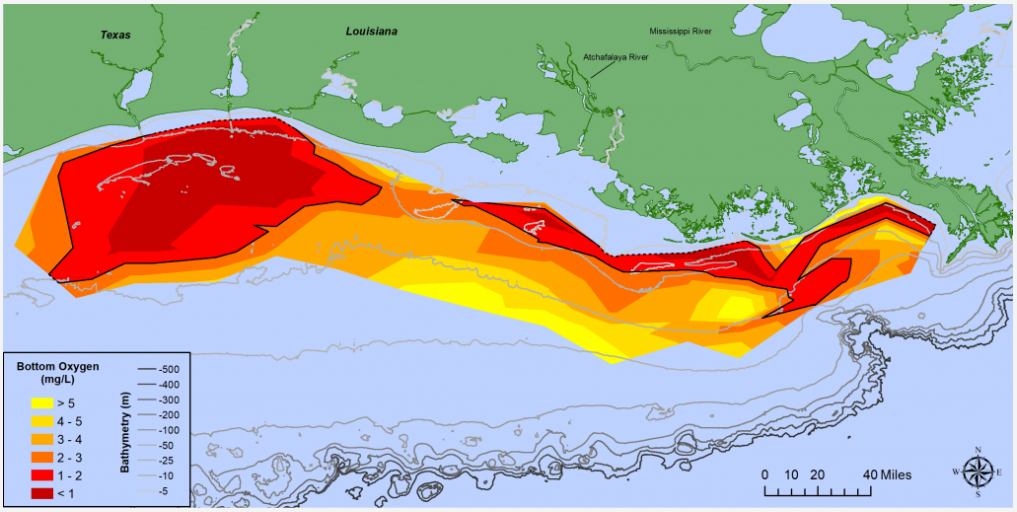
News from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

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.

NCCOS Science Supports Designation of New Marine Sanctuary in Lake Michigan (VIDEO)

On June 22, 2021, NOAA announced the designation of a 962-square-mile area of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan as a national marine sanctuary to protect 36 historically significant shipwrecks and related maritime heritage resources. NCCOS mapping products and ecological assessments of the area guided the designation of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary and will inform its future management. Continue reading

Larger than Expected Summer 'Dead Zone' Measured in Gulf of Mexico
NCCOS-supported scientists have determined that this year's Gulf of Mexico "dead zone"—an area of low oxygen that can kill fish and marine life—is approximately 6,334 square miles, equivalent to more than four million acres of habitat potentially unavailable to fish and bottom species. Continue reading



Smaller Harmful Algal Bloom Predicted for Western Lake Erie in Summer 2021
NOAA and its research partners are forecasting that western Lake Erie will experience a smaller-than-average harmful algal bloom this summer. A relatively dry spring will lead to a repeat of last year's mild bloom — this is the first time in more than a dozen years that mild blooms have occurred in consecutive summers. Continue reading

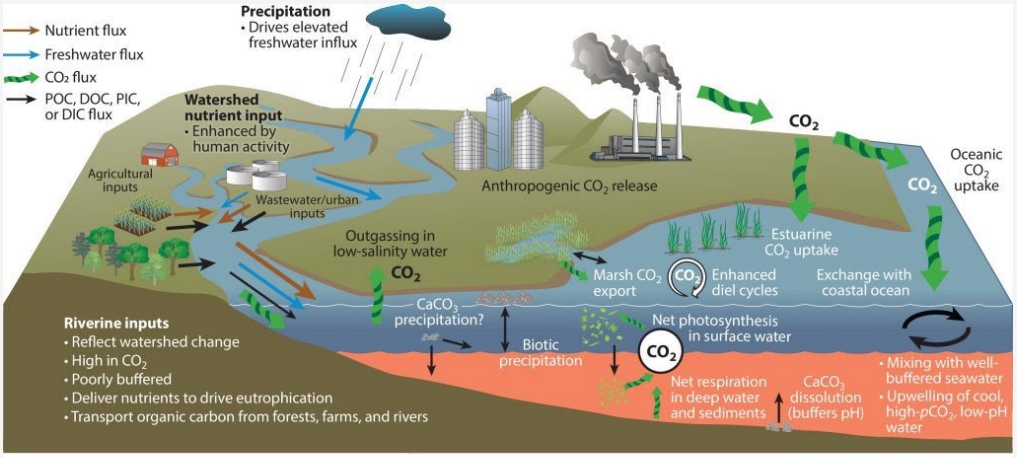
Phytoplankton Monitoring Network: 20 Years of Citizen Science and Still Growing (VIDEO)
The National Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is celebrating 20 years of improving harmful algal bloom (HAB) research through its citizen science monitoring efforts. The program has supported a national community-based network of volunteers monitoring marine and freshwater phytoplankton and HABs since 2001. Continue reading

NCCOS Helps Military with Long-term Resiliency at Coastal Installations
NCCOS's expertise in salt marsh response to sea level rise helped inform the U.S. Department of Defense on the best strategies for ecosystem-based management at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. A recent publication, authored in part by NCCOS, summarizes the key elements of the Camp Lejeune initiative, its contributions to coastal ecosystem-based management, and its relevance for employing ecosystem-based management at other coastal military installations. Continue reading

New StoryMap Provides Innovative Way to Transfer Technology to Spill Responders
NCCOS researchers created a StoryMap that shows oil and chemical spill responders how to build and use a new, spill assessment tool designed by NCCOS. Continue reading

Study Reviews Causes of Acidification in Large Estuaries

With ocean acidification threatening the health of aquatic organisms, a study funded by NCCOS, NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program, and the National Science Foundation reviewed a variety of processes that influence acidification in estuarine waters. The study compares the drivers of acidification in three large estuaries of the North American Atlantic and Pacific coasts to illustrate how natural and anthropogenic processes (e.g., climate change) may act differently across estuaries and predict future conditions. Continue reading



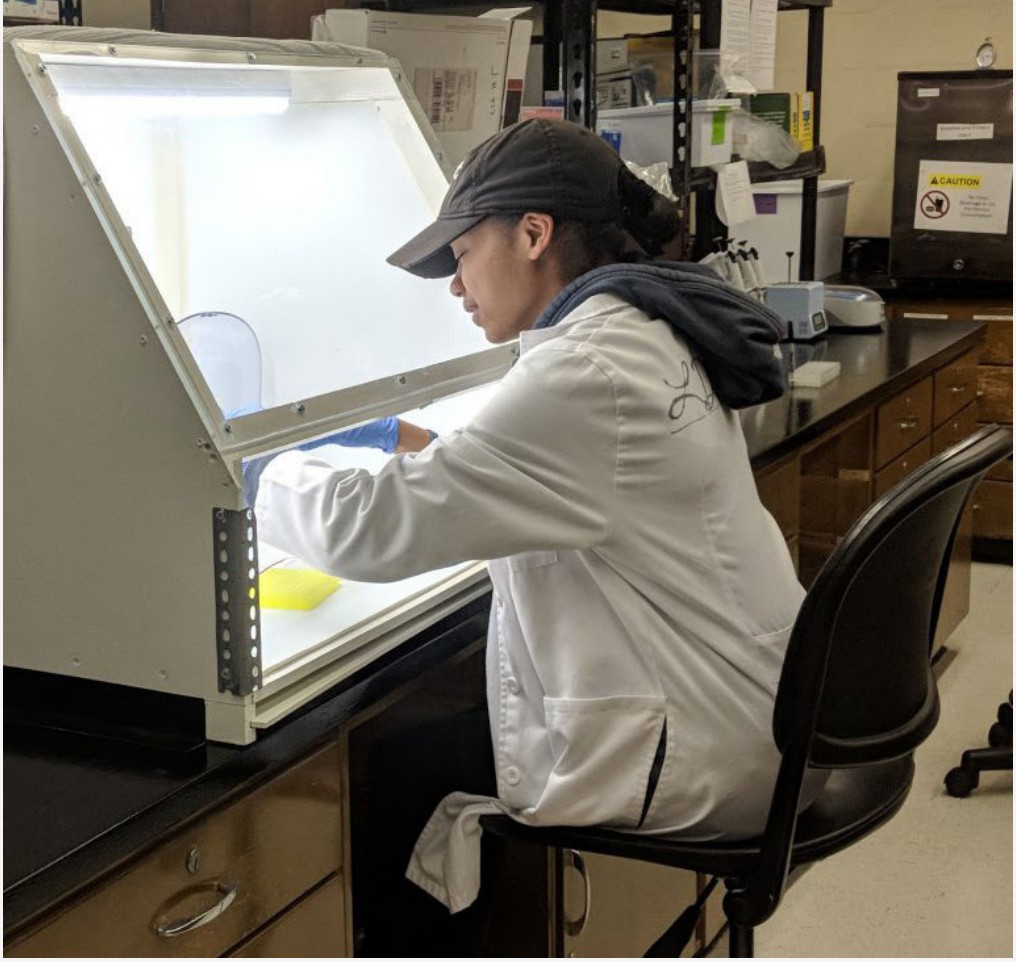
Cai W-J, et al. 2021
Annu. Rev. Mar. Sci. 13:23–55

NOAA Publishes Results from Second Coral Reef Socioeconomic Monitoring Effort in South Florida

Since 2014, the NOAA National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (NCRMP) socioeconomic team, which includes NCCOS researchers, has collected data to determine the human use of coral reef resources and identify perceptions about coral reefs and coral reef management across all seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions. Continue reading

NCCOS Hosts Eight 'Experiential Research and Training' Interns

NCCOS is hosting eight of this year's fourteen NOAA Experiential Research & Training Opportunities (NERTO) interns from the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (CCME). CCME is led by Florida A&M University and is one of four educational Cooperative Science Centers funded under NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions. The NERTO internship gives postsecondary students, particularly from underrepresented communities, the chance to learn about NOAA's mission and workforce opportunities by interning for at least 12 consecutive weeks in a NOAA lab or office. Continue reading



The Gulf of Mexico deep end is out of sight, but not out of mind

When thinking about the Gulf of Mexico, coastal resources tend to come to mind: oysters, beaches, wetlands. However, there is a whole other set of resources and ecosystem services offshore in the open ocean that make the Gulf of Mexico such a dynamic and productive ecosystem. With support from the NOAA RESTORE Science Program, Tracey Sutton and his team are shining a light on the animals that live in this pelagic portion of the Gulf. Continue reading

NCCOS

NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

@noaacoastalsci

To subscribe to *Coastal Ocean Quarterly*, click subscribe button in footer on NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science website