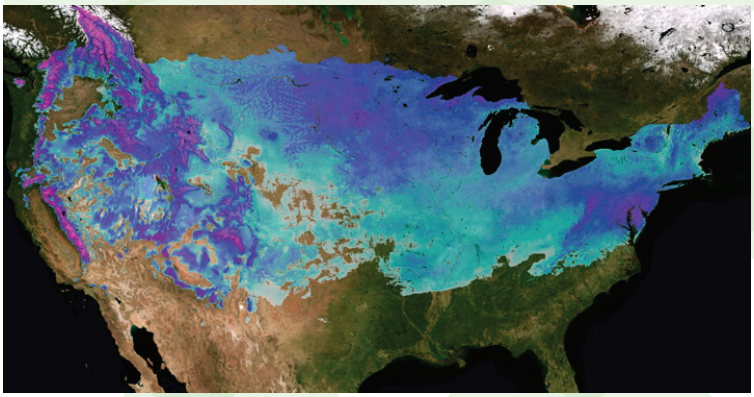
News from
Fall 2010
NOAA in the North Atlantic



Snow cover over the United States in February 2010.

NOAA's North Atlantic region spans from the mountains of Maine to the beaches of Virginia and includes all or part of 12 states and the District of Columbia. This newsletter includes highlights of recent activities in our region brought to you by your North Atlantic Regional Team.

Regional Climate Literacy Network Established in North Atlantic

Almost seven months after partnering with the National Sea Grant Office on its Climate Engagement Mini-Grant Program, NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team (NART) and 13 Sea Grant programs in the North Atlantic have all but finished what they set out to do: build capacity in the region to improve climate literacy within NOAA and Sea Grant.

Eleven workshops were held throughout the North Atlantic this spring and summer, with only one remaining (October 27 in Gloucester, MA). Already the NART/Sea Grant partnership has reached over 200 NOAA employees and Sea Grant staff with the latest climate science and tools.

Esperanza Stancioff, ME Sea Grant, and Mike Johnson, NOAA Fisheries, make plans for their joint second tier training session.

"We knew that there was a real need out there for this type of information, just based on the questions we were getting from our stakeholders," said Ellen Mecray, NOAA's new Regional Climate Services Director for the Eastern Region.

The regional network of "climate ambassadors" established through the NART/Sea Grant-sponsored training sessions have more than just information at their fingertips – they also have each other. The trainings themselves became venues for information exchange and introductions among different NOAA line offices and state coastal zone management programs, the national estuarine research reserve system and Sea Grant's extension programs.

Sylvain De Guise, director of the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program at the University of Connecticut, and Sea Grant's representative to NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team said the end goal is the same for everyone.

"We want communities to be able to quickly and properly address critical climate adaptations and be able to plan for the future."

With the first round of climate literacy training almost complete, Fiscal Year 2011 plans are underway to hold additional sessions for anyone missed, and add an inland, non-coastal module for county planners and land managers. Fore more information about this ongoing project contact Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov.

NOAA B-WET grants support environmental education in the North Atlantic region.

Coastal Habitat & Climate Workshop Held in Mid-Atlantic

NOAA held a workshop on "Coastal Habitat Conservation in a Changing Climate: Strategies and Tools in the Mid-Atlantic" on June 21 – 23, 2010 in Wilmington, Delaware. Over 80 participants from federal, state and nongovernmental organizations attended to share information, prioritize needs, and formulate possible solutions for incorporating climate change into coastal habitat conservation efforts across the region.

The workshop was organized by representatives from NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Research, NOAA Ocean Service and the National Wildlife Federation, and sponsored by the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation and NOAA Climate Program Office.

NOAA's Coastal Services Center developed a website http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/climate-adaptation/pages/chc.aspx to host workshop materials and an ongoing discussion forum.

For more information, contact Adrienne.Antoine@noaa.gov and Roger.B.Griffis@noaa.gov.

Educators and Students in the Region Learn How to B-WET

In October, NOAA will receive hundreds of applications for Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) environmental education grants. The grants are used to support K-12 environmental education programs that provide students with *meaningful watershed educational experiences* which integrate outdoors field experience with classroom activities and instruction in NOAA-related content.

"NOAA B-WET funds are the jet fuel that supports environmental education in the Bay region," said Don Baugh, Education Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

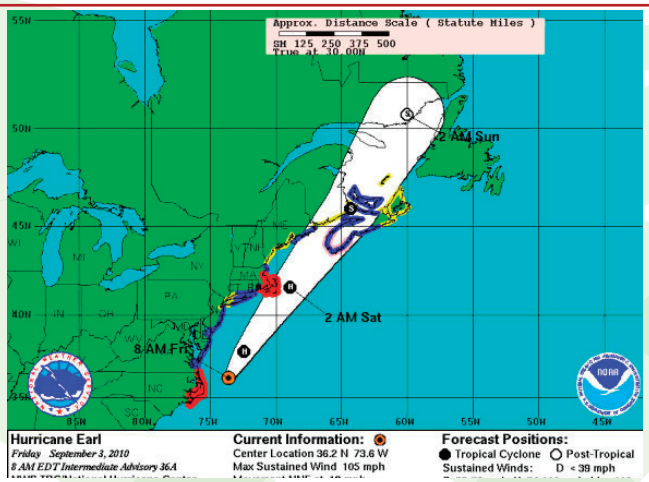
B-WET was established in 2002 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and currently exists in six regions: Chesapeake Bay, New England, Gulf of Mexico, California, Pacific Northwest, and Hawaii. NOAA is anticipating that approximately $3.5 million will be available for B-WET grants in the Chesapeake Bay region and $300,000 for New England.

For more information about NOAA B-WET grant opportunities in New England and the Chesapeake Bay regions go to http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/BWET_funding.html or contact andrew.w.larkin@noaa.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

The numbers of top-level predators in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, such as halibut and swordfish, decreased significantly from population levels 100 years ago, according to a new report released in August by the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The sanctuary is located off the coast of Massachusetts.

The report can be found at http://stellwagen.noaa.gov and was produced by the Gulf of Maine Cod Project at the University of New Hampshire. It presents results of a three-year survey and analysis of historical documents and manuscripts relevant to the historical ecology of the sanctuary.



NOAA Forecasts, Prepares for Fall Hurricanes

The North Atlantic region has been a proving ground for NOAA capabilities in recent months due to an active Atlantic hurricane season.

Hurricane Earl came close enough to our region during September 2-4, 2010, to initiate a high level of preparedness among Weather Forecast Offices in the North Atlantic. National Weather Service meteorologists issued Hurricane Local Statements and conducted state and regional conference calls for several days leading up to the event. The storm provided an excellent opportunity for NWS forecasters and many partners and customers to exercise their hurricane procedures.

Fortunately, Earl stayed offshore, following the track predicted by NOAA forecast models and caused only tropical storm force winds, minor flooding, and beach erosion in some areas.

NOAA's Ocean Service offices in the region also prepared for fall hurricanes by delivering real time tide and water level data to forecasters, preparing navigation response teams to ensure that ports are safely reopened after a major storm event, and conducting aerial photography over affected areas to document storm damage.

For the latest hurricane and tropical storm forecasts go to www.nhc.noaa.gov.

NOAA Interns Experience Life at Sea Aboard the *Bigelow*

Tim Wampler and Tim Corrigan, interns working for NOAA's Acquisition & Grants Office (AGO) in Norfolk, Virginia, went on the NOAA Ship *Henry Bigelow* and participated in the spring groundfish survey in the Northeast off George's Bank. Wampler and Corrigan execute contracts for NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center as well as the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO).

While on the cruise, the interns assisted with sorting, identifying, and recording the fish that were caught as part of the survey. Wampler found the most challenging aspect of the job was remembering the spelling of the scientific names of the various fish species.

"It was difficult for us not being scientists to assist in the sorting and getting used to the pace," said Wampler.

Despite some rainy weather at the beginning of the cruise, both enjoyed the opportunity to see the work of OMAO and NOAA Fisheries first hand and would participate again.

NOAA Fisheries accepts NOAA volunteers to assist on fish survey cruises. If you are a interested in learning more, contact Katherine.Sowers@noaa.gov.

NOAA Intern Tim Corrigan on the groundfish survey cruise.

NOAA People in the North Atlantic Region

NART Member

Bob Thompson is the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Southern New England National Weather Service Forecast Office in Taunton, Massachusetts. Bob's career with the National Weather Service (NWS) started as a summer student trainee at the Boston office during the early 1970s.

Bob has also worked for NWS in New York, Alaska, Maryland, and Nevada before returning to the Boston area in November 1989.

He grew up in Cohasset, Massachusetts and earned a B.S. in Meteorology from Florida State University and a Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington.

Bob is a widower with two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and a very young grandson (born March 2010).

He currently lives in Westborough, Massachusetts and in his spare time he likes to hike, ski, help at church, root for the Red Sox and Patriots, visit family, and take care of three rambunctious cats.

NART Background

The NART is one of eight regional teams created by NOAA's Regional Collaboration effort. It is composed of 23 members from five line offices and is currently led by Peyton Robertson. Nicole Bartlett is the NART Regional Coordinator. For more information on team members and activities visit: **http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/PPI_Capabilities/north_atlantic.html.**

NOAA Places in the North Atlantic Region

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) is headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. NCBO field staff also work in Oxford, Maryland, and Gloucester Point and Norfolk, Virginia. NCBO's mission is to focus NOAA capabilities in science, service, and stewardship to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The office is organized into three associated programs to ensure that NOAA's resources and capabilities are aligned with the current and future needs of the Bay, constituents, and partners: Ecosystem Science, Coastal & Living Resources Management, and Environmental Literacy.

NCBO activities include conducting habitat mapping and characterization, funding oyster restoration projects in Maryland and Virginia, maintaining a Bay-wide system of observational buoys, supporting ecosystem modeling and related fisheries research, collaborating with regional fisheries management jurisdictions, and providing K-12 Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) environmental education grants.

NCBO is also leading NOAA's response to President Obama's Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration.

Peyton Robertson is the Director of NCBO and the NART team lead. For more information about NCBO visit http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov.

NCBO field staff conduct habitat and fisheries surveys in key sites around the Chesapeake Bay.