



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 Socioeconomic Research Highlights Impacts of COVID-19 on Small-scale Fishers and Fish Dealers](#)

Small-scale fishers and fish dealers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands surveyed in August 2020 reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on their livelihoods. Survey results are summarized in a new NOAA [publication](#), along with other recent regional socioeconomic findings from the [National Coral Reef Monitoring Program](#). [Continue reading](#)



Modeling At-sea Density of Marine Birds Informs Pacific Offshore Wind Energy Planning

NCCOS and partners [published](#) the at-sea spatial distributions of 33 species of marine birds for the contiguous U.S. Pacific outer continental shelf to inform offshore wind energy planning in the region. [Continue reading](#)



NCCOS Maps Options for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in Gulf of Mexico and Southern California Bight

NCCOS has released two atlases that compile the best available science to inform the identification of [Aquaculture Opportunity Areas](#) (AOAs) in the Gulf of Mexico and the Southern California Bight. NOAA [previously identified these regions](#) for their potential to host sustainable commercial aquaculture development in the United States. [Continue reading](#)



NOAA Awards \$15.2M for Harmful Algal Bloom Research

NOAA awarded \$15.2M in funding in fiscal year 2021 for harmful algal bloom (HAB) research projects throughout U.S. coastal and Great Lakes waters. HABs can produce toxins and have other harmful effects that damage ecosystems, disrupt seafood supplies, impact economies, and threaten human health. [Continue reading](#)



NCCOS Awards \$1.7M to Support Habitat Connectivity Research in National Marine Sanctuaries

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science awarded \$1.7 million of an anticipated \$5.9 million over the next four to five years for three research projects to investigate species' habitat usage and connectivity in and around national marine sanctuaries in the Florida Keys, Flower Garden Banks (Gulf of Mexico), and Stellwagen Bank (off coast of Massachusetts). [Continue reading](#)



Oxybenzone Sunscreen Threatens Hanauma Bay's Coral Reef

A new [study](#) shows that swimmers and beach showers are sources of sunscreen pollution in Hanauma Bay, resulting in levels of oxybenzone that can threaten the health of the coral reef and seagrasses in the bay. Hanauma Bay is the most popular swimming area in the Hawaiian Islands, reportedly averaging 3,000 to 4,000 visitors a day in the 1980s to the early part of 2010, with peaks between 10,000 and 13,000 visitors per day.

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Climate Change Likely to Worsen Impact of Urban Runoff on Southern California Ocean

An NCCOS-funded [study](#) found that nutrient-laden, urban runoff is fueling algal blooms in Southern California's coastal waters that are acidifying the water and depleting it of oxygen, making habitat unsuitable for marine organisms. The research team's modeling

shows the trend is likely to worsen under future climate change scenarios. [Continue reading](#)



Phytoplankton Monitoring Network to Translate Citizen Science Training Materials into Spanish

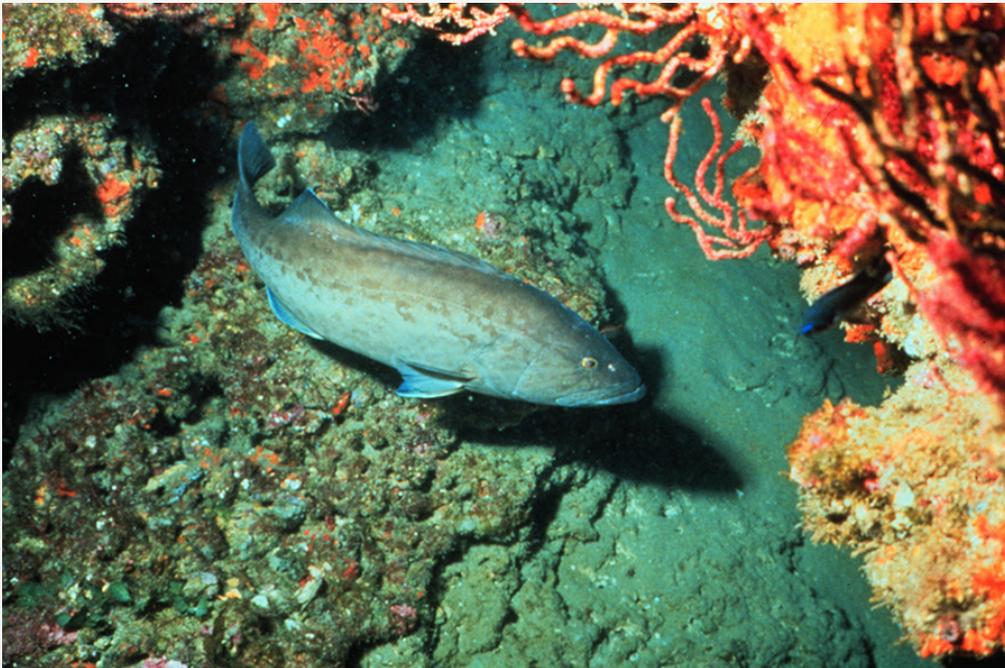
Historically, Hispanic Americans have been underrepresented in both higher education, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Hispanics represent [17 percent of the workforce](#), but hold only 8 percent of STEM jobs in the United States. Participation in citizen science programs by Hispanics is even lower at 6.4 percent, often due to language barriers.

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Red Tide and Gag Grouper: Ecosystem Modeling Used to Inform Stock Assessment and Management

Gag grouper are an iconic species on Florida's Gulf Coast. They are both predator and prey and, because of their unique life cycle, they are subject to shifting ocean currents and other ecosystem processes. Gag grouper are also prized by recreational and commercial fishers. Every three to five years, catch limits for gag grouper are recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. [Continue reading](#)



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