of the locations.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)

NOS operates two long-term, continuously operating tide stations in the state of Rhode Island which provide data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Newport and Providence. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land. Station data feeds into many CO-OPS products that are used to support safe navigation, mitigate coastal hazards, and protect communities. Such products include:

- Coastal Inundation Dashboard - view water levels in real-time and during storms
- High Tide Flooding Outlooks
- Sea level trends and maps
- Real-time current measurements
- Hydrodynamic models
- Tidal and water level datums

RI-2

Kingston

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference

network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Narragansett

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Narragansett Laboratory](#)

The laboratory is located adjacent to the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory on Narragansett Bay. Research activities focus on ecosystem assessment, climate assessment, stock assessment on the Northeast U.S. Shelf. The Ecosystem Monitoring survey headed by this laboratory is one of the longest and most comprehensive oceanographic surveys in the country. These data along with those from many other sources are used to support ecosystem-based fisheries management as well as traditional single-species stock assessment. The Laboratory also includes NOAA's Northeast Apex Predator Program, which maintains the world's longest time series of catch-and-release tag data for Atlantic Coast sharks. The laboratory also hosts the Science Center's Northeast Cooperative Research Program and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division staff who work to restore fishery habitats and diadromous fish passage throughout the Southern New England region including Narragansett Bay, Long Island Sound and Buzzards Bay and the contributing watersheds.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute](#)

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) was awarded to the University of Rhode Island. OECI serves as a mechanism to promote collaborative research between university scientists and those in NOAA. OECI conducts research across three themes: (1) exploration planning and execution; (2) ocean exploration technology; and (3) increase utility of ocean exploration information.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [NOAA Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute and Exploration Command Center](#)

NOAA Ocean Exploration's presence in Narragansett, RI is based on the campus of the University of Rhode Island (URI) where the office supports the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, headquartered at URI, which amplifies exploratory science and technology, and expands NOAA's capabilities for its ocean exploration portfolio. In addition, this location has an Exploration Command Center. In partnership with the Ocean Exploration Trust and URI, NOAA Ocean Exploration pioneered a new paradigm in deep sea exploration using telepresence technology and the hub for telepresence technology is the Inner Space Center (ISC), in the Ocean Science and Exploration Center on the URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus. This technology uses satellites and Internet to transmit data in real-time from remotely operated vehicles onboard NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* to shore and connect to internet-connected devices around the country, and world. It allows the *Okeanos Explorer*, which is homeported in Newport, RI to operate with the majority of its participating scientists on shore. This expands the breadth of available expertise and increases the pace, scope, and efficiency of exploration. Telepresence technology also allows the program to stream seafloor imagery over standard Internet connections, bringing the excitement of ocean exploration and discoveries live into classrooms, newsrooms, and living rooms around the world - strengthening and engaging the community of ocean explorers and increasing their ability to make informed decisions about important ocean issues. Additionally, Ocean Exploration has a robust partnership with the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration (GFOE) to explore the ocean and GFOE's technology development workshop is located in North Kingstown, RI, where NOAA Ocean Exploration's deep submergence vehicles and telepresence technologies are developed and maintained.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [North Atlantic Regional Coordinator and Expedition Operations Leader](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations two officers in Narragansett in support of NOAA's mission in the North Atlantic and globally through ocean exploration. These officers hold multiple roles, varying in scope from coordinating specific projects within the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, working with the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, to communicating with the 12 Federally recognized Tribes in the region about NOAA's mission and its impact on their community. These officers additionally serve as liaisons to the local community, working to inform its members about NOAA's work and help educate about the positive impacts NOAA science brings to the region.

[Point Judith](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Port Agent Field Office](#)

The Greater Atlantic Region's Port Agent Team works directly with the fishing industries of the region to provide in-person advice and support to fishermen and seafood dealers. Port agents also serve as a conduit for industry to relay information to the Regional Administrator and other NOAA staff about fishing industry concerns, thoughts and activities. Team members assist seafood dealers and vessel operators and owners with data reporting requirements, in navigating the permitting process, and with other Agency regulations and processes. They collect biological samples of seafood landed by commercial fishermen for use in fisheries stock assessments. They also provide the general public with information on fisheries and the marine environment by attending public events and through ad-hoc interactions

[Prudence Island](#)

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#)

The 4,259 acre Narragansett Bay Reserve, designated in 1980 and managed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, includes undisturbed salt marshes, tidal flats, rock shores, open waters, upland fields, forests, and a historic farm site. The reserve contains a major watershed and the largest stream on Prudence Island. A deep-water pier and recreational facility are located at South Prudence. Research priorities include monitoring the impacts of sea level rise and inundation on marshes and participating in mapping initiatives for Narragansett Bay. The reserve also provides on and off-site exhibits, educational programs, and a hiker's trail guide.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship](#)

The Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship program funds graduate student research and professional development opportunities within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The program supports collaborative research addressing local management challenges that may influence future policy and management strategies. The Davidson Fellow at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus their research on barriers to and opportunities for conservation-oriented adaptation to climate change in Narragansett Bay.

[Coastal](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research is administered by NOAA Fisheries' [Office of Habitat Conservation](#). Mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, it is the nation's only federal research program dedicated to increasing scientific understanding of deep-sea coral ecosystems. Deep-sea corals occur off of every coastal state in the country, and create important habitats for countless species, including many fish species. The Program collaborates closely with partners, including other NOAA offices, to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. This work then informs critical management decisions in the waters of the United States and its territories.

These decisions enhance the sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and other ocean uses, while conserving deep-sea coral and sponge habitats.

The Program works with partners to complete multi-year regional fieldwork initiatives, as well as smaller projects around the country, centered on integrating new and existing information on these vulnerable and biologically diverse habitats. The first research initiative took place from 2009 to 2011 in the U.S. South Atlantic region and provided valuable information to help decision-makers refine protected area boundaries. To date, the Program has completed one or more initiatives in each region of the United States.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, monitor factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, is authorized to respond to reports of marine mammal strandings along the Rhode Island coastline.

NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. For fiscal year 2020, 43 competitive Prescott Grants were awarded totaling \$3.7 million.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. The legislation provides a historic investment in coastal protection and restoration that will increase community resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and improve how we manage our ocean resources. Projects funded under this law protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Rhode Island received funding for one project in FY22, as well as funds to build the state's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Ocean Coastal Management works with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Rhode Island. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers. The Digital Coast Act authorizes the Digital Coast as a standing national program and supports NOAA's efforts to increase access to authoritative data, tools, and training that enable coastal communities to plan for long-term resilience, manage water resources, and respond to emergencies.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership effort between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife. In Rhode Island, the NCRF has awarded eight projects, one in FY18, FY19, and FY20, two in FY21, and three in FY22.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. Subject to availability of funding, the program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements for important lands threatened by development. Since 2002, the program has protected more than 110,000 acres of coastal land nationally, including over 16,000 acres protected as in-kind matching contributions. NOAA awarded two grants in Rhode Island, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Rhode Island. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Rhode Island 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 Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Response Team](#)

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating the Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. NRT-New London is assigned to New London, CT and is able to respond within 24 to 48 hours.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [OR&R Preparedness, Response, and Restoration Coordinators](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, disasters, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, OR&R provides scientific and

technical support to prepare for and respond to environmental threats that coastal communities face; determines damage to natural resources from those releases; protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

- The **Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC)** is strategically placed within the region to ensure that NOS and our partners are able to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including coastal disasters. The RPC serves as a liaison between NOS and its federal, state, and local disaster preparedness and emergency response partners. A key role of the RPC is to better understand the needs and opportunities within the region and to ensure partners have the tools and resources necessary to inform decision-making. The RPC has expertise across the spectrum of emergency management and provides preparedness, response, and recovery services including planning, training, exercises, response coordination, continuous improvement, and long-term recovery. The RPC, based in Gloucester, Massachusetts, serves the Northeast region – Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.
- Eleven regionally based **Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC)** harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC for Rhode Island, is based in Gloucester, Massachusetts.
- OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of **Regional Resource Coordinators** work with multidisciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. The RRCs serving the Northeast/Great Lakes region are based in Boston, Massachusetts and New York, NY.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#) and [Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA[®]) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, providing an easy-to-use common operating picture for environmental responders and decision makers. In 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Command Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Tropical Storm Sandy. In addition to ERMA, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) offers a suite of [tools](#) to support emergency responders dealing with oil and chemical spills. From Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and data which provide concise summaries of coastal resources including biological resources and sensitive shorelines to GNOME, a trajectory and fate model that predicts the route and weathering of pollutants spilled on water, and so much more, these tools provide easy-access to critical data that support a wide range of needs for emergency responders, ultimately supporting our coastal communities.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#) in Rhode Island

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) leads national and international efforts to reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and

research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Northeast Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. The MDP is also working with stakeholders in Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts to develop the Southern New England Marine Debris Action Plan, which will provide a road map for strategic progress in making southern New England, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Mussel Watch Program

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch Program (MWP) monitors the status and trends of chemical contaminants and biological stressors in the nation's coastal waters. MWP began in 1986, and is based on the periodic collection and analysis of bivalves (oysters and mussels) and sediment from a network of more than 300 monitoring sites nationwide. Contaminants monitored at each site include the EPA's Priority Pollutant List of toxic substances and a suite of chemicals of emerging concern such as flame retardants, PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and current use pesticides.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems and Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System\)](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development.

The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations critical to safe navigation in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine to the National Weather Service. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for management of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be involved to ensure appropriate coverage in shared waters.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) is one of these Regional Associations and its coverage extends from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod including the estuaries and the continental shelf waters in this region. MARACOOS provides the necessary ocean observing, data management, and forecasting capacity to systematically address prioritized themes maritime safety, ecosystem based management, water quality, coastal inundation, and offshore energy development.

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [New England Bay Watershed Education and Training 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 New England B-WET program is administered by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. New England B-WET currently serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. The New England 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. New England B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office](#) and [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles).

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast "multispecies complex" (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, sea herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are North Atlantic right whales, leatherback, loggerhead, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance. The Office also fosters sustainable [aquaculture](#) in the region, with two Regional Aquaculture Coordinators that act as a liaison between federal and state agencies to assist in permitting and coordination activities, supporting aquaculture outreach and education, and collaborating with industry, academia and other stakeholders on regional marine aquaculture issues.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories including the Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory, the Center owns and uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)

The [NOAA Restoration Center](#), within the [Office of Habitat Conservation](#), works with partners across the nation to restore habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. We have over 30 years conducting habitat restoration through competitive funding opportunities and technical assistance. We also work to reverse habitat damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. See the interactive [Restoration Atlas](#) to find habitat restoration projects near you. Site visits to see habitat projects may be available in Rhode

Island, please inquire if interested. The Restoration Center works with municipal, state, and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other project partners in Rhode Island to remove dams and other physical barriers to migratory fishes, modify or replace culverts to restore tidal exchange and tidal wetlands, restore eelgrass beds and native shellfish populations, and implement projects to increase resiliency of Rhode Island's coast and communities.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement](#)

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coastal states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. 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. The Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, MA, with a field office in Narragansett, RI.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and NOAA General Counsel - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. Rhode Island is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Rhode Island. For more information about our work in Rhode Island, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Rhode Island") and this [interactive map](#).

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeast Regional Ocean Council](#)

To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region work with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the coastal states on this board by representing NOAA and serving in leadership roles in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and coastal ecosystem health. These staff also coordinate the deployment of NOAA products and services in this region. With funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NOAA will invest approximately \$56 million over five years to enhance and support the priorities of established regional ocean partnerships, including coordinating interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal management issues, and enhancing sharing and integration of data.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Barre, Vermont serving the Northeast region including Rhode Island. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems 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 three ASOS stations in Rhode Island.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program 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 homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are eight COOP sites in Rhode Island.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards 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 is one NWR transmitter in Rhode Island.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The Rhode Island Sea Grant Program, based at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, supports research that aligns with its core themes of resilient coastal communities, healthy ecosystems and sustainable seafood. Supplementing its research efforts, Rhode Island Sea Grant is also strongly engaged in outreach, education, legal and communication activities in both of Rhode Island's Congressional Districts. Administrative offices are located in Narragansett. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at seagrant.noaa.gov.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Ocean Guardian School Program](#)

An Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas, like national marine sanctuaries. Funds are provided to schools at \$4,000 per year if the school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school- or community-based conservation project. Once the school has completed its project, the school receives official recognition as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. To date, the Ocean Guardian School Program has reached more than 88,700 students and 3,500 teachers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

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More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).
