



FACT SHEET

NOAA PROTECTS OUR LIVES, OUR PROPERTY AND OUR OCEANS AND COASTS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is America's environmental intelligence agency. Its products and services are used to protect the lives and property of millions of people along our coasts and affect an estimated one-third of the country's gross domestic product.¹

NOAA explores the deepest reaches of our oceans—revealing to us the vivid color and fantastical shapes of new and rare species and advancing understanding about the ocean that translates into improved medicines used to treat, for example, Alzheimer's and cancers.² Its satellites predict storms from far above our planet, and researchers develop climate forecasts to provide perspective on how what we're seeing today compares to the past. NOAA ensures we have sustainable seafood to eat and healthy ocean habitats and wildlife for this and future generations.

IF YOU LOOKED AT THE WEATHER FORECAST THIS MORNING, THANK NOAA

The Weather Channel doesn't make predictions about storms like Superstorm Sandy alone—TV channels and businesses rely on NOAA's satellites.³ NOAA's satellites support aviation and ocean navigation decisions, keeping airline passengers, fishermen, shippers and boaters safe, and, when trouble arises, aid in search and rescue activities, track oil spill pollution, and issue updates on algal blooms toxic to human health. This service saves lives every day. The only reason that forecasters can track hurricane landfalls, tornadoes, and severe storms, and provide notice of important threats like droughts and wildfire conditions, is that the U.S. invests in monitoring and research to improve weather and climate forecasting. Ever received a flash flood or tornado warning? That's NOAA. Our Armed Services depend on accurate forecasts—building up military resources by cutting services they need won't help keep America safe.

IF YOU LIVE ALONG A COASTLINE, THANK NOAA

America's coastal communities are home to over 124 million people, support 53.6 million jobs, and contribute \$7.6 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, representing 46 percent of the nation's economic output.⁴ NOAA programs help coastal communities prepare for and prosper in a dynamic and changing environment. For example:

- NOAA's **Coastal Zone Management Program** funds twenty-nine ocean and Great Lakes states and five territories to protect coastal water quality and beach access, and ensure coastal habitats are able to buffer homes and businesses from storms, sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and stay open for tourists and residents to enjoy.⁵ State coastal zone managers help minimize risks from flooding, erosion, and sea level rise and check that industrial activities proposed offshore, from sand mining to rebuild beaches to offshore wind energy development, are in line with what residents want for their local waters.⁶ NOAA also provides funds through its **Regional Coastal Resilience Grants** program to empower states and local governments to identify and tackle vulnerabilities, such as coastal flooding, in the manner that makes the most sense at the local level.
- NOAA's "small but mighty" **Sea Grant Program** funds coastal researchers at thirty-three university programs nationwide to work with local businesses and stakeholders to develop solutions related to on-the-ground challenges like reducing the Great Lakes' nutrient pollution and improving methods for Gulf of Mexico oyster aquaculture.⁷

IF YOU EAT SEAFOOD, THANK NOAA

NOAA manages America's ocean fisheries, working with industry to ensure that we have productive and lucrative fisheries now and in the future. NOAA combats illegally-harvested imported seafood that competes with legally caught U.S. seafood. And NOAA's research and monitoring provide timely warnings to fishermen, such as when ocean acidification threatens valuable oyster operations, so precautions can be taken.

IF YOU LOVE OUR OCEAN LIFE, THANK NOAA

Endangered whales, sea turtles, and other marine life can get caught in fishing gear and marine plastic refuse or strand on beaches—NOAA is there to assist organizations in their rescue, to determine what went wrong, and to help prevent it from happening again. The agency removes trash from our oceans and Great Lakes and is a key player when marine birds and fish are impacted by oil spills, like the disastrous BP Oil Spill that coated over 1,300 miles of shoreline in oil.⁸ NOAA protects and studies some of the most biologically productive places on the planet from the Hudson River to San Francisco Bay, while continuing to research the deep waters offshore for new forms of marine life.⁹ NOAA also manages America's marine "parks"—its sanctuaries and monuments—for our and future families' use and enjoyment.

NOAA keeps Americans safe, our economy strong, and our oceans and coasts healthy.

ENDNOTES

- 1 <http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive/LatestNews/TabId/684/ArtMID/1768/ArticleID/12013/NOAA-releases-Chief-Scientists-Annual-Report.aspx>.
- 2 <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/atlantic-deep-sea-treasures-IB.pdf>; <http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/medicinesfromthesea>.
- 3 <https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/content/how-our-data-are-used>.
- 4 <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/media/funding-summary.pdf>.
- 5 <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/media/funding-summary.pdf>.
- 6 <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/states>.
- 7 <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2017/03/-trump-is-gutting-program-that-keeps-our-coasts-safe>; <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/50th%20Anniversary/SG-50-TwoPager-Updated-01172016-2015-numbers.pdf>.
- 8 <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.
- 9 <https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs>.