



NOAA in the District of Columbia



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 and then district [wide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in the District of Columbia

[National Systematics Laboratory](#) DC

[Joint Agriculture Weather Facility](#) DC

[NOAA Headquarters](#) DC

[Sant Ocean Hall](#) DC

[Science On a Sphere at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History & at the National Zoo](#) DC

The District of Columbia also has eight NOAA Headquarters Offices and one Science on a Sphere® exhibition.

DC**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [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, 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 sturgeon.

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 Northeast 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, the Center 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 Fisheries Regional 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) - [National Systematics Laboratory](#)

The National Systematic Laboratory conducts specimen-based research on crustaceans, squids, sponges, jellyfishes, and corals. Embedded within the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, its major research activity is to characterize marine biodiversity by describing new species, classifying groups of marine organisms, and deriving genetic data from museum specimens. Staff are affiliates of the National Museum of Natural History and curate parts of the fish and invertebrate collections, by far the world's largest, with over 50 million specimens, respectively.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Chesapeake 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 [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#), a division of [NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation](#), administers B-WET grants for the Chesapeake Bay watershed on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes systemic Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. The Chesapeake 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. Chesapeake B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds and is supportive of partnerships between school districts and community organizations and institutions that are run by and/or serve marginalized groups, particularly minority communities.

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. There is one stranding network member in the District. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Although Prescott grants have been awarded to recipients in DC in previous years, no grants were awarded in FY20. Nationwide, 43 competitive grants were awarded for a total of \$3.7 million.

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) acts as a trustee for natural resources. 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. This Program collaborates on an ongoing basis with federal, state, and tribal entities, including in the District of Columbia. The Program also works with cleanup agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to protect coastal and marine natural resources; respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances; assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits. Washington, D.C. is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in D.C.. For more information about our work in D.C., visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Maryland & Washington, D.C.") and this [interactive map](#).

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 Raleigh, North Carolina serving the Mid-Atlantic region including Washington D.C. 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 Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)

NOS operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in Washington, DC, which provides data and information on tidal data and relative sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. 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

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 Washington, DC. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Washington, DC 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 Silver Spring, MD to support mariners and stakeholders in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey - [NOAA Survey Vessel Bay Hydrographer II](#)

The Office of Coast Survey operates the NOAA Survey Vessel *Bay Hydrographer II* to acquire hydrographic survey data off the U.S. Atlantic coast, concentrating primarily in the Chesapeake Bay. The vessel is home-ported in Solomons, Maryland. The *Bay Hydrographer II* is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic and navigation equipment to detect submerged wrecks and obstructions are used to update NOAA's nautical charts in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Office of Coast Survey also uses the *Bay Hydrographer II* as its primary platform to test and evaluate new and emerging hydrographic survey technologies like uncrewed systems —multiplying the amount of data NOAA's survey fleet collects. This vessel is also able to serve as a navigation response team when required.

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.

- 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 the District of Columbia is based in Point Pleasant, New Jersey at the USCG Station Manasquan.
- 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) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in the District of Columbia](#)

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 Mid-Atlantic 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 Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan, covering the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and New York, was published in 2021. This plan is facilitated by the MDP with the participation of 96 organizations, including the District of Columbia government and stakeholders. The plan establishes a road map for strategic progress in making the Mid-Atlantic, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

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 the fall of 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Common Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey waters. 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 Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Station](#)

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 is one ASOS station in the District.

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) – [Digital Coast Fellowship](#)

This program matches postgraduate students with members of the Digital Coast Partnership to work on two-year projects proposed by the partner organization. The Coastal States Organization and Association of State Floodplain Managers are hosting a fellow from 2022-2024 to develop technical guidance resources to support local communities in planning for and managing residential coastal properties acquired or vacated due to erosion, inundation, and flooding worsened by climate change.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Fellowship](#)

This program matches postgraduate students with state and territory coastal zone programs to work on two-year projects proposed by the state or territory. The Coastal States Organization is hosting a fellow from 2023-2025 who is helping support coastal states' and territories' ability to integrate the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility across the National Coastal Zone Management Program by providing technical assistance, capacity, and relationship building support.

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 the District of Columbia, the NCRF awarded a project in FY19 to conduct an environmental assessment and develop preliminary designs for over 16,000ft of restored stream and wetland creation for Oxon Run.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitter](#)

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 and the District of Columbia, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There is one NWR transmitter in the District.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Joint Agriculture Weather Facility](#)

Housed at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the NWS meteorologists at the Joint Agriculture Weather Facility (JAWF) provides global weather data, products, and expertise in interpretation of weather forecast models around the world. USDA uses that information and global agronomic data to arrive at the weather impact on global agricultural production. The information is provided to ensure Nation's growers, exporters, USDA commodity analysts, as well as the Secretary of Agriculture and senior government officials are informed of worldwide weather developments and their effects on crops and livestock.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Financial Officer](#)

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) serves as the principal financial manager. The CFO's Office has the responsibility under the CFO act to provide the leadership necessary for NOAA to obtain a yearly-unqualified opinion in the audit of its consolidated financial statements. The areas under the direction of the CFO are the Budget and Finance Offices.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Communications and External Affairs](#)

The Office of Communications and External Affairs coordinates media relations, stakeholder relationships, and select internal communications at the corporate NOAA level and also organizes messaging and promotion by working closely with the Line Offices. Products provided by the Office of Communications include news releases, news conferences, web

editorial management, video presentations, and editorial articles. Some of the services provided by the Office include media training, constituent relations, and exhibits management.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Education](#)

NOAA's Office of Education provides advice and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in matters pertaining to education. The office, in conjunction with the Education Council, coordinates educational activities across NOAA and develops NOAA's Education Strategic Plan and policy. These efforts help to ensure that NOAA's education programs and activities are based on the best science available and support the agency's cross-cutting objective of an engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions. The Office of Education directly implements and manages scholarship programs aimed at fostering American competitiveness in science by providing quality educational opportunities for the next generation. The Office of Education also offers competitive grant programs at the national and regional level to promote environmental literacy efforts through collaboration with external partners. Such competitive education programs managed by the Office of Education include the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program and the Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of General Counsel](#)

The Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel for NOAA. The General Counsel is appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, with the approval of the President. The Office of the General Counsel provides legal service and guidance for all matters that may arise in the conduct of NOAA's missions and is comprised of a team of professionals advancing the mission and objectives of NOAA by delivering legal services of the highest quality.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Information Officer \(OCIO\)](#)

Washington, DC is one of five NOAA Trusted Internet Connection Access Points which provide the security analytics required to ensure secure communication with untrusted networks. TICAPs are NOAA's first line of defense for protecting NOAA's mission from external cyber-attacks.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of International Affairs](#)

NOAA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) engages internationally to support, promote and advance national policies and interests on the international scale. Through building international partnerships, NOAA is able to leverage important foreign resources and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities. To ensure that NOAA is able to respond effectively to its global challenge, the international affairs of the agency is coordinated through an International Affairs Council (IAC). The office, in conjunction with the IAC, coordinates international activities across NOAA. OIA also advises senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials on critical international matters.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) coordinates all NOAA contacts with the United States Congress and is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating legislative programs that are of concern to the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administration. As the official liaison between the NOAA and the Congress, the OLIA communicates the Administration's views and is proactive in notifying Congress of important NOAA developments. Conversely, the OLIA keeps senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials informed of critical congressional information and activities.

NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Under Secretary](#)

The Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator is located in downtown DC in the Department of Commerce's Herbert C. Hoover Building. The Office of the Under Secretary oversees

all NOAA Line, Staff, and Program office and activities and also houses the offices of other members of NOAA's senior leadership team. The Office is also supported by the Program Coordination Office (PCO), which is staffed by participants in the PCO-LDP (a competitive, approximately year-long NOAA leadership development program). The program provides an intense training and learning experience for mid-career NOAA employees who have high potential for assuming greater leadership responsibilities in the agency.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Leadership and Staff Support](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations a host of officers in the District of Columbia in various leadership roles and staff support roles. The range of assignments includes liaisons to the USCG and US Navy, the Director of the NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive Director to the Deputy Undersecretary, and various aide positions within the organizational structure. As such, NOAA Corps Officers form an integral part of the administrative framework within NOAA.

NOAA-wide - [Sant Ocean Hall](#)

NOAA has worked with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History to create the Sant Ocean Hall to engage, educate, and inspire the public through state-of-the-art displays. The Ocean Hall is one component of NOAA's Ocean Science Initiative intended to educate and inform the public and expand our understanding of the Earth's oceans.

NOAA Office of Education - [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

The Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by NOAA's Office of Education, provides grants and support for formal (K-12) and informal education to advance the agency's mission. In District of Columbia, ELP funded a project by the Rockson Community Development Corporation. The project aims to build the environmental literacy of children, youth, and adults so that they can become knowledgeable about ways to increase their community's resilience to extreme weather, climate change, and other environmental hazards, and be involved in achieving that resilience. To achieve this goal, the project integrates relevant state and local resilience plans and collaborates with stakeholders who are actively implementing these plans. The [Rockson Community Development Corporation project](#) employs NOAA resources and educational methods to promote community-level environmental literacy, enabling participants to better comprehend threats and implement solutions that build resilience to extreme weather, climate change, and other environmental hazards. Environmental literacy includes the knowledge, skills, and confidence to 1) reason about the ways that human and natural systems interact globally and locally; 2) participate in civic processes; and 3) incorporate scientific information, cultural knowledge, and diverse community values when taking action to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from environmental hazards, including mitigating and adapting to climate change.

NOAA Office of Education - [NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology](#)

The NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology (NCAS-M) is led by Howard University in collaboration with its partner institutions Jackson State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Maryland College Park, San Jose State University, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. This Center is supported through a cooperative agreement award from NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI) and is a future workforce investment to support NOAA's mission enterprise. The purpose of the award is to expand participation in NOAA mission-aligned education, training, capacity building, and collaborative research focusing on expanding participation of groups traditionally underrepresented and historically excluded in NOAA mission aligned careers. NCAS-M focus on Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), atmospheric sciences and meteorology - specialized numerical weather predictions and earth systems modeling technical skills. Research and education in social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) disciplines and its alignment with the NOAA mission is also conducted at NCAS-M of

NOAA. NCAS-M, in joint collaboration with the NOAA's Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (CESSRST), and NOAA subject matter experts, will design and implement a Joint Collaborative Research and Development Project (JCRDP) that supports NOAA's strategic goals and missions, while directly aligning with each of the Center types. NCAS-M conducts research that improves the accuracy of weather and climate forecast models, studies atmospheric chemical processes and their effects on local, regional, and global scales. The Center's primary collaborator at NOAA is the National Weather Service (NWS). The Center's research is also aligned with the needs of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR).

NOAA Office of Education - [Science On a Sphere at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History & at the National Zoo](#)

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.

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.

NOAA In Your State is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line or Staff Office listed.

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