

Coastal Ocean Quarterly

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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 Announces Five Year Strategic Plan for Aquaculture

NOAA has published its first-ever five year [Strategic Plan for Aquaculture](#) to guide the agency's work from 2023–2028 to enhance the growth of sustainable U.S. aquaculture. The Strategic Plan was developed by the NOAA Aquaculture Program, which includes the NOAA Fisheries [Office of Aquaculture](#), the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's [National Sea Grant Program](#), and the National Ocean Service's [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#). [Continue reading](#)



NOAA Awards \$4.2 Million for Multi-Stressor Research on Northern California Current Ecosystem

NOAA has awarded \$967,505 of an anticipated four-year, \$4.2 million project to support research on multi-stressor impacts on marine ecosystems under climate change. The newly funded project, led by Oregon State University and NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, will occur off the coasts of northern California, Oregon, and Washington, including NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and will focus on climate impacts to Dungeness crab, an iconic and valuable fishery resource that is culturally and economically important to the region's coastal communities. [Continue reading](#)



Study Estimates Economic Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms on Razor Clam-Dependent Community

A new [study](#) from NCCOS-funded researchers estimates a range of economic impacts that result from harmful algal bloom-related cancellations of razor clam digs at Long Beach, Washington — the most popular beach in the state for recreational clam diggers. The recreational razor clam fishery is the largest recreational bivalve fishery in the Pacific Northwest and a major source of tourism-related income to small communities in the region. [Continue reading](#)



[StoryMap Highlights Climate Adaptation Responses of Coastal New Hampshire Residents](#)

NCCOS scientists have published a [story map](#) summarizing the results from a 2021 household survey of residents in the "Seacoast Region" of New Hampshire and neighboring areas to understand perceptions of coastal risks and adaptation. [Continue reading](#)



NCCOS, Partners Assess Contamination in Great Lakes (VIDEO)

In September, the NCCOS Mussel Watch Program and its partners completed a seven-week sampling mission to determine the amount of contamination in the Great Lakes and its potential to damage ecosystem health. [Continue reading](#)



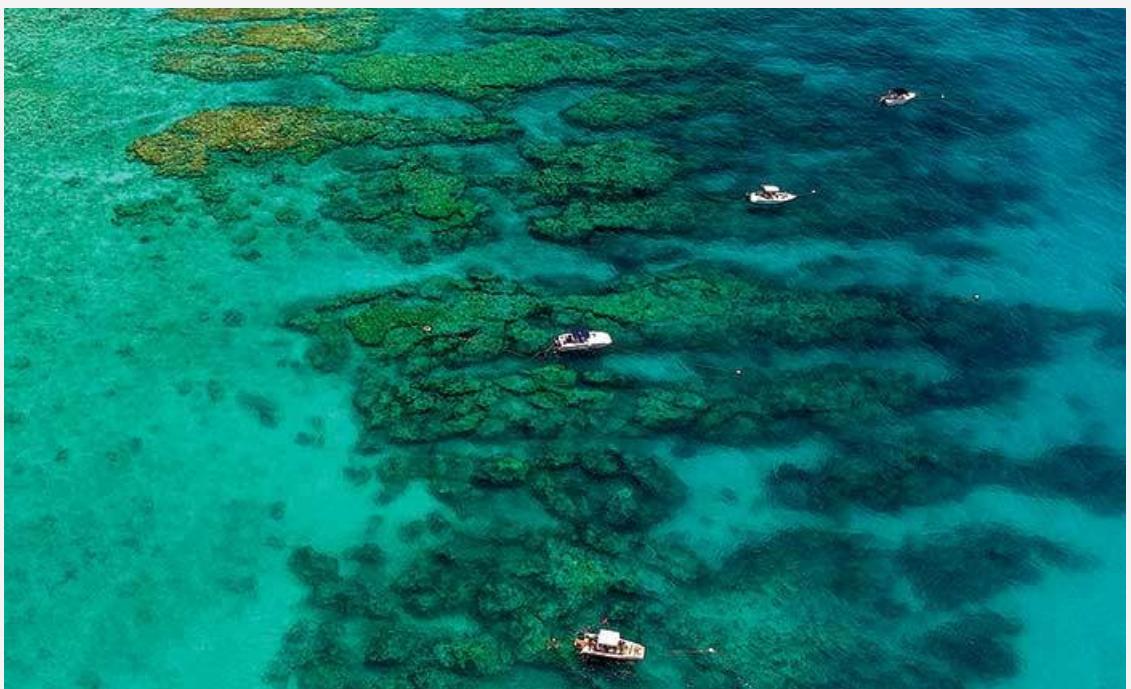
Aerial Drone Guidelines for Marsh Monitoring Published (VIDEO)

NCCOS and partners have published guidance on using aerial drones to detect changes in vegetated wetlands. Based on lessons learned in the field over two years, the [publication](#) provides entry-level users with best practices for image collection and analysis to create high-quality, two- and three-dimensional mapping products. [Continue reading](#)



[New Report Presents Agency Priorities for Mapping South Florida's Coral Reef Ecosystems](#)

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program uses benthic mapping data to support a variety of management decisions about coral reef ecosystems. To help the program efficiently allocate limited mapping resources, NCCOS and its partners identified priority mapping locations along the south Florida coast from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas. A new [publication](#) highlights the methods and results of the mapping prioritization effort. [Continue reading](#)



Pacific Northwest Tribes Participate in NCCOS-hosted Toxin Monitoring Workshop

NCCOS scientists hosted a phytoplankton and toxin monitoring workshop for Tribal environmental specialists from the First Nations Health Authority, part of the WATCH Community of Practice, to share techniques focused on seafood safety, security, and sovereignty in the Salish Sea. The tribes include peoples from the American Pacific Northwest and British Columbia who live along the Salish Sea and use its resources for food and other needs. [Continue reading](#)



Exploring Nature-Based Features in Cold Regions: Preserving the History of Saint Croix Island, Maine

A new [story map](#) highlights the partnership between NCCOS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering With Nature ® (EWN®) Program to advance nature-based solutions in cold regions. The project team will conduct research to develop nature-based alternatives to stabilize and mitigate ongoing erosion at Saint Croix Island, Maine, an International Historic Site managed by the National Park Service (NPS). [Continue reading](#)



'Information Rich': Evolving Gulf-Wide Project Surveys Reef Fish and Their Habitats

On the edge of an artificial reef, a spherical device drops down and slowly hits the sandy bottom. The device is composed of an array of six cameras, and it is recording the fish and their habitat in all directions. It records underwater for 30 minutes and then up it goes, pulled back onto the boat to collect the images for later analysis. Throughout the summer this array is deployed at 2,000 different sites in the Gulf of Mexico to collect critical data on natural resources. The video surveys collected are part of the Gulf Fishery Independent Survey of Habitat and Ecosystem Resources (G-FISHER) project, a \$6 million research initiative funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) RESTORE Science Program. [Continue reading](#)



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