

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM
CELEBRATING
30 YEARS

The Competitive Research Program (CRP) is celebrating 30 years of providing research, monitoring, assessments, and technical assistance for NOAA. We have gone through several name changes, employees, and locations, but the mission has remained the same:

Support the needs of coastal communities with our funded scientists providing groundbreaking and innovative research.

A LOOK THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1989** NOAA determines need for COP (Coastal Ocean Program)
- 1990** First research programs initiated and grants awarded
- 1996** Ecology and Oceanography of HABs (ECO HAB) program started
- 1998** NCCOS created - COP merged with Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR)
- 2000** Monitoring and Event Response for HABs (MERHAB) program started
- 2005** Hypoxia program started
- 2006** Coastal resiliency program started
- 2010** Prevention, control, and mitigation of HABs (PCMHAB) program started
- 2017** CSCOR becomes CRP

CRP ACHIEVEMENTS



The NGOMEX (Northern Gulf Of MEXico ecosystem and hypoxia assessment program) funded a 30 year hypoxic zone record, providing the foundation to implement 13.76 million acres of best nutrient management practices, with a goal to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous delivered to the Gulf 20% by 2025.



Our MCE (Mesophotic Coral Ecosystem) research raised global awareness about these poorly studied environments, which make up ~80% of coral reefs, catalyzing a new field of science. The Pulley Ridge Habitat Area of Particular Concern was expanded in 2018 based on discovery of a new coral area, protecting a source of fishes for the Florida Keys.



The Georges Bank region suffered a major fishery collapse, causing expansive areas to be closed. The GLOBEC (GLOBal ocean ECosystem dynamics) program provided modeling results to the New England Fisheries Management Council, leading them to reopen areas for scalloping, boosting the economy.



Our HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom) detection research used novel technology to provide an early alert to Texas public health managers, preventing a major outbreak of diarrhetic shellfish poisoning just before the 2008 Fulton Oysterfest.



Our HAB forecasting allowed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase the bag limit on razor clams in 2019, generating \$7M in local revenue in Long Beach, WA



The EESLR (Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise) program developed a tool to predict the effects of sea level rise on culturally significant Hawai'iian wetlands and fishponds, resulting in the first restored fishpond since the 1990's.



Our HAB research is leading the U.S. in control methods. Uniquely created beads are being used to harness algae-killing bacteria as a means of controlling HABS.

CRP

BY THE NUMBERS
PAST 5 YEARS

\$68.5
Million
in funding

113
Projects

129
supported
institutions



452
supported
PI's

332
proposals
received

\$441.5 M requested
\$69 M appropriated

CRP has supported all coastal and Great Lake states and U.S. territories throughout our 30 years



CRP SUPPORTING THE BLUE ECONOMY

America's prosperity relies on our ocean economy, and CRP is focused on solving issues, both today and in the future. We have contributed to and developed the blue economy and workforce throughout our 30 years, taking a leading role within NOAA. CRP is advancing technologies to enhance local science abilities, such as harmful algae detection and identification by state and federal scientists, strengthening expertise critical to managing our nation's coast. We are preparing the next generation of scientists by supporting hundreds of students, researchers, and managers by promoting their success in the coastal workforce through academia, government, NGOs, and industry.

"In Puget Sound, toxins from harmful algal blooms threaten the safe consumption of clams and oysters, an integral part of Jamestown S'Klallam tribal life. Citizens often collect shellfish for dinner, and research supported by CRP helped improve our management to minimize the risk of people getting sick. We couldn't have accomplished this without our partnership with NOAA." - Neil Harrington, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



LOOKING AHEAD...

CRP's current director, David Kidwell, is excited to see CRP continue to provide cutting-edge science to improve management of coastal resources like our science to mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms. Kidwell also aims for CRP to continue to grow and lead coastal resilience research to meet this growing need of the nation. "Already our science has been used in areas like the City of Apalachicola, Florida to assess vulnerability to flooding. It makes me proud to see these projects not only make a difference on the ground but also support students to then become leaders in research and industry" - David Kidwell

