



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.

For the past quarter century, NCCOS has delivered ecosystem science solutions to sustain thriving coastal communities and economies. As we celebrate this milestone in 2024, we stand confident and ready to apply the breadth and depth of our experience to future challenges along our nation's coasts.

Happy 25th anniversary, NCCOS!

First Gulf of Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Cyst Sampling Cruise Completed (VIDEO)

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) scientists completed the first Gulf of Alaska harmful algal bloom (HAB) sampling cruise aboard NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson* to measure *Alexandrium catenella* cyst abundance in seafloor sediment samples. [Continue reading](#)



Spatial Modeling Helps BOEM Identify Optimal Areas for Offshore Wind (VIDEO)

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) partnered with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to produce a video describing the process of offshore wind energy development along the U.S. coast. [Continue reading](#)



NOAA's Mussel Watch Program Expands Coastal Contamination Monitoring

NOAA's Mussel Watch Program conducted a contamination survey of the Gulf of Mexico this winter that included new chemical pollutants and new sampling sites. The expanded monitoring aims to fill critical data gaps for regional natural resource managers striving to make informed decisions about land-based sources of pollution. [Continue reading](#)



Clay Treatments to Control Red Tide Unlikely to Harm Blue Crabs (VIDEO)

Blooms of the toxic marine algae *Karenia brevis*, commonly known as red tide, occur almost annually on Florida's west coast, often killing other marine life and costing local economies millions of dollars per outbreak. NCCOS-funded scientists have found that clay treatments may offer a way to control the blooms without harming one of the state's most commercially valuable species — blue crabs. [Continue reading](#)



Report Details Coral Mapping Priorities for Guam, CNMI

A new NOAA publication identifies areas around Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) most in need of seafloor mapping to support shallow-water coral reef management. NCCOS and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) collaborated on the report and the prioritization effort, which will help CRCP and their partners efficiently allocate limited mapping resources in the region. [Continue reading](#)



Sediment Management Guide Supports Coastal Resilience by Identifying Path to Efficient Permitting

Nature-based solutions to coastal erosion and flooding, such as restoring dunes and wetlands, can help counter the effects of sea level rise, but they often require adding sediment to build up natural features. To add sediment, project managers must navigate a multi-agency regulatory framework for sediment application. [Continue reading](#)



Flood Control Work Begins at USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial (VIDEO)

In February, the USS *North Carolina* Battleship Memorial hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Living with Water® project, which will address nuisance flooding at the memorial and preserve visitor access to the battleship. Located along the Cape Fear River, across from downtown Wilmington, North Carolina, this National Historic Landmark has experienced a 7,021% increase in tidal flooding since the battleship came to the site in 1961. [Continue reading](#)



Findings Published from Second Coral Reef Socioeconomic Monitoring Effort in Puerto Rico

Since 2014, the NOAA National Coral Reef Monitoring Program socioeconomic team, which includes NCCOS researchers, has collected data to identify how people use coral reef resources and their perceptions about coral reefs across all seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions. These indicators allow researchers to measure the complex relationship between humans and the environment. [Continue reading](#)



'Now is the Time': Conserving Recreational Fisheries Takes a Habitat Focus

On a sunny day out in Charlotte Harbor, a team of researchers catch adult fish and large juveniles as part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) fisheries-independent monitoring program. The researchers identify, count, and measure fish and invertebrates in an effort to inform how different species are managed. [Continue reading](#)



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