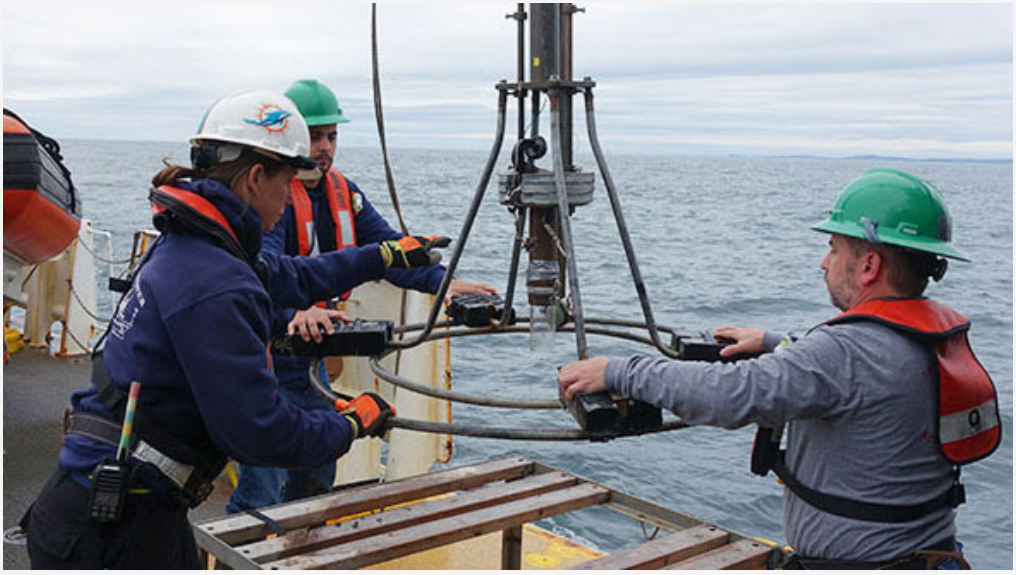
News from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) formed the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) in 1999 as the focal point for NOAA's coastal ocean science efforts. We provide coastal managers with the scientific information necessary to decide how best to protect environmental resources and public health, preserve valued habitats, and improve the way communities interact with coastal ecosystems.

Small Bloom Predicted for Gulf of Maine Red Tide in 2019 (VIDEO)

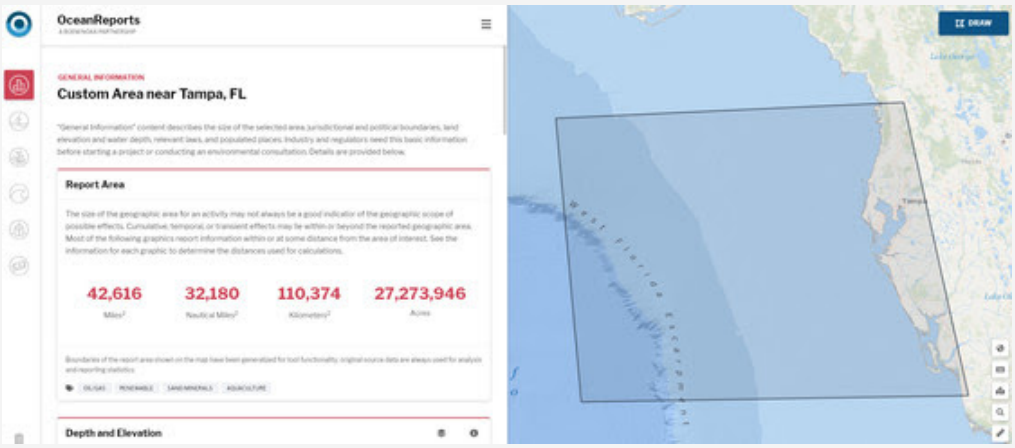
Researchers with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution are predicting a small, red tide for the Gulf of Maine this summer, continuing the pattern of smaller blooms observed in the region over the last few years. Continue reading



NOAA, Partners Launch OceanReports Tool

In April, NOAA and its partners launched OceanReports, the most comprehensive web-based spatial assessment tool for U.S. ocean waters. The tool contains over 100 data sets of authoritative ocean information, allowing users to analyze energy and minerals, natural resources (species and habitat), transportation and infrastructure, oceanographic and

biophysical conditions, and the local ocean economy within any area of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Continue reading

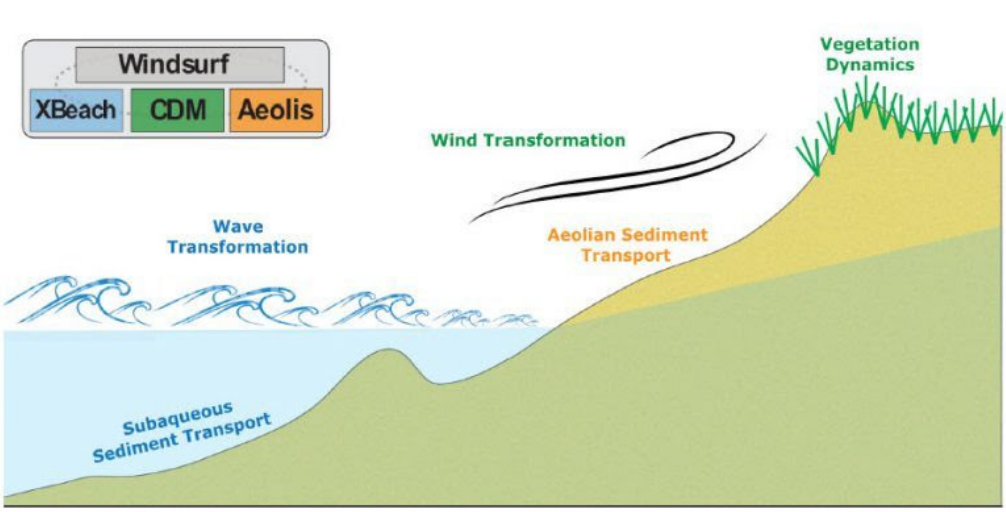


Study Finds Pharmaceuticals, Other Contaminants in Chesapeake Bay and Charleston Harbor

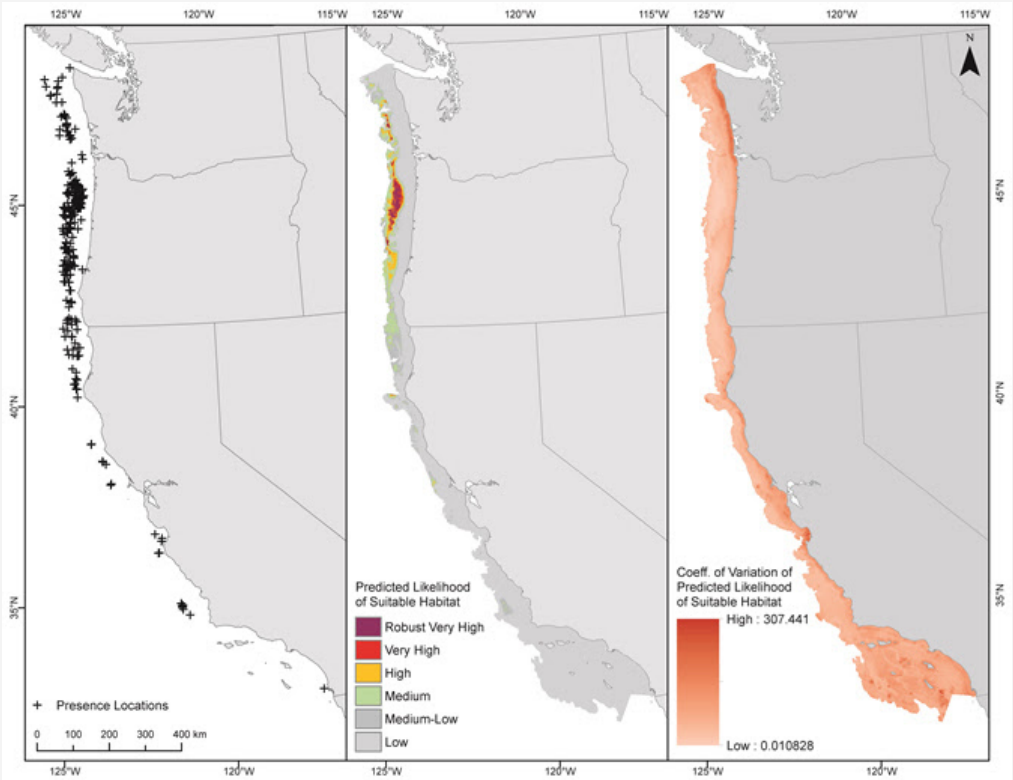
NOAA scientists recently completed regional assessments of contaminants of emerging concern (CEC) for Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, and Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Conducted as part of NOAA's Mussel Watch Program, these regional pilot studies sampled oyster and sediment from study areas to quantify the magnitude and distribution of CECs, such as pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs), pesticides, flame retardants, new industrial chemicals, stain resistant compounds, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Continue reading

New Tool Informs Dune Recovery After Storms

Dunes help protect coastal communities from storms, but they can also be severely damaged during these events through breaching and erosion. While there is often a desire for beach re-nourishment and dune restoration immediately following a storm, dunes may recover naturally over time, and a new tool called Windsurf predicts how long the recovery will take. Continue reading

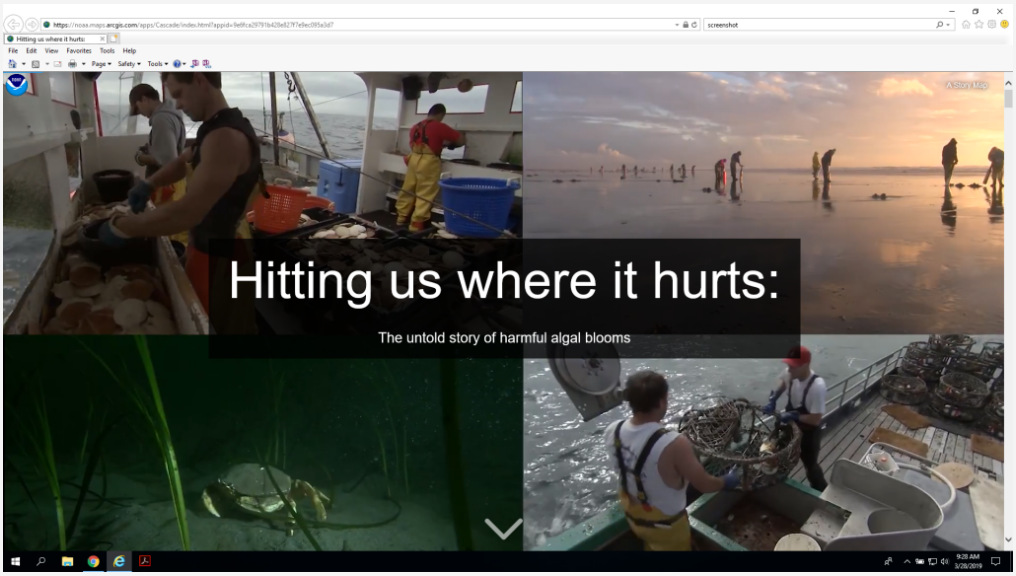


NCCOS Helps Define Best Practices for Modeling Distributions of Deep-sea Corals
In February, NCCOS researchers co-led a two-day workshop in Seattle, Washington, on best practices for deep-sea coral distribution modeling. Predictive habitat modeling provides natural resource managers with a cost-effective way of identifying potential deep-sea coral habitat over large areas. Continue reading



NOAA Offices Partner to Monitor Water Quality in Great Lakes
Last fall, NOAA divers collected zebra and quagga mussels at multiple sites around Lake Ontario as part of an NCCOS-led effort to characterize contaminants in designated areas of concern. The non-indigenous mussels are a good tool for contaminant monitoring due to their high water-filtering capacity, propensity to bioaccumulate chemical contaminants with limited ability to metabolize them, sedentary habits, and widespread distribution on hard substrates in the region. Continue reading

Socioeconomic Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms Story Map Released
Increasing numbers of toxic algal blooms in coastal waters and lakes have large social and economic impacts. NOAA's new interactive story map *Hitting us where it hurts: The untold story of harmful algal blooms* documents the economic and social impacts of harmful algal blooms (HABs), with data from almost 40 events, personal stories, and an overview of what NOAA is doing to support communities affected by HABs. Continue reading



New Research Informs Management of Rare Gulf of Mexico Whale
With the Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whale designated an endangered species in April 2019, it is more important than ever to learn about the whale's critical habitat as a first step in planning for its recovery. This is where lead investigator, Dr. Lance Garrison, and the NOAA RESTORE Science Program come into play with a project begun in 2017 focused on understanding what the Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whale eats and where it lives. Continue reading

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