



News from the [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#)

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*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.*

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### **[Alaskan Tribes and Aquaculture Industry Receive Training to Minimize Risk of Shellfish Poisoning](#)**

NCCOS and partner scientists from the [Phytoplankton Monitoring Network](#) trained over 30 environmental personnel from southeast and south central Alaskan tribes in toxic phytoplankton sampling and identification. The training took part during the 6th Annual [Southeastern Alaska Tribal Toxins Partnership \(SEATT\)](#) workshop in Sitka, Alaska. [Continue reading](#)



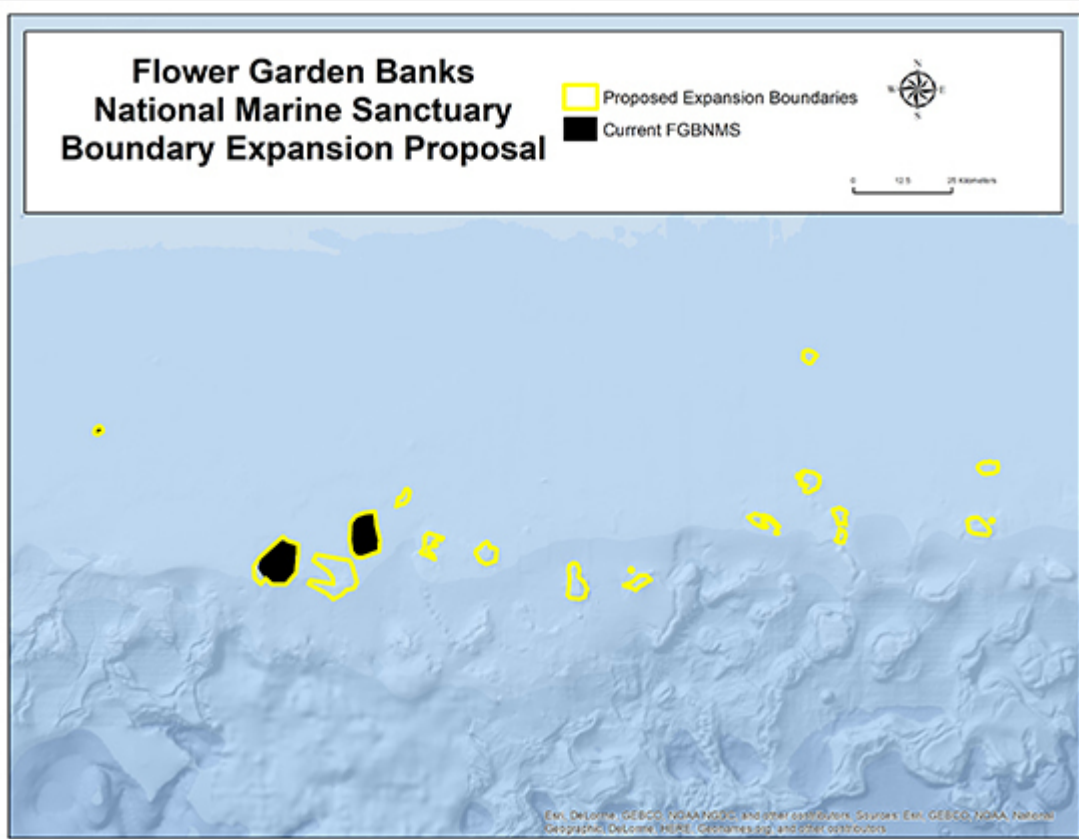
### **[HAB Forecast Gives Washington Confidence to Proceed with Razor Clam Festival](#)**

The NOAA-sponsored harmful algal bloom forecast for the Pacific Northwest gave the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) confidence to proceed with this year's opening of the Washington recreational razor clam fishery. The opening coincides with the occurrence of the [Long Beach Razor Clam Festival](#), an event celebrating the fishery since 1940. [Continue reading](#)



### **NCCOS Supports Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Expansion Effort**

NCCOS scientists developed a biogeographic assessment and a geospatial decision support tool to help inform the proposed boundary expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) in the Gulf of Mexico. The team analyzed 14 years of data to produce the assessment, including deep-sea information collected with submersibles and remotely operated vehicles, and incorporated 20,000 direct observations of ecologically significant corals in the geospatial tool. The FGBNMS Advisory Council's Boundary Expansion Working Group used these products to develop recommended boundaries for 14 proposed new management areas. [Continue reading](#)



### **NOAA RESTORE Science Program Announces Next Federal Funding Opportunity**

This funding competition invites applications that propose to identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's living coastal and marine resources and the processes driving them. Applicants must propose work that addresses this priority in one or more of these areas of emphasis: 1) exploring trends in multiple species, 2) investigating the link between weather or climate and trends, and 3) examining the relationship between trends and economic activity. [Continue reading](#)



### **First Observations of Seeps, Shipwrecks, Species Recorded in Gulf of Mexico Deep Waters (video)**

This spring, scientists completed a 23-day expedition aboard NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, collecting data on poorly understood deep-sea habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. The researchers used remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) to survey areas, both never explored and previously investigated, identified as priorities by ocean management and scientific communities. [Continue reading](#)



### **NOAA Evaluates Using Drones to Map Coastline and Nearshore Waters**

NCCOS scientists and their partners tested the utility of drone technology to map the coastline and nearshore waters of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The team evaluated the quality of land elevation and water depth data acquired by three different drones under a variety of conditions. [Continue reading](#)



### **Melting Antarctic Sea Ice Threatens Minke Whales (video)**

The Antarctic Peninsula is warming at rates much greater than the rest of the planet, leading to large losses of sea ice, prime habitat for minke whales. Tiny, shrimp-like crustaceans called krill, which feed on algae and phytoplankton that grow on the underside of sea ice, serve as the main food for minkes. As melting sea ice threatens krill populations, minkes, and the ecological role they play, are also at risk. Earlier this year, a team of scientists traveled to the peninsula to study minke whales, ultimately seeking to better understand the impact of climate change in this polar region. [Continue reading](#)



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