



News from

# NOAA in the North Atlantic



NART members who attend the Annual Meeting (far left image), Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (middle image), NART members on a tour of the Reserve (right image).

## NART Meets in Delaware and Plans for Fiscal Year 2018

The North Atlantic Regional Team (NART) held its annual meeting at the St. Jones Reserve on the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) in Dover, DE on August 7-9. Invited guests included the DNERR Reserve Manager Kim Cole, DNERR Environmental Scientist Matthew Messinger, DNERR Staff Assistant Colleen Holstein, Dr. Dwayne Fox from Delaware State University, Drs. Matt Oliver, Danielle Haulsee and Matthew Breece from the University of Delaware, NOAA Headquarters Liaison Meredith Cameron, and NOAA Central Regional Collaboration Team Coordinator Bethany Perry.

The team learned about NOAA's activities in and around the St. Jones River watershed and vetted and discussed possible activities for fiscal year 2018 (FY18). In the end, NART members settled on a suite of projects to focus NOAA's regional collaboration efforts for FY18.

Many projects continue existing work, including NART's support of congressional and tribal engagement meetings that will take place in New York and Maryland. NART convened other federal, academic, state, municipal, and non-governmental partners to educate each state's congressional delegation and tribal leaders on the latest science, successful partnerships and known gaps, with an emphasis on the lesser-known services and products that NOAA provides. Using partner pairings (NOAA plus an end user or customer of a NOAA product or service), the roundtables allow participants to better understand the contributions NOAA is making in their state and/or community and connect with valuable NOAA and partner resources.

The NART has supported a Chesapeake Research Consortium Internship into its sixth year. This project has made noticeable advances in our ability to investigate impacts of river flow and runoff on oyster reefs in the Choptank River complex of Delaware/Maryland, a designated NOAA Habitat Focus Area.

New NART initiatives include development of a regional pilot program to produce a unified view of heat risk for the Northeast. The program will use historical climate information combined with readily available health information from Centers for Disease Control, social vulnerability information from the Census Bureau, and data from city and county Geographic Information System services.

As part of NOAA's Plan for Increasing Public Access to Research Results (PARR) initiative, NART is proposing a series of webinars, tutorial workshops, and a summer internship to assist the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in making their data PARR compliant.

NART will help to draft an emergency response plan that will identify an organizational structure and establish procedures for response to major emergencies. The plan will assign the roles and responsibilities for the implementation during an emergency following the Federal Emergency Management Agency incident command system model. Whether inclement weather, terrorism, or other natural disasters, regional collaboration plays a valuable role in increasing awareness across line offices.

The NART is working toward a unified and regionally integrated NOAA. The NART looks forward to sharing more information about these projects and their progress.

Please contact [James.Brinkley@noaa.gov](mailto:James.Brinkley@noaa.gov) for more information.

## Did You Know?

### Joint Polar Satellite System-1

The NOAA Joint Polar Satellite System-1, the first in a new series of highly advanced polar-orbiting satellites, is scheduled to lift off Nov. 14, at 1:47 a.m. PST from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

“The new JPSS satellite will join GOES-16 as we are confronting one of the most tragic hurricane seasons in the past decade,” said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. “JPSS will provide advanced forecasting on not only hurricanes, but also dangerous weather events threatening communities across the United States.”

The satellite, called JPSS-1, will provide meteorologists with a variety of observations, such as atmospheric temperature and moisture, sea-surface temperature, ocean color, sea ice cover, volcanic ash and fire detection. Forecasters will be able to use the data to better predict weather events and hazards, such as a hurricane’s track and intensity, as well as identifying power outages and locating and evaluating damage following a storm.

JPSS-1, will join the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership, a joint NOAA-NASA weather satellite, giving the U.S. the benefit of two, sophisticated polar satellites in the same orbit. Each will circle the globe 14 times a day, 50 minutes apart and provide full, global observations for U.S. weather prediction.

“Having two advanced polar satellites in the same orbit will ensure our numerical weather models have the necessary, critical data to support forecasts up to seven days ahead of extreme weather events,” said Stephen Volz, Ph.D., director of NOAA’s Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.



Image: Rendering of JPSS-1

## NART Continues with Congressional & Tribal Roundtables



Image: Congressional staffers & NART members during the NH Roundtable

This summer and fall, the NART continued its engagement with Congressional-district staff and tribal elders in the region on relevant local topics. Staffers and Tribal members continue to voice their gratitude for these in-depth, interdisciplinary portrayals of NOAA’s work and its relevance to their state or tribe. The team has now sponsored twelve congressional roundtables in ten states (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VA, and VT). The team has also done two roundtables with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Maliseet Indians.

The NART sponsored a roundtable in NH on September 6th at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. Attendees included representatives from the offices of Sens. Shaheen and Hassan, Reps. Shea-Porter and Kuster; NOAA colleagues from the National Weather Service, National Ocean Service, Fisheries, National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Fish and Wildlife, NH Sea Grant, NH Coastal Program, and the University of New Hampshire.

A roundtable with the Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians was also sponsored by the NART on September 21st in Littleton, ME. Developing a common understanding of restoration needs and determining a series of steps for collaboration in the Meduxnekeag River and Wolastoq/St John Watershed was the theme for the day-long meeting. The roundtable was attended by NOAA scientists and staff from the Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, US Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and members of the tribe. This assembly attracted nearly 30 people to evaluate awareness of tribal issues that intersect the NOAA mission. The discussion paved the initial steps for development of a Fish Habitat Management and Restoration Plan.

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## NOAA Place in the North Atlantic Profile

### NOAA Ship Ferdinand R. Hassler

NOAA Ship Ferdinand R. Hassler is a hydrographic survey vessel whose primary mission is to map coastal waters to update nautical charts. The ship also supports other activities, including testing of autonomous underwater vehicles, buoy deployment and recovery, and general oceanographic research.

The ship's side scan sonar collects imagery of the sea floor to identify obstructions or wrecks that could be navigational hazards. To obtain accurate depth measurements (within 10 cm), the ship uses multibeam echo sounders. The bathymetric data can be converted into three-dimensional models to provide accurate depth data and detailed images of the sea floor and objects.

The ship is one of NOAA's most valuable assets following a severe weather event or ocean emergency. Even before it was officially commissioned in 2012, the ship was deployed in response to a U.S. Coast Guard request for assistance following Hurricane Irene. The ship conducted hydrographic surveys around the clock in Hampton Roads, VA, applying its state-of-the-art assets to looking at seafloor changes, searching for underwater hazards that would pose a danger to ships, and helping to restore port operations to its full capacity.

The ship was named for Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, a visionary scientist who planned the Survey of the Coast after President Jefferson signed the enacting legislation in 1807. Hassler became the first superintendent of Coast Survey, serving until his death in 1843. The ship is homeported in New Castle, NH.

For more information check out: [oma.noaa.gov](http://oma.noaa.gov)



Image: NOAA Ship Ferdinand R. Hassler

### NART Study on NOAA's Resilience Tools



Image: Survey meetings at CT Sea Grant

As one of the most important FY17 projects, the NART studied ways to improve the usability of NOAA's resilience tools. There are many different resilience tools across all line offices. Because of this, the NART wanted to determine what makes a tool useful or not. This project surveyed current resilience tool users in the NART region to gather insight and feedback on several NOAA resilience tools. Primary survey design and implementation was provided by Ian Yue (CT Sea Grant) while Diana Payne (CT Sea Grant) also helped in design and evaluation. The surveys received good response from users. As one stated, "Glad to see surveys like this - sometimes we don't think hard enough about applications and users".

The study concluded that resilience tool users desire tools that ensure ease of to and within the tool, provisions for users' technical abilities and decision-making needs, and confidence in the tool's underlying data and outputs. Additionally, the study recommended that those building or improving resilience tools clearly communicate how their tools meet these three criteria when promoting them to stakeholders. Finally, many survey respondents stated a need for guidance in choosing, using, or making decisions with resilience tools.

Many thanks to the NART Resilience Toolkit Steering Committee to bring the project to life. The committee is comprised of LCDR James Brinkley (NART Coordinator), Peter Burns (NMFS), Sylvain DeGuise (CT Sea Grant), George McKillop (NWS), Ellen Mecray (NES-DIS), Betsy Nicholson (NOS) and Joe Sienkowitz (NWS).

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## NOAA People in the North Atlantic Region

**Peter Burns**

**Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office**

### What are your duties and areas of responsibility?

As a fishery policy analyst in our regional office, I work with the fishing industry, state personnel, scientists, and others to develop management plans and regulations to ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries. More specifically, I am the lead analyst for the lobster management program and other fisheries. In this capacity, I represent the agency on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Lobster Management Board. The Commission is responsible for developing the management plan for lobster. Under the authority of the Atlantic Coastal Act, NOAA Fisheries enacts regulations and programs in Federal waters that complement state regulations and support the management plan.

### What do you consider your most significant achievements as a NOAA employee?

I have been involved with the lobster management program for 18 years and have assisted in the development of many of the regulations and programs now in place to help address problems with the lobster stocks and assist fishermen in keeping their businesses sustainable. Working closely with the states and the lobster industry, we have implemented limited-access programs to reduce traps in the fishery to help keep fishing effort in check and reduce the danger to whales by removing lobster lines from the water. We have also implemented a system of trap transferability that allows fishermen to buy and sell parts of their trap allocations to optimize the size of their businesses. This program serves as an industry-funded buyout for fishermen who want to sell their allocations and get out of the fishery, while providing opportunities for smaller business that want to expand.

Despite these efforts and the complex network

of management measures in place to conserve the resource, climate change is complicating our ability to effectively manage fisheries. The southern New England lobster stock is experiencing recruitment failure due to warming waters. Scientists are telling us that even closing the fishery would not guarantee that the stock can rebuild to historic levels. On the other hand, the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery is experiencing record-breaking harvests year after year and the stock is at historically high levels of abundance. However, scientist believe that warming waters are negatively impacting the development of baby lobsters, which may become a problem for the Gulf of Maine lobster industry in the coming years. Scientists and managers need to continue to work closely with the lobster industry to find more innovative and effective ways to manage lobster and other fisheries in the wake of the impacts of climate change. I hope to be part of that process moving forward.



### Do you have any achievements outside of NOAA that you would like to mention?

I am the proud father of two teenagers, a daughter and a son, who love to be outside and on the water. We have a small boat that we use to get out to the beach during the summer. We also like to fish for striped bass and other species in Plum Island Sound near our home in northeastern Massachusetts. We take our boat up to Casco Bay, Maine, every summer to explore the many islands and beautiful weather, wildlife, and scenery.

### What is your favorite motto? And/or your favorite hobby?

My favorite motto that I think of when things get tough is "Just Keep Swimming" from Finding Nemo, which is one of our favorite family movies. In any endeavor that we undertake, there are bound to be problems and complications. This motto helps me to remember to keep at it and never give up. If you hit a snag, figure out what you need to do to overcome it.

### What would you recommend to those who want to begin a career at NOAA?

I recommend that they talk to employees to learn about the different types of jobs that are available. NOAA does so many different things and requires a workforce with a broad range of skills to help get the work done. Ask questions and learn from others how they became employed in the agency and map out the types of skills needed to get on the intended career path. Networking, internships, and informational interviews are great ways to stay in touch with what's happening in the agency and find out when jobs are available. NOAA is blessed with a smart and committed workforce so work hard so you can stay competitive when jobs come up.

#### NART Background

The NART is one of eight regional teams created by NOAA's Regional Collaboration effort. It is composed of 17 members from five line offices and is currently led by Jason Tuell. James Brinkley is the NART Regional Coordinator. For more information on team members and activities visit: [http://www.regions.noaa.gov/north\\_atlantic](http://www.regions.noaa.gov/north_atlantic)