



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.

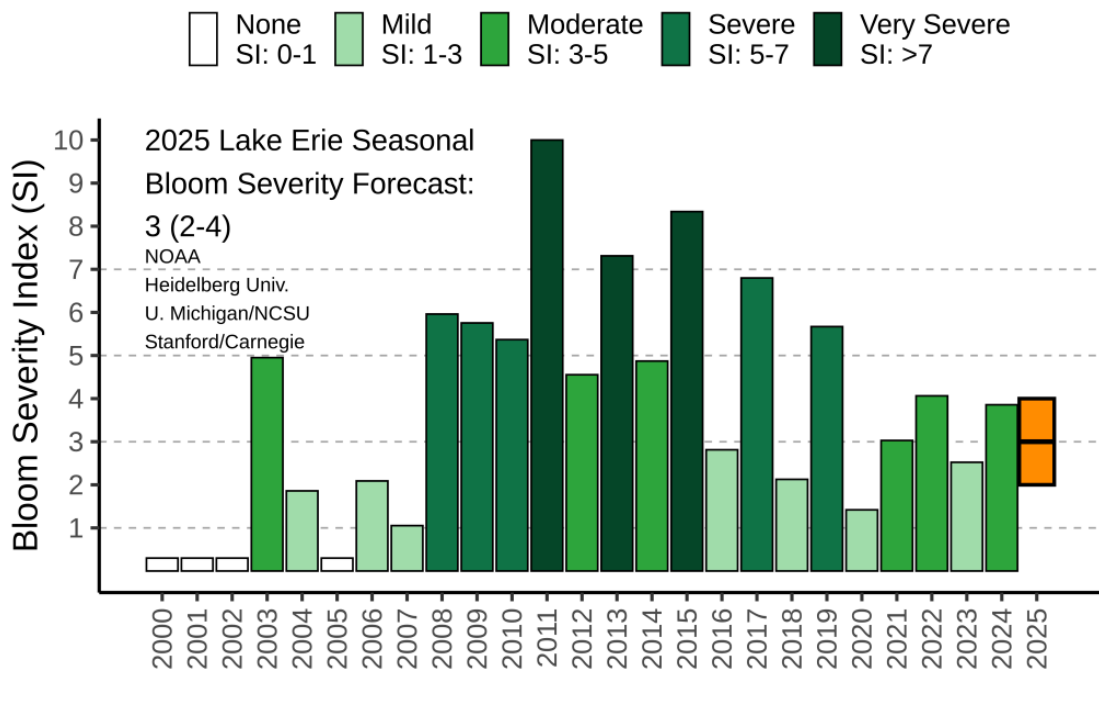
[NOAA Forecasts an Average 'Dead Zone' for Gulf of America in Summer 2025](#)

NOAA is forecasting this summer's Gulf of America (formerly Gulf of Mexico) "[dead zone](#)" to be average-sized, covering approximately 5,574 square miles — an area roughly three times the size of Delaware. The dead zone, or [hypoxic zone](#), is an area of low oxygen that can kill fish and other marine life. It occurs every summer and is primarily a result of excess nutrient pollution from human activities in cities and farm areas throughout the Mississippi-Atchafalaya watershed. [Continue reading](#)



Mild to Moderate Harmful Algal Bloom Predicted for Western Lake Erie

NOAA and its research partners are forecasting a mild to moderate harmful algal bloom (HAB) in western Lake Erie this summer. This year's bloom is expected to measure 3, with a potential range of 2–4 on the severity index. The HAB severity index is based on the bloom's biomass (the amount of algae) during the peak 30 days of the bloom. [Continue reading](#)



[New Tool Shows Flood Risks to Local Southwest Florida Infrastructure and Assets](#)

Extreme weather events and rising seas are creating more frequent flooding conditions in southwest Florida. A NOAA-funded study has supported the development of an [online viewer](#) called the Adaptation for Coastal Urban and Natural Ecosystems (ACUNE) GeoTool, which can help communities understand the potential extent and severity of future flooding in their region. [Continue reading](#)



Early Spring Harmful Algal Bloom Mapping Survey in Alaska Informs Subsistence Harvesters

Scientists with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and partners have completed the spring *Alexandrium* bloom mapping survey in Kodiak, Alaska, bringing them one step closer to testing a newly developed harmful algal bloom (HAB) forecast model for the Kodiak Archipelago. [Continue reading](#)



NCCOS Provides Mapping Guidance, Data Analysis for Proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Area

As the need to secure more U.S.-based food sources grows, scientists with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) are providing data and mapping support to analyze sensitive habitats for proposed commercial fishery areas. The support will inform the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's decision on whether to establish a new, shrimp fishery access area (SFAA) in the Atlantic Ocean. [Continue reading](#)



Study Measures Magnitude, Distribution of PFAS Chemicals in Great Lakes

Scientists with NCCOS' [Mussel Watch Program](#) published a retrospective [assessment](#) of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Great Lakes, based on mussel tissue samples collected in the region from 2013 to 2018. Bivalve shellfish, such as mussels, serve as ideal indicators of chemical pollution because they tend to bioaccumulate pollutants from the large amounts of water they filter, they have limited mobility, and they are found throughout the U.S. coastal zone. [Continue reading](#)



Total Economic Impact of 2018 Red Tide Now Estimated at \$2.7B

From October 2017 to January 2019, a large and prolonged red tide bloom, commonly known as the “2018 red tide,” caused respiratory distress and displaced recreational activities, heavily impacting the tourism sector along Florida’s Gulf coast. An NCCOS-funded study found that this red tide event — unprecedented in duration, intensity, and impact — caused \$2.7 billion in losses, an order of magnitude larger than previous estimates of \$318 million. Continue reading



New Landscape Design Protects North Carolina Battleship Memorial from Flooding (VIDEO)

A redesigned landscape in Wilmington, North Carolina, is demonstrating how communities can live with rising waters instead of fighting them. The Living with Water® project, recently completed at the site of the USS *North Carolina* Battleship Memorial, offers a novel approach to nuisance flooding — a growing problem in coastal areas. [Continue reading](#)



Drones with Specialized Cameras Could Enhance Detection, Removal of Beach Debris (VIDEO)

A new [study](#) from NCCOS, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, and their partners shows that Uncrewed Aircraft Systems, or drones, equipped with polarimetric cameras could be used to detect and identify debris that washes up on beaches. Marine debris, also known as marine litter, is a global problem that threatens the environment, navigation safety, coastal economies, and, potentially, human health. Detecting and identifying debris quickly and accurately is key to cleanup and response actions that can prevent these impacts. [Continue reading](#)



Scars and Storms: Two Project Teams Work to Conserve and Restore Seagrass Beds Across the Gulf

On a warm, sunny day, you snorkel through a lush bed of seagrass. Fish swim between the leaves and crabs crawl across the sediment. Swimming along, you start to notice the seagrass becoming more patchy — almost as if someone has mowed a section away in some spots. There are not as many fish darting out of your way and you see fewer and fewer crabs. This scene can be experienced across the Gulf of America (formerly Gulf of Mexico), as seagrass extent is rapidly declining. [Continue reading](#)



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