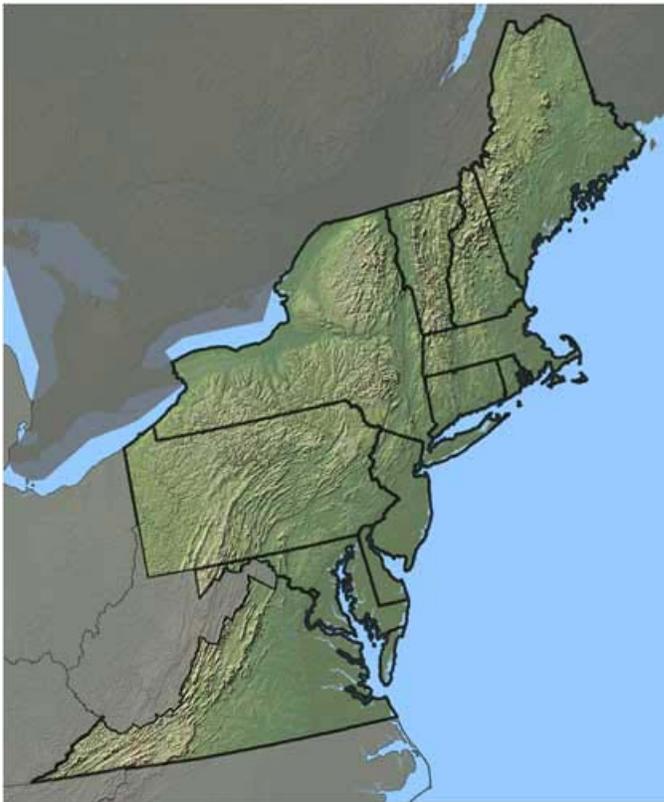


FY 2011 Integrated Operating Plan

North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



*Maine, New Hampshire,
Vermont, Massachusetts,
Rhode Island, Connecticut,
New York, New Jersey,
Pennsylvania, Delaware,
Maryland, Virginia*

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North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team FY 2010 Annual Operating Plan

I. Background

Regional Collaboration in NOAA

NOAA established the Regional Collaboration effort to support integrated, regionally-tailored implementation of NOAA-wide programmatic priorities and to provide a more systematic approach to both internal and external communications. NOAA has a responsibility to produce relevant, reliable and timely scientific information to support decision-makers and fulfill its stewardship mandates. Regional Collaboration will enable NOAA to achieve this by identifying and applying NOAA's full range of capabilities, within and across regions to improve our productivity and value to stakeholders.

Regional Teams add value to NOAA's mission by:

- *Understanding stakeholder needs;*
- *Understanding NOAA's capabilities in the region;*
- *Being aware of the activities and capabilities of NOAA's current and prospective partners;*
- *Synthesizing regional needs and capabilities into a list of achievable and nationally significant priorities; and*
- *Building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders and partners.*

Regional Collaboration expands upon existing regional coordination and communication efforts by adding the component of program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at both the national and regional scale. The purpose of regional collaboration is to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers, using existing authority and accountability structures. Regional Collaboration Teams identify and apply NOAA's full range of capabilities, within and across regions, to design the best geographically-specific solutions for customers.

The goals of Regional Collaboration are:

- Improved services for the benefit of NOAA's customers (e.g., citizens, researchers, resource managers);
- Increased value and productivity of partnerships (e.g., other federal agencies, academic institutions, state and local governments);
- Improved stakeholder relations and support (e.g., Congress, non-profits, industry);
- Improved internal communications and efficiency across NOAA's existing organizational structure; and
- A more visible and valued NOAA.

NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team (NART) is one of eight regional teams. Membership of regional teams typically reflects the diversity of NOAA within the region and may include NOAA partners in addition to NOAA employees. Current NART members are listed in *Appendix I*. Regional teams, including NART, reach beyond team members to access expertise within the region to meet its goals.

The North Atlantic Region

Geography and Environment

The North Atlantic region extends from Maine to Virginia and encompasses the coastlines of 11 states, as well as Vermont and the Connecticut, Delaware, Hudson and Susquehanna river watersheds. It is characterized by several large scale geographic features including the Gulf of Maine and Cape Cod Bay and estuarine systems including Long Island Sound, New York Bight, Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay. The geology includes rocky shorelines, wetlands, and beach/dune complexes as well as significant barrier island systems with extensive intertidal and freshwater wetland complexes, and low lying sandy coastal plains.

Social and Economic Context

The North Atlantic hosts some of the Nation's largest metropolitan areas and ports, with significant projected increases in maritime transportation. The region has commercial and recreational fishing industries as well as coastal dependant tourism. The largest port by dollar value is situated in New Bedford, MA, a testament to the area's dominant scallop industry. The region includes 180 coastal counties (and the District of Columbia) which constitute 40 percent of the total land area, and 77 percent of the North Atlantic's population. The North Atlantic has four of the Nation's ten largest metropolitan areas, three of the top five U.S. ports (value of fish landed) and five of the Nation's top 20 ports (international cargo volume).

Challenges and Drivers

Increasing coastal population and attendant societal activities (e.g., tourism, recreation, fishing, transportation, navigation, energy development, etc.) result in over fishing, degradation of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and use conflicts. Expansion of the existing sector-based management program was announced in 2010, exacerbating tensions with the commercial fishing industry in New England. In addition, an Inspector General review released in 2010 gave credence to fishermen's complaints that enforcement in the Northeast was in some cases arbitrary and aggressive, and regulations too complicated. The IG report and sector management program taken together have increased political attention on NOAA in the region.

Greater coastal populations also increase the vulnerability of people, structures and economies to hazards including hurricanes and nor'easters. In 2010, both New England and the Mid-Atlantic saw major flooding events in the Providence and Norfolk areas respectively. Climate change will place additional areas at risk due to coastal storm surge, flooding, sea level rise, salt water intrusion, and changes to temperature and precipitation extremes. Over 1,000 square miles along the Northeast coast are threatened by a predicted 20-inch rise in sea level by the end of this century.

Capabilities

NOAA capabilities to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to these challenges include: weather, marine and riverine forecasting; emergency management and response; coastal land use planning and management; marine spatial planning; monitoring and prediction of oceanic and atmospheric changes; and ocean observing system expertise, among others.

NOAA's regional work is done in concert with a host of governmental and non-governmental partners, ensuring we apply the full suite of NOAA capabilities to address the environmental challenges of the North Atlantic region. Focusing and integrating these capabilities in the North Atlantic region will improve our ability to provide products and services to our constituents. Fortunately, NOAA has substantial assets within the region that can be focused on addressing the challenges noted above. Assets within the region include significant workforce concentrations in:

- Hampton Roads, VA (OMAO, NOS, NWS, NMFS)
- Silver Spring, MD (NOS, NESDIS, NWS, NMFS)
- Annapolis, MD (NMFS, NOS, OAR, NESDIS)
- Bohemia, NY (NWS)
- Narragansett, RI (NMFS, NOS)
- Woods Hole, MA (NMFS)
- Gloucester, MA (NMFS)
- Durham, NH (NOS)

There is one National Marine Sanctuary located at Stellwagen Bank and managed out of Scituate, MA. While the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is managed out of Newport News, VA, the sanctuary itself is located off the coast of North Carolina.

The region is home to the Eastern Region headquarters of NOAA's National Weather Service, 13 Weather Forecast Offices, two River Forecast Centers, and state geodetic advisors are located in eleven states. The NOAA Marine Operations Center-Atlantic is located in Norfolk, Virginia which is also the homeport of the NOAA ship *Thomas Jefferson*. The NOAA ship *Delaware II* is home ported in Woods Hole, MA, while the newest ship, the *Henry Bigelow* is currently based out of Newport, RI until a home port decision is made. In addition, port agents, law enforcement personnel, and others are distributed throughout the coastal areas of the region.

In addition to NOAA employees and facilities, NOAA enjoys close partnerships with entities in the region, including:

- Four regional ocean governance structures that include the Gulf of Maine Council, the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), the recently formed Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans (MARCO) and the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Northeast Regional Climatic Data Center located at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY
- Nine National Estuarine Research Reserves
- 11 Coastal Zone Management Programs
- 13 Sea Grant Programs
- Four Cooperative Institutes
- Two regional associations of coastal ocean observing systems (NERACOOS, MACOORA)

Regional Collaboration works to improve cooperation among these NOAA and partner entities to more effectively address our collective challenges.

Priorities for FY 2011

As part of the larger federal family, NOAA's Goals and Objectives are aligned with the Department of Commerce (DOC) Goals and Objectives, and to key Administration priorities. Within this framework, Regional Collaboration seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating the broader NOAA Goals and Objectives in terms of priority regional needs.

NOAA's Goals and Objectives

NOAA will be focusing its activities toward the following strategic goals and enterprise objectives articulated in the Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP). The complete list of NOAA strategic goals and objectives is listed in Appendix 2.

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation – An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
- Weather-Ready Nation – Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events
- Healthy Oceans – Vibrant marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems
- Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies – Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable
- NOAA's Science & Technology Enterprise
- NOAA's Engagement Enterprise
- NOAA's Organization & Administration Enterprise

NOAA's FY11 Priorities

Each year the NOAA Administrator identifies, through an Annual Guidance Memorandum (AGM), the agency's priorities. In the context of NOAA's long-term strategy, the current AGM establishes programmatic priorities that will shape NOAA's execution focus in FY11. Four priorities are organized according to NOAA's NGSP and two are cross-cutting, place-based priorities.

- Advance Climate Services
- Define the future of NOAA's weather and water services
- Promote stewardship of oceans and coasts by implementing the National Ocean Policy
- Strengthen science
- Support recovery of the Gulf of Mexico
- Improve understanding, planning, and environmental protection in the Arctic

Alignment of AGM Priorities with NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan

	NGSP Strategic Goals				NGSP Enterprise Objectives		
	Climate	Weather	Oceans	Coasts	S&T	Engage	Org/Ad
Implement a Climate Service	✓				✓	✓	✓
Define the future of NOAA's weather and water services		✓			✓	✓	✓
Eliminate overfishing, rebuild fish stocks, conserve habitat and foster sustainable aquaculture			✓		✓	✓	✓
Implementing the National Ocean Policy (NOP)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strengthen science	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place-based focus: Gulf of Mexico			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place-based focus: Arctic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Regional Team FY11 Priorities

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders (Engagement Enterprise)
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions (Climate goal)
- Improved water resource management (Weather goal)
- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities (Oceans goal)
- Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management (Coastal goal)
- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change (Coastal goal)

Integrated Operating Plan Purpose and Organization

Purpose

The purpose of the Integrated Operating Plan (IOP) is to guide and document team activities during the fiscal year. Regional Team IOPs form the basis for NOAA to examine how well the agency is addressing administration and regional priorities in different areas of the country. They also serve as a tool for communicating Regional Team priorities. Ultimately, Regional Team IOPs enable NOAA to be more effective and responsible to constituent needs by: identifying regional areas for emphasis; uncovering and filling gaps across the line offices and implementing programs; aligning and leveraging NOAA capabilities with partners; and measuring progress toward stated goals and objectives.

Organization

This NART Integrated Operating Plan for FY2011 addresses national and regional priorities, utilizing an integrative, cross-line office approach, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination and communication within the region. The priority activities of NART are organized according to the goals of NOAA's current strategic plan, which will be implemented over the next 5 years. Each activity is related to strategic objectives within the long-term goal. Note that projects may address multiple long-term goals, but are organized within a single goal for the purposes of this Operating Plan. The activity descriptions provide information about the purpose, scope, partners

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and budget of the activity. Milestones are associated with clearly defined deliverables or expected accomplishments.

Regional Collaboration funding to NART (\$50K) has been allocated to allow NART to address its priorities. This funding for NART work is/will be augmented and leveraged through other programs. The draft spend plan for NART's FY10 Operating Plan is presented in Appendix 3.

II. Team Activities

A. Goal: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

Activity A1. Developing a ‘Climate in the Eastern Region’ Contact List

Strategic Objective(s):

- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Ellen Mecray (Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov)

Summary: Federal agencies active in the North Atlantic region recognized the need for enhanced cooperation and collaboration to address climate change vulnerability and adaptation issues. The climate change stakeholder community, including state, regional and local entities, as well as research and academic institutions, has recognized the importance of Federal agency support in a shared regional approach to respond to impacts from climate variability and change. This project will start with a preliminary contact list crafted by NOAA and EPA with points-of-contact from each Federal agency. Since titles and positions have since shifted, it was recognized at the New England Federal Partners’ (NEFP) meeting in August 2010 that an update is needed. NOAA retains the master list, and will work through the NEFP to update and distribute.

Activity Objectives:

- Improve capacity of outreach/extension personnel to access climate adaptation information, tools, and training materials
- Build a communications framework focused on climate in the region

Cost/Funding Source: In kind

Why NART? The NART supports the NEFP and also houses a climate sub-team with extensive contacts throughout the North Atlantic. It is the only entity in NOAA that topically represents climate services at present. This product will also serve multiple partners, and addresses communication issues at a regional scale.

Partners: NOS, NMFS, NESDIS and NWS, as well as NEFP, academics, NGOs, states

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Distribution of electronic contact list (Q3)

Activity A2. Expanding Climate Literacy Training, a Partnership with Sea Grant

Strategic Objective(s):

- Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

Contact: Ellen Mecray (Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov)
David Vallee (David.Vallee@noaa.gov)
Lora Mueller, NWS/ERH (Lora.Mueller@noaa.gov)

Summary: In FY10, the North Atlantic Regional Team through a partnership with 13 Sea Grant program in the region, improved climate literacy in the North Atlantic using a regional network of "climate ambassadors." This project will build upon last year's success. Regional participants identified two gaps in the FY10 capacity building project: a) the need for additional training sessions to reach those missed in FY10; and b) the need for a land-based, non-coastal outreach effort. The addition of an interior climate module would be crafted with the help of our state climatologists and NWS climate liaisons to focus the material on additional recipients including county planners and land managers.

Activity Objectives:

- Provide consistent communication on NOAA climate services to our stakeholders and customers.

Cost/Funding Source: \$8,000 in NART FY11 funding for participant travel, module preparation, and module delivery.

Why NART? This project builds upon a previous NART effort. It works across multiple states, line offices, external partners, and further reinforces the NART connection to Sea Grant in the area of climate engagement.

Partners: Participating NOAA entities include NOS, NWS, SG, NERR, NESDIS, OAR, NMFS- all as Tier 1 trainers (trained April 2010), state climatologists, RCCs, possibly USGS water centers, Land Grant colleges.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Propose Tier 2 extension to inland audiences, target audiences and engage trainers (Q1)
- Execute Tier 1 training specific to inland regions (Q3)
- Execute tier 2 trainings (Q4)

Activity A3. Partnering on a Climate Communication Kiosk Pilot

Strategic Objective(s):

- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

Contact: Ellen Mecray (Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov)
Cory Riley (Cory.Riley@noaa.gov)
Laurie Hogan (Laurie.Hogan@noaa.gov)
Lora Mueller (Lora.Mueller@noaa.gov)

Summary: This project will support the placement of kiosks with climate information at land management sites, including the National Park Service (NPS) and National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) sites in the North Atlantic. The kiosks also address a need from the NPS climate ready parks effort and the NERR's managers. Both NERACOOS and the Greater New York Bight regional climate priorities workshop hosted by Sea Grant identified the need for coordinated outreach products. Information for the kiosks will be provided by NWS, NOS and NESDIS/NCDC among others.

Activity Objectives:

- Address identified communications need in the region.
- Increase literacy to public on Coastal Hazards.
- Create informed audiences about coastal hazards and actions that can be taken to become resilient.

Cost/Funding Source: \$5,000 in NART FY11 funds as contribution towards kiosk production

Why NART? This project capitalizes on interagency interest in climate communication, specific to our land managers. The NART is the collaborating entity for NOAA to bring together its integrated capabilities on climate and support our regional focus on communication of climate change information to the public.

Partners: Participating NOAA entities include NERR sites, NWS, RCC, and NESDIS/NCDC, others are DOI/NPS, DOI/FWS, DOI/USGS, USACE, ICLEI, NERACOOS, local entities (e.g. Cape Cod Commission, Volpe Center, etc)

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Query interested land managers, seek leveraged funds (Q1)
- Kiosk production (Q2/3)
- Deliver to key areas identified for pilot (Q4)

Activity A4. Workshop Support for the Cusk Climate Project

Strategic Objective(s):

- Improved scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its impacts
- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

Contact: Sarah Thompson (Sarah.Thompson@noaa.gov)

Summary: The goal of this pilot project is to gather information on the potential impacts of climate change in U.S. Atlantic and Canadian shelf waters on cusk (*Brosme brosme*) to help inform the status review and listing determination for the species, as well as future critical habitat designations, recovery plans, habitat conservation plans, and ESA Section 7 consultations. The Northeast Regional Office and Northeast Science Center have joined together with climate modelers from NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to work on the project. NMFS' Office of Protected Resources and the Office of Science and Technology are the groups responsible for the pilot project. This NART proposal would allow for one face-to-face workshop among the team's members to discuss climate modeling, management information needs, and to further define a scientific approach to address some of the outstanding questions.

Activity Objectives:

- Facilitate cross line-office partnership

Cost/Funding Source: \$2,500 in NART FY11 funds

Why NART? The NART role is to support and facilitate NOAA collaborations in the region, especially when they address multiple priorities (in this case, climate and ecosystems). One workshop has already been held, and NART's support is essential to continuing this collaboration.

Partners: UCONN – Cusk Expert (Life History, Habitat Requirements, etc.), EPA, and NOAA (NMFS/NERO, NMFS/NEFSC, OAR/GFDL, and OAR/ESRL).

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Workshop held (Q2)
- Workshop report compiled and next steps identified (Q3)

B. Goal: Weather Ready Nation

Activity B1. Promoting integrated water resource services to benefit the region

Strategic Objective(s):

- Improved water resource management

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- Reduced loss of life, property and disruption from high-impact events
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contacts: George McKillop (George.McKillop@noaa.gov)

Summary: NART will continue to support integrated water resource management in the region by supporting **River Ice Monitoring over the Susquehanna River Basin Using Remote Sensing Data**, a project focused on improved products and services related to NOAA's ability to predict water quantity (droughts and floods). The NART role is to engage other NOAA personnel in the region and communicate the project's goals and progress.

The Educational Partnership Program (EPP) established five Cooperative Science Centers (CSCs) at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to advance collaborative research in the NOAA-mission sciences. The Cooperative Remote Sensing Science and Technology Center (CREST) is one such CSC. Under the leadership of the City University of New York and Dr. Reza Khanbilvardi, CREST brings together prestigious academic institutions and corporations to form a broad-based research team in remote sensing applied to Earth's atmosphere, climate, coastal waters and water resources. With funding assistance from a congressionally-directed earmark for the Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System; NOAA-CREST researchers will collaborate with Canadian and NESDIS researchers to conduct a remote sensing study using multi satellite data to establish an ice jam database for the Susquehanna River. The database will be used to apply statistical approaches to develop a prototype ice jam and ice breakup warning system along the Susquehanna River.

Activity Objectives:

- Bring improved integrated water resources services and products to the region.

Cost/Funding Source: In-kind support, \$323,000 in Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System Congressionally-Directed Earmark Funding over three years.

Why NART? As the project proceeds, NOAA partners and customers will be able to draw upon an expanded set of higher quality water resource services for drought and water resource management. Through better communication and coordination, water agencies will be better equipped to meet their mission goals. Improvement in warnings of hazards will serve to protect lives, property, and economic interests. The ability of the NART to engage other NOAA personnel and partners throughout the region, communicate the agency's mission to internal and external audiences and prototype new services, will enhance the ability of the projects to meet objectives and goals.

Partners: NOAA-CREST, NESDIS, Office of Education (EPP), NWS and other federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Milestones/Deliverables:

- Visuals delineating river ice extent based on analysis of 30 years satellite image records (Q4)

C. Goal: Healthy Oceans

Activity C1. Facilitating Collaboration to Support Ecosystem-Based Management

Strategic Objective(s):

- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

Contact: Kevin Friedland (Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov)
Ron Schlitz (Ron.Schlitz@noaa.gov)

Summary: This activity will support the development of a book, [The Ecology of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf: Foundations for Ecosystem-Based Management](#). The Ocean Service maintains those data and analyses for the coastal and estuarine portions of the Northeast Continental Shelf, while the Northeast Fisheries Science Center collects and maintains data on the marine portion. The NART will facilitate the discussions between these two line offices to ensure the broadest collection of NOAA data on the subject.

Activity Objectives:

- Respond to region-wide need to develop tools for ecosystem-based management
- Advance regional and internal collaboration

Cost/Funding Source: In-kind

Why NART? The NART is the most effective mechanism to facilitate coordination between two line offices in different parts of the North Atlantic.

Partners: This is primarily an internal coordination between NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory and NCCOS Center for Coastal Monitoring & Assessment.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Organize a quarterly conference call of key principals (Q1)
- Organize a quarterly conference call of key principals (Q2)
- Organize a quarterly conference call of key principals (Q3)
- Organize a quarterly conference call of key principals (Q4)

Activity C2. Improving Coordination for Integrated Coastal Habitat Management

Strategic Objective:

- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Chris Boelke (Christopher.Boelke@noaa.gov)

Summary: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve coordination between NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) and NOS Office of Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) for integrated coastal habitat management. As the primary NOAA entities with a role in coastal habitat management, it is important to have an understanding of each other's projects, processes, and regulatory authority, which will allow NOAA to potentially leverage resources (knowledge) for improved stewardship of resources. Initially, this project will focus on the New England region and will include staff from OCRM and HCD. Products will include presentations/webinars on process, regulatory authority, and projects. Follow-up discussion will include opportunities for coordination and communication on specific plans/projects

Activity Objectives:

- Raise organizational awareness among NOAA line offices
- Provide better service to NOAA stakeholders involved in coastal habitat management

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? The goal of the NART is regional collaboration and working towards a “one-NOAA” approach to addressing agency goals and objectives. The NART ocean and coastal uses subteam provides an avenue to develop a process that improves coordination among two NOAA line offices in order to manage coastal resources in a holistic manner

Partners: NMFS and NOS

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Meet and have presentation by OCRM on programs and policies (Q1)
- Meet and have presentation by HCD on programs and policies (Q2)
- Discussion on potential coordination and next steps (Q3)
- Report documenting new steps being taken towards better coordination (Q4)

Activity C3. Enhancing Coordination of Mid-Atlantic Habitat Mapping

Strategic Objective:

- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Howard Townsend (Howard.Townsend@noaa.gov)

Summary: NOS, NMFS and NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office are all engaged in habitat mapping in the Mid-Atlantic. In particular, the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), the James J. Howard Lab at Sandy Hook, and NCBO ecosystem modelers based in Oxford, MD all have ongoing efforts in this area. The NART will facilitate a face-to-face discussion in order to broaden awareness and increase efficiencies.

Activity Objectives:

- Raise organizational awareness among NOAA line offices

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? The NART is the logical mechanism for coordination across line offices, and in particular, the ecosystems sub-team brings all the relevant entities together for monthly conference calls. This is a natural collaboration building off contacts made through the regional team.

Partners: NMFS and NOS

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Discussion on potential coordination and next steps (Q2)
- Plan & hold face-to-face one-day workshop (Q3)
- Report documenting new steps being taken towards better coordination (Q3)

Activity C4. Habitat Mapping with IOOS Data Webinar

Strategic Objective:

- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Kevin Friedland (Kevin.Friedland@noaa.gov)

Summary: In FY10, the NART facilitated a webinar describing NWS river forecast center data and products for a NMFS audience. In FY11, we will facilitate a discussion of NMFS habitat mapping and the use of NOS ocean observation data. We will continue to explore additional topics to increase collaboration and awareness of evolving NOAA science.

Activity Objectives:

- Raise organizational awareness among NOAA line offices

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? The NART is an excellent venue for learning about NOAA products and services that are being developed within the line offices. One of our roles is to broaden the audience for these types of information, and raise internal awareness within NOAA across line offices. The FY10 webinar was very well-received.

Partners: NMFS and NOS

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Discussion on potential coordination and next steps (Q2)
- Plan & hold face-to-face one-day workshop (Q3)
- Report documenting new steps being taken towards better coordination (Q3)

D. Goal: Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

Activity D1. Supporting Development of a Second Tier Tide Gage Network

Strategic Objective(s):

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

Contact: Bob Thompson (robert.thompson@noaa.gov)
Jesse Feyen (jesse.feyen@noaa.gov)

Summary: The NART resiliency sub-team will enlist a team of personnel from NOAA and key external partners to identify priority locations along the New England and Mid Atlantic Coast to identify a second tier network of tide gages that would complement the existing NOS CO-OPS backbone water level network. A follow-on project (probably for FY 2012) would be to implement the technology at locations identified contingent upon availability of IOOS grant money for the project.

Activity Objectives:

- Partner with other NOAA offices to improve data
- Integrate our services to support stakeholder needs

Cost/Funding Source: \$2,000 in FY11 NART funds to support travel

Why NART? Water level data are critical to multiple NOAA program offices. Both the National Weather Service and the National Ocean Service depend heavily upon tide gage data to fulfill their missions. Additional tide gage data, if chosen carefully, could be very valuable to a number of NOAA stakeholders as well. The scope of the project (to just identify locations) is sufficiently substantial to require an integrated regional NOAA approach.

Partners: NWS and NOS, as well as NERACOOS, MACOORA, Coastal Zone Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, selected academic institutions with a vested interest in water level monitoring and prediction.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Commission integrated NOAA and NOAA partner team (Q1)
- Establish supplemental network requirements/specifications (Q2)
- Establish first cut of locations (Q3)
- Finalize locations and prioritize (Q4)

Activity D2. Supporting Wave Run-up Study FY12 Funding Request

Strategic Objective(s):

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

Contact: Adrienne Harrison (adrienne.harrison@noaa.gov)

Summary: Wave run-up is an important contributor to coastal flooding impact. This is especially true with nor'easters along exposed coastlines. Wave overwash over the barrier beach dunes can significantly contribute to static water. During major, destructive events, waves constitute the primary culprit for most of the damage. This project would support the development of a multiple-LO wave-run up study by developing a joint funding request.

Activity Objectives:

- Set the stage for significant funding through CSC for a wave run-up study in FY 2012.

Cost/Funding Source: \$500 in NART FY11 funds to support travel

Why NART? Coastal inundation understanding/prediction is critical to the NOAA-wide strategic theme of community resilience, and wave run-up is a critical component to coastal inundation prediction and associated land use planning. The development of wave run-up predictive capability would produce tangible benefits to NOAA stakeholders and would depend upon the collaboration of multiple NOAA line offices, especially the National Ocean Service and the National Weather Service.

Partners: NOS Coastal Services Center, NWS, Coastal Zone Management, academic institutions with coastal inundation models and visualization tools, state and local emergency management agencies, possibly NERACOOS and MACOORA.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Develop scope of project for FY 2012 (Q2)
- Formulate proposal for FY 2012 wave run-up study (Q3)

Activity D3. Storm SMART Coasts Expansion

Strategic Objective(s):

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

Contact: Adrienne Harrison (Adrienne.Harrison@noaa.gov)

Summary: FY 2010 funding was allocated to expand the Storm Smart Coast web network from Massachusetts to the entire New England coastal region with specific references relevant to each New England coastal state. This provides a "one stop shopping" resource for coastal managers,

planners, local/state officials, responders, coastal property owners, etc. and serves to strengthen community preparedness.

Activity Objectives:

- Provide coastal communities with a planning resource for community preparedness
- Broaden the scope of an existing NOAA collaborative product

Cost/Funding Source: In kind in FY11; \$5,000 in NART FY10 funds.

Why NART? Comprehensive information that promotes coastal community preparedness in turns support the NOAA Strategic theme of promoting coastal resiliency and can furthermore reduce post storm response/recovery costs. The information contained in this network is expected to help diminish repetitive losses. This serves a broad spectrum of NOAA stakeholders and involves the participation of at least two NOAA line offices (National Weather Service and National Ocean Service).

Partners: National Ocean Service (Coastal Services Center), National Weather Service, Coastal Zone Management for each New England state, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Northeast Regional Oceans Council, state and local emergency managers, state and local mitigation focused entities.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Contract obligated and final work plan (Q1)
- Draft Storm Smart Coasts Network web pages for New England (Q1)
- Marketing plan (Q2)
- Pilot forum (Q2)

Activity D4. Reference High Water Marking

Strategic Objective(s):

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change
- A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions

Contact: Bob Thompson (Robert.Thompson@noaa.gov)

Summary: This is a carry-over from a FY 2010 project. A series of 10 reference markings (Stevens staff gages) will be installed in the coastal inundation pilot community of Scituate, MA. These will be strategically located to obtain a more quantitative measurement of high end moderate and major coastal flood events. The data will be used to verify various storm surge/water level models and the reference inundation visualization maps created for Scituate via use of high resolution LIDAR data and GIS technology. The gage markings will be referenced to the NAVD88 datum. An evaluation of the efficiency of this project will determine what, if any, expansion will be proposed for other locations. An expansion to one or two hurricane vulnerable communities along Buzzards Bay or Narragansett Bay may be considered. The

NART will also support the project lead's attendance at the 'Solving Coastal Disasters' Conference. The conference will provide the lead an opportunity to learn about various efforts to forecast, warn for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of coastal storms and other adverse impacts in our coastal areas. This will translate into strategic planning for the subteam's goals and projects in 2012 and beyond.

Activity Objectives:

- Support the collection of additional data for the New England Coastal Inundation project
- Educate public on inundation and flood risks
- Obtain wider context for North Atlantic resiliency projects

Cost/Funding Source: \$500 in FY11 NART funds for signage, \$2,500 in FY11 NART funds for conference participation; \$1,500 in NART FY10 funds

Why NART? This prototype project provides an opportunity to demonstrate the value of obtaining more quantitative storm data at rather modest cost. The community and MA Coastal Zone Management are highly engaged in/supportive of this project and contributing in-kind services for the labor. This project would collect storm data of interest to a spectrum of NOAA stakeholders to assist with storm prediction, community preparedness, and community planning for high water events. On a broader scale, the data collected from these reference markers can help verify storm surge/water level models for extratropical storms with application along the entire North Atlantic coastline. Like other FY 2010/2011 projects, this serves to enhance coastal community resiliency, a core NOAA strategic theme, contains a regional focus, and involves multiple line offices.

Partners: NOAA Coastal Survey Office, NOS Coastal Services Center, National Weather Service, MA Coastal Zone Management, Town of Scituate (especially conservation agent office, harbormaster, and emergency management).

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Determine appropriate height ranges needed at each site to correspond to the NAVD88 datum (Q1)
- Install first 5 staff gages (Q1)
- Install remaining staff gages (Q3)
 - Quarter 2 winter weather will likely make any gage installation impracticable
- Attend conference (Q3)
- Complete conference report to inform FY12 planning (Q4)

Activity D5. Evaluating NWS Coastal Reporting Software

Strategic Objective(s):

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

Contact: Bob Thompson (Robert.Thompson@noaa.gov)

Summary: Software to enter, communicate, and archive coastal flood impact reports has been designed to facilitate both near real time and post coastal storm information. Applications include near real-time decision making by the National Weather Service, preliminary decision-making by state emergency management as to whether or not a damage survey team effort is needed, and information that can support future analyses of such storms and their impacts (physical, financial, etc.). The gathered information will help better categorize storm impacts as minor, moderate, major, or extreme and build a valuable climatology of more comprehensive storm impact information.

Activity Objectives:

- Evaluate Coastal Reporting Software utility to the region
- Prepare plan for expansion to rest of NART coastline.

Cost/Funding Source: Modest investment of information technology (up to \$3000) may be needed to build greater portability into the software for multi-state applications. This might be requested from NART funds.

Why NART? Data collection to help support better understanding of and prediction capability for coastal inundation impacts promotes the NOAA Strategic Theme of strengthening community resilience, especially along our coastlines. The information collection infrastructure being proposed would directly benefit a spectrum of NOAA stakeholders, including coastal managers and emergency managers. This project would depend upon expertise resident with both the National Ocean Service and the National Weather Service.

Partners: National Weather Service, National Ocean Service, NOAA's Climate Service, State Coastal Zone Management Agencies, state and local emergency managers.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Evaluate software for ease of use, thoroughness, robustness, reliability, etc. for the 2010-2011 coastal storm season along the Massachusetts coast. (Q2)
- Implement for Connecticut River estuary project (see project under Class 1). (Q3)
- Establish recommendation for NART coastal-wide deployment or not. (Q4)

Activity D6. Supporting NOAA's Participation in CMSP Regional Planning Bodies in the North Atlantic

Strategic Objective:

- Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Betsy Nicholson (Betsy.Nicholson@noaa.gov)

Summary: The NART Coastal and Ocean Uses Sub-team will have lead responsibility for responding to and tailoring NOAA's engagement in the Administration's Coastal and Marine

Spatial Planning (CMSP) framework for the North Atlantic region. The NART Uses sub-team will provide direct support (and points of contact) to the NOAA CMSP Leads for the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs), becoming the “NOAA bench” for CMSP deliverables required by the Ocean Policy Task Force Final Recommendations released in July 2010. The Subteam will serve as the connection point between NOAA’s Northeast and Mid-Atlantic RPBs, finding economies of scale and efficiencies where possible. The NART Uses sub-team will expand as necessary to provide the necessary support for CMSP activities in the North Atlantic. In addition, the sub-team will provide an important forum for sharing CMSP ideas, events and issues to ensure that NOAA is informed and coordinated as this topic advances rapidly in the region.

Activity Objectives:

- Maintain a connection between sub-regional CMSP activities.
- Find economies of scale and efficiencies where possible among the development of two regional planning bodies for the region.

Cost/Funding Source: \$1,000 in NART FY11 funds for travel.

Why NART? The NART Uses sub-team is uniquely positioned to serve as the NOAA-wide coordination point for CMSP in the region. Through this project, we will elevate the NART’s role in regional coordination to actually help staff a major initiative for this Administration. This project also requires close coordination between multiple line offices, and meets a growing customer demand for an organized NOAA approach to CMSP, both in our messaging and the products we will be asked to contribute.

Partners: National Ocean Service (OCRM, CSC, NCCOS, SBNMS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NERO-OHC, NEFSC- [James J. Howard Marines Sciences Laboratory](#) in Sandy Hook, NJ), NROC, MARCO, New England Federal Partners.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Complete design and get buy-in for support structure (i.e., operational model) to ensure support for NOAA leads on CMSP RPBs in North and Mid-Atlantic planning regions (Q1)
- Meet with NOAA CMP Leads to RPBs and develop an initial set of requirements for the Subteam (i.e., a list of projects/activities that the Sub-team and others will undertake) (Q1)
- Participate in National Workshop on CMSP (Q2)
- Assist in designing Regional Workshops for CMSP in sub-regions (Q3).

Note: Other deliverables required as National Ocean Council meets and timeline begins. Sub-team will wait for charge from NOAA’s new CMSP Program.

Activity D7. Supporting Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Development in Mid-Atlantic

Strategic Objective:

NART FY2011 Operating Plan

- Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Darlene Finch (Darlene.Finch@noaa.gov)

Summary: The CMSP Framework requires Federal Agency representatives in the regions to convene to discuss current and improved methods for communicating, sharing data and products, exploring regulatory efficiencies, and determining how best to work with State and tribal partners to achieve a CMS Plan.

CMSP efforts in the Mid-Atlantic will build upon the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). MARCO was created by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia to advance a regional approach for protecting habitats, improving water quality, collaborating on offshore renewable energy, and preparing for the impacts of climate change. To date, representatives from a limited number of federal agencies have been discussing MARCO's progress and identifying opportunities to support the priorities of this regional ocean governance body. A handful of federal agency representatives have begun discussions about moving forward with CMSP in the Mid-Atlantic region, and have agreed to convene a meeting of Federal agency representatives to discuss CMSP in the Mid-Atlantic in November of 2010.

Transforming Federal engagement with MARCO from information sharing about MARCO to active participants in a regional CMSP process will require a lot of discussion, and a facilitator will ensure that the meeting results in some decisions. This is particularly critical because no lead federal agency has been identified for the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, competitive funding (if appropriated) for CMSP will not be available until the spring/summer of 2011. As a result, states will need some assistance to undertake initial planning activities. Having MARCO state representatives at the federal agency meeting provides a better foundation for ensuring consistency across the region.

Activity Objectives:

- Support facilitation of this significant meeting of Federal and state partners

Cost/Funding Source: \$2,000 in NART FY11 funds to support travel of NOAA and MARCO state representatives.

Why NART? NOAA has assigned responsibility for identifying regional CMSP leads to the NART. Designating the Coastal and Ocean Uses sub-team as the primary support team for the NOAA regional CMSP lead bolsters the NART's role in coordinating NOAA's capacities to advance CMSP in the Mid-Atlantic.

Partners: NOS (CSC, OCRM), NMFS (Habitat, NCBO, NEFSC), EPA, DOI, USCG, USDA, USACE and representative states from Mid-Atlantic region.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Support a meeting of Federal Agency Representatives in the Mid-Atlantic Region (Q1)

- Meeting report on the discussions and decisions made at the meeting, especially regarding methods of communication sharing data and products, exploring regulatory efficiencies, and determining how best to work with State and tribal partners to achieve a CMS Plan (Q2).

Activity D8. Connecting Human Use Characterization Efforts of Coastal and Marine Resources within the North Atlantic

Strategic Objective:

- Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Betsy Nicholson (Betsy.Nicholson@noaa.gov)
Sarah Thompson (Sarah.Thompson@noaa.gov)

Summary: Within the region, there are multiple efforts underway to characterize the human uses of our coastal and marine resources. The need for coordination among these efforts lies in the fact that as large issues (e.g., climate change, sea-level rise) face the region's scientists, managers, and stakeholders, it is imperative that all staff and monetary resources are used efficiently to tackle such issues as these resources are limited.

The objective of this project is to identify and compare the following criteria for each of the efforts: description of efforts, methodology(ies) employed, participants, gaps in characterization information, and resources used for each effort. The first phase was to bring people together to share insights and knowledge among the various participants to establish coordinated efforts. The comparison exercise for this effort could then be applied in the future for other data and analytical products, such as habitat characterization, trade-off analyses, model and decision tools, adaptive management, and cumulative effects. This first phase was completed in FY2010. The second phase will document the similarities, differences, and opportunities for collaboration among project leads to most effectively coordinate these efforts to best serve the regional community in the Northeast. As these projects are ongoing, it is planned to continue to link the project leads and keep them informed of each other's progress.

The five efforts for this comparison analysis include, but are not limited to, the following:

Human Use Characterization – Urban Harbors Institute (Dan Hudgens)

Scope - Outer continental shelf (OCS) renewable energy use conflicts and analysis of potential mitigation measures on the East and West coasts.

Purpose - Inform Minerals Management Service's future decision-making on renewable energy projects on OCS; development of a geospatial database to determine multiple-use areas for predicting potential conflicts. Identify mitigation measures and strategies for each conflict. Identify opportunities and mechanisms for communication and cooperation – specifically NROC and West Coast Governors Agreement.

Methods – Include literature search, stakeholder meetings, and ethnographic fieldwork.

Human Use Characterization – Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (Nick Napoli)

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Scope – Massachusetts waters.

Purpose - Need a better methodology for acquiring local knowledge and understanding of value of human uses. Methodology for valuing activities of coastal communities.

Methods - Community specific analysis of community ties to fishing waters.

Human Use Atlas – NOAA MPA Center (Charlie Wahle)

Scope – Currently for California waters, plan for including waters between Cape Small, ME and the NH/MA border, with possibility of expanding to all of New England. Human use collection will extend out at least to territorial sea boundary (12 miles).

Purpose - Development of a geospatial database to determine multiple-use areas for predicting potential conflicts and spatial distribution of all human uses. Near-term application of tool will be for oil spill response in March 2010 SONS drill.

Methods – Include stakeholder meetings. Have three categories of human uses: non-consumptive, industrial/military, and fisheries. NE workshops will occur the week of January 11, 2010.

NW Atlantic Cumulative Impact Model Pilot (Jen Greene)

Scope – Currently Long Island Sound to Northern ME – Coast (mean high tide) to continental slope shelf break (state and Federal waters).

Purpose - As part of implementing the Northwest Atlantic Marine Ecoregional Assessment, the Nature Conservancy and partners have identified the need to develop a cumulative impact model to measure and quantify impacts of human uses on marine ecosystems over time. This includes compiling spatially explicit data on human uses in the marine and coastal environment, developing analyses on the sensitivity and vulnerability of these uses on conservation target species and habitats (based on biological and physical data analyzed by the Conservancy), and determining compatibilities and conflicts between human uses and conservation targets.

Methods – Build on their initial work in Massachusetts to create the basis for a regional cumulative impacts model. This will support the initial steps needed to extend the cumulative impacts model to a regional scale.

ME Human Use Atlas (Heather Deese)

Scope – In Maine, shoreline out to around 20 miles (extent of ME lobster fleet – limiting geographic range based on uses).

Purpose - ME Ocean Energy Task Force also gave ME Special Projects Office directive to work with spatial data. Human use data are sparse.

Methods – Interviews and geospatial mapping of uses.

In addition to the five efforts underway in New England, there are two efforts underway in the Mid-Atlantic and one nationwide survey being conducted by NMFS:

- Virginia - Seaside Special Area Management Plan: Recreational Use Survey and GIS Layer
- New York – Offshore Spatial Plan: Technical Group Workshops and Interviews with Commercial Fishermen
- Nationwide - National Ocean Recreation Expenditure Survey

Activity Objectives:

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- Disseminate information to all eight groups, with the focus of any potential face-to-face meetings being held within the New England area.

Cost/Funding Source: In kind

Why NART? The NART is composed of NOAA regional staff working with states and non-governmental organizations throughout the region. NART role is to gather and disseminate information among all of the project leads.

Partners: NMFS and NOS, states and Non-Governmental Organizations

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Updated table for dissemination to all project leads (Q2)
- Updated table for dissemination to all project leads (Q4)

Activity D9. Developing a Federal Regulatory Authorities, Needs, and Process Quick Reference Guide

Strategic Objective:

- Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Sarah Thompson (Sarah.Thompson@noaa.gov)

Summary: Quick Reference Guide for NOAA regulatory authorities, regulatory informational needs, and processes. When engaged in coastal and ocean projects within the region, state agency staff and/or developers must engage in the regulatory permitting process. To aid regional state agencies and developers in navigating the Federal regulatory process, a guide will be drafted, which is tailored to the North Atlantic region, that provides all information in one place regarding the NOAA regulatory authorities affecting management of ocean uses and resources. The guide will present the relevant legal authorities, the informational needs of the Federal reviewers, and the regulatory processes for all consultations and/or reviews. The guide will be drafted by NOAA staff as well as by students of Roger Williams University School of Law.

Activity Objectives:

- Aid Federal agencies' customers by bringing efficiency and predictability to this legal landscape, and will have utility in other regions.

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? The NART brings together staff from many line offices. This reference guide includes regulatory authorities that cross line offices and will involve staff from NMFS and NOS. The guide will increase visibility of NOAA, and the NART, in the region; will be a feasible/tractable project; and will have a regional focus and/or implications.

Partners: NMFS/Protected Resources Division, Habitat Conservation Division, Sustainable Fisheries Division, and NEPA Group; NOS/Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Coastal Services Center, and Office of Coastal Resource Management, Roger Williams School of Law

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Completed guide (Q3).

E. NOAA's Science and Technology Enterprise

No projects associated with this goal in FY11.

F. NOAA's Engagement Enterprise

Activity F1. Support Regional Partnerships in the North Atlantic

Strategic Objective:

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Betsy Nicholson (Betsy.Nicholson@noaa.gov)
Darlene Finch (Darlene.Finch@noaa.gov)
Nicole Bartlett (Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov)

Summary: NART provides critical linkage between regional ocean governance (ROG) priorities/projects (and the Federal support required) to NOAA capabilities and staff. In addition to the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the Mid-Atlantic Council on the Oceans, FY11 brings a new Federal commitment to the Chesapeake Bay (Executive Order) and implementation of a new National Ocean Policy. NART will serve as liaison by tracking ROG plans, supporting the EO action plan, and using NART subteams to link state needs with our capabilities. For the past 6 years, NOAA has supported the New England Federal Partners (NEFP), which convenes eight federal agencies semi-annually to discuss how our programs, funds and skills can better address regional challenges. NOAA currently chairs the group, organizing and facilitating meetings, and serving as executive secretariat. The NART Coordinator is the NEFP chair for June 2010-June 2011. NART members will support her in developing agendas, attending meetings and following up with federal colleagues on action items between meetings. This group will become the primary forum for dialog and coordinated Federal action in response to the Ocean Policy Task Force recommendations.

Activity Objectives:

- Support forums that identify and meet regional stakeholder needs.

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? NART members have been at the forefront of the Agency in supporting regional ocean governance in the region. Given that these groups are typically focused, no single NOAA line office has responsibility for meeting stakeholder needs identified in these regional partnerships. The New England Federal Partners gives NART an opportunity to interface as NOAA on issues of importance to the entire agency. NART representatives and sub-team members comprise the group of NOAA staff that participates in NEFP meetings.

Partners: NOS (CSC, OCRM, SBNMS), NMFS (NERO, NEFSC) and NESDIS (CSP), EPA, DOI, USDA, USACE, USCG, FEMA and HUD

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Organize and facilitate NEFP meeting (Q1)
- Organize and facilitate NEFP meeting (Q3)

Activity F2. Developing an Integrated Services Database Tool

Strategic Objective(s):

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

Contact: Nicole Bartlett (Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov)

Summary: This project will create a relational database to capture data from a variety of sources so that it can be mined and aggregated in different ways. The tool is intended to be useful regardless of region, source document or HQ planning and programming structure. After developing a basic database using Access, we will then populate the database using external source documents and other data to identify needs and priorities. The database will be flexible and use key words to assist in the collection of information from the documents. This process will first be undertaken in the area of climate.

Activity Objectives:

- Maintain a real-time catalogue of stakeholder needs that can be used to identify and document regional needs.
- Support development of NART annual operating plan and regional integration memo.
- Establish a mechanism for evaluating regional collaboration progress under the NGSP.

Funding source: \$5,000 in FY11 NART funds; \$7,000 in NART FY10 funds (additional \$10K in funding from NOAA West)

Why NART? This tool will guide NART team activities and ensure we are filling gaps, integrating across NOAA and working on priority issues. It will also enable consistency in team activities regardless of leadership changes and team composition.

Partners: NOAA West

Key milestones:

- Finalize SOW/contract with outside vendor (Q1)
- Initial start-up meeting, database development begins (Q2)
- Demo draft version of database (Q2)
- Final database completed (Q3)
- Populate database with regional climate needs (Q4)

Activity F3. Providing Headquarters Support on National Initiatives

Strategic Objective:

- Integrated Services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Nicole Bartlett (Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov)

Summary: One of the functions of regional collaboration teams is to serve as the “front lines” for NOAA and the Department of Commerce in the region. In that regard, NART is called upon to provide information about and from stakeholders and NOAA entities in the region, and also to serve as ambassadors for the agency and department. Opportunities to engage stakeholders often require “on the ground” logistical planning and coordination, often with limited advance notification. NART will be prepared to respond to information and service requests from NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

Activity Objectives:

- Enhance NOAA's value to and impact on the region
- Facilitate collaboration among NOAA entities and partners in the region to address national and regional priorities
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services
- Serve as ambassadors for NOAA and the Department of Commerce

Cost/Funding Source: In kind.

Why NART? Regional teams, through regionally-based interactions with constituents, are best positioned to understand needs of the agency and its stakeholders in the region and to provide logistical and intellectual support to NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for region-based outreach opportunities. NART will represent NOAA and DoC to the region and represent NOAA constituents to NOAA and DoC.

Partners: NOAA, Department of Commerce, NOAA stakeholders in the region

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Coordinate National Ocean Policy (NOP) engagements with NOAA staff (Q1)
- Coordinate data calls associated with NOP regional engagements (Q1)
- Coordinate FY12 regional budget regional roll-out (Q2)

Activity F4. Promoting and Strengthening Regional Collaboration

Strategic Objective:

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Nicole Bartlett (Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov)

Summary: While the primary focus of NOAA's Regional Collaboration Teams is NOAA's mission within the region, there is also a need to support and enhance the national Regional Collaboration effort. In this regard, the NART coordinator will work closely with NOAA's Office of Program Planning and Integration, the Executive Oversight Group, and the other Regional Collaboration teams to strengthen the capacity and value of the overall regional collaboration effort. In addition, the NART coordinator visits no less than six NOAA offices in the region in a given year, providing an overview of Regional Collaboration and NART activities in the region.

Activity Objectives:

- Strengthen NOAA's Regional Collaboration
- Improve inter-regional coordination

Cost/Funding Source: \$2,000 in NART FY11 funds to support team member travel to national workshop

Why NART? This is an inherent and necessary project for NOAA's regional collaboration effort to be successful.

Partners: NOAA's Office of Program Planning and Integration, the Regional Collaboration Executive Oversight Group, and the other Regional Collaboration Teams.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Visit Northeast Regional Office, deliver brown bag (Q1)
- Attend/support regional collaboration team meetings (Q2/3)
- Visit NOAA facilities (Q2-4)
- Attend/support national Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q3)

Activity F5. North Atlantic Regional Team Communications

Strategic Objective(s):

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

Contact: Andrew Larkin (Andrew.W.Larkin@noaa.gov)

Summary: NART will engage NOAA staff and partners in the region and conduct a number of communication and outreach activities to help ensure NOAA's goals for regional collaboration are met. This includes facilitating travel for regional team members, developing a one-page project summary that highlights the team's FY10 activities, developing a canned presentation for use by NART members, developing a quarterly newsletter that is distributed electronically to NOAA employees in the region, and developing a NART web site.

Activity Objectives:

Conduct targeted communications and outreach activities that help NART:

- Engage regional partners, stakeholders, and customers on NOAA's behalf to foster dialogue regarding products and services required to meet NOAA's mission goals.
- Facilitate collaboration among NOAA entities and partners in the region to address national and regional priorities.
- Promote awareness and understanding of NOAA's capabilities, services, and programmatic priorities to targeted audiences

Cost/Funding Source: \$500 in NART FY11 funds to support travel

Why NART? NOAA regional teams are a mechanism for effectively communicating the agency's mission to internal and external audiences. To contribute to this goal, NART must engage in many forms of communication, including personal interactions, prepared documents, presentations, and facilitation of messages through appropriate media. This project outlines the actions NART will undertake in FY11 to communicate NOAA's mission within the region. It is based on current opportunities, priorities, and capabilities of NART members.

Partners: NART will work with key project partners, as necessary, to develop the NART one-pager. Other NOAA offices and programs in the region will be consulted, as appropriate. NOAA PPI office will be consulted during the design and development phase of the NART web site.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Complete FY11 communications and outreach plan (Q1)
- NART project summary one-pager (Q1)
- NART presentation (Q1)
- NART web site (Q2)

Activity F6. North Atlantic Regional Team Administration

Strategic Objectives:

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

Contact: Nicole Bartlett (Nicole.Bartlett@noaa.gov)

Summary: For Regional Collaboration teams to be effective, they must have regular and effective coordination and communication. NART maintains monthly conference calls, a spring

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leadership face-to-face meeting of subteam leads and an annual face-to-face workshop as key opportunities to exchange information and discuss NART's mission and strategy. We also maintain an online collaborative network through an outside vendor, PB Works, to facilitate information exchange across the full NART and supporting sub-teams. In FY11, we will build on this solid foundation of communication to improve the way the team operates.

Activity Objectives:

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team.
- Meet demands for information and respond effectively to Agency priorities
- Develop FY12 annual operating plan.

Cost/Funding Source: \$10,000 in NART FY11 funds to support travel; \$3,000 in NART FY11 funds to support our annual renewal of our PB works license

Why NART? This is an inherent and necessary project for the team to function effectively.

Partners: NART members.

Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Develop FY11 Operating Plan (Q1)
- Convene Spring leadership meeting (Q2)
- Compile Spring leadership meeting report (Q2)
- Convene Annual retreat (Q3)
- Compile Annual retreat summary report (Q3)
- Draft FY12 Operating Plan (Q4)
- Draft FY12 Regional Integration Memo (Q4)

III. NART FY2011 Spend Plan

	NART Funds	Additional funding
A. Climate Adaptation and Mitigation		
A1. Developing a 'Climate in the Eastern Region' Contact List	In kind	
A2. Expanding Climate Literacy Training, a Partnership with Sea Grant	\$8,000	\$5,000
A3. Partnering on a Climate Communication Kiosk Pilot	\$5,000	\$XX
A4. Workshop Support for the Cusk Climate Project	\$2,500	
B. Weather Ready Nation		
B1. Promoting Integrated Water Resources to Benefit the N Atlantic	In kind	
C. Healthy Oceans		
C1. Facilitating Collaboration to support Ecosystem-Based Mgmt	In kind	
C2. Supporting Integrated Coastal Habitat Management	In kind	
C3. Habitat Mapping with IOOS Data Webinar	In kind	
C4. Enhancing Coordination of Mid-Atlantic Habitat Mapping	In kind	
D. Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies		
D1. Supporting Development of a Second Tier Tide Gage Network	\$2,000	
D2. Supporting Wave Run Up Study FY12 Funding Request	\$500	
D3. Storm Smart Coasts Expansion	In kind	\$5,000
D4. Reference High Water Marking Project	\$3,000	\$1,500
D5. Evaluating Coastal Reporting Software	\$3,000	
D6. Supporting NOAA Participation in CMSP Regional Planning Bodies	\$1,000	
D7. Supporting Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning Development in Mid-Atlantic	\$2,000	
D8. Connecting Human Use Characterization Efforts in the Region	In kind	
D9. Development of Federal Regulatory Quick Reference Guide	In kind	
E. NOAA's Science & Technology Enterprise		
F. NOAA's Engagement Enterprise		
F1. Support Regional Partnerships in the North Atlantic	In kind	
F2. Developing an Integrated Services Database Tool	\$5,000	\$15,000
F3. Providing Headquarters Support for National Initiatives	\$2,500	
F4. Promoting and Strengthen Regional Collaboration	\$2,000	
F5. North Atlantic Regional Team Communications	\$500	

F6. North Atlantic Regional Team Administration	\$13,000	
	\$50,000	\$21,500

Appendix 1. North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team Membership (February 2011)

Name	Affiliation	Location	Email
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Appendix 2. NOAA Strategic Goals & Objectives

Long-term Goal: **Climate Adaptation and Mitigation** – An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts

Objective	Metrics
Improved scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More comprehensive knowledge of greenhouse gases and other climate forcing agents; • Climate observing systems are sustained and the state of the climate system is routinely monitored; • Improved basis for confidence in understanding key oceanic, atmospheric, hydrologic, biogeochemical, and socioeconomic components of the climate system and impacts; • Advances in climate modeling leading to improved scientific understanding and a new generation of climate predictions and projections on global to regional scales and from monthly to centennial time scales; • Increased confidence in assessing and anticipating climate impacts; and • Quantitative short- to long-term outlooks and projections of Arctic sea ice.
Assessments of current and future states of the climate system that identify potential impacts and inform science, service, and stewardship decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential climate impacts and key international, national, and regional vulnerabilities are identified and inform the development of useful climate services; • Model simulations and analyses inform IPCC assessments of climate impacts, adaptation, and vulnerabilities; and • National and regional assessments address particular needs of NOAA's unique stewardship responsibilities for ocean and coastal ecosystems, living marine resources, and water resources.
Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, State, local, and tribal governments and water resource managers are better able to prepare for, adapt, and respond to drought and flooding, and can more confidently manage water resources; • Coastal resource managers incorporate a greater understanding of the risks of sea level rise, changes in Great Lakes hydrology and water levels, and other climate impacts to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities and ecosystem resources; • Living marine resource managers prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, ocean acidification, and other climate impacts, and develop management strategies for marine ecosystem conditions; • Decision makers prepare for and adapt to climate extremes, including deviations in temperatures and precipitation patterns; and • Policy makers have the information and understanding they need to implement and manage options that mitigate climate change.
A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key segments of society understand climate risks and use that knowledge to increase resilience to likely climate impacts; • Consumers of climate information understand climate uncertainty and utilize this knowledge in their decision-making processes; and • Educators and other outreach professionals increase comprehension and use of climate science resources; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAA is better able to identify and monitor stakeholder needs and refine its information products to enhance their value and meet evolving needs.
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Long-term goal: **Weather-Ready Nation** - Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events

Objective	Metrics
Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer weather-related fatalities; • Improved community preparedness leading to fewer weather-related fatalities; and • Avoidance of economic loss from property damage and unnecessary evacuations.
Improved water resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of economic loss and property damage from flooding as a result of impact-based decision support; • More efficient and effective management of municipal water supplies using integrated water forecasts; and • Economic benefits from increased efficiencies in water usage in the transportation, hydropower, and agriculture sectors.
Improved transportation efficiency and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer aviation delays due to weather-related events; • Reduced grounding or sinking of cargo vessels due to weather-related events; and • A reduction in transportation fatalities and economic losses due to weather-related events
Healthy people and communities through improved air and water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved information on the linkages among human health, weather, water and climate for decision makers; • Fewer adverse health impacts attributable to air pollution; and • Positive economic and ecological impacts from improved water quality forecasts.
A more productive and efficient economy through environmental information relevant to key sectors of the U.S. economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production gains in renewable energy through better information; • Mitigated economic loss due to advanced warning of geomagnetic storms; • Health sector efficiencies due to improved use of weather, water, and climate information; • An integrated suite of information targeted to food security needs; and • Growth of America's weather and climate industry.

Long-term Goal: **Healthy Oceans** – Vibrant marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems.

Objective	Metrics
Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of ecosystem information (such as Integrated Ecosystem Assessments) in natural resource decisions in marine, estuarine, Great Lake and riverine systems; • Increased development and use of climate considerations in fishery and protected resource decisions and in coastal and marine spatial planning processes; • Next-generation fish and protected resource stock assessments incorporating habitat, ecosystem, and climate information;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living marine resource managers using high-quality data to inform management plans and decisions; • Increased understanding of the role of habitat in providing ecosystem services, supported by improved habitat assessments; and • Increased use of social and economic indicators in the conservation and management decision making processes.
Recovered and healthy marine and coastal species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilized or increased abundance of species that are depleted, threatened, or endangered; • Decreased bycatch of protected species; and • Increased number of protected species with improving status.
Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased protection and restoration of habitats to enhance vital ecosystem services; • Habitat conservation targets and evaluation protocols set to focus and improve habitat protection and restoration actions in priority areas; • Essential fish habitat designations that encompass key habitats as informed by habitat assessments; • Increased use of partnerships, scientifically sound conservation measures, coastal and marine spatial planning, and regional ecosystem conservation approaches to protect and restore priority habitats; and • Climate change impacts addressed in conservation actions to promote long-term habitat resilience and adaptation.
Sustainable fisheries and safe seafood for healthy populations and vibrant communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving trends in stocks categorized as overfished shown in increases in abundance; • Reduced numbers of stocks subject to overfishing; • Increased allowable catch levels as fish stocks reach rebuilt status; • Decreased bycatch of target and non-target species; • Expanded recreational and commercial fishing opportunities; • Increased research focused on sustainable aquaculture activities; • Increased numbers of aquaculture facilities that are ecologically sustainable; • Increased proportion of inspected seafood; and • Implementation of a national aquaculture policy and NOAA aquaculture priorities.

Long-term Goal: **Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies** – Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable.

Objective	Metrics
Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the percentage of U.S. coastal states and territories demonstrating annual improvements in resilience to coastal and climate hazards; • Appropriate science-based tools and information for assessing hazard risk, vulnerability, and resilience that coastal decision makers and community leaders can understand and use; • Effective community plans and strategies that improve community readiness to cope with natural and human-induced coastal hazards; and • Healthy natural habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystem services support local economies and communities.

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<p>Comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, regional, and local stakeholders engaged in the coastal and marine spatial planning process; • Coastal and Great Lakes managers use of new or enhanced models, data, tools, and best practices for informed spatial planning, management and stewardship of resources and ecosystems; • Key coastal, marine, and Great Lakes areas acquired or designated for long-term conservation and managed to maintain critical ecosystem function and support coastal economies; • Predictable and transparent regulatory mechanisms for ocean and coastal energy, and other sectors; and • An enhanced geospatial framework and data are available to underpin decision support tools
<p>Safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced maritime incidents in U.S. waters through timely and accurate navigational information; • Increased capacity in the Marine Transportation System to promote greater efficiency and economic growth; • Improved national geospatial framework for increased accuracy of navigation products and services; • Reduced hydrographic survey backlog in navigationally significant areas; • Increased percentage of national ports with access to real-time navigation products and services; and • Increased preparedness and response to maritime incidents and emergencies.
<p>Improved coastal water quality supporting human health and coastal ecosystem services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater understanding of the effects of natural and human-induced contaminants on the health of humans and marine life; • Reduced impacts to human health and ecosystem services due to degraded water quality; • Faster detection of sediments and contaminants in coastal waters; • Accelerated recovery and restoration of coastal resources and revitalization of coastal communities through improved water quality.
<p>Safe, environmentally sound Arctic access and resource management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk and impact of maritime incidents on the Arctic environment; • Arctic communities and ecosystems prepared for climate change and weather events with adaptation strategies and plans; • A stronger foundational geospatial framework to better support economic and community resilience and inform policy options and coastal management responses to the unique challenges in the region; and • Increased international collaboration to strengthen NOAA and U.S. policy objectives in the region.

NOAA's Science and Technology Enterprise

Objective	Metrics
<p>A holistic understanding of the Earth system through research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of climate, weather, oceans, ecosystems, human activities, and their interrelationships; • Improved understanding of the processes contributing to, and impacts of ocean acidification, changes in ocean temperature and freshwater input,

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	<p>and sea level change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding of ecosystems (e.g., Gulf of Mexico, Arctic, Great Lakes) and the effects of human activities on the ecosystem, and coastal communities and economies; • Increased investigation and assessment of unexplored and ecologically, economically and culturally important coastal and oceanic regions; • Research on ecosystem impacts, processes, dynamics and biodiversity transitioned to enable ecosystem approaches to management and coastal community resilience; • Social, behavioral, and economic research advanced and transitioned into NOAA's delivery of climate, weather, ocean, and coastal services; • Meteorological, atmospheric, climatic, and oceanic research advanced and transitioned to NOAA's production of enhanced weather, climate, and marine forecasts and services, including those supporting renewable energy; • More effective development and transition of technologies to operational services and stewardship applications; and • An integrated research agenda supported by portfolio management that promotes transformative research and innovation.
<p>Accurate and reliable data from sustained and integrated earth observing systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased percentage of environmental measurement needs (legacy and new) satisfied within objectives of the four strategic goals; • Reduced gaps in sustained environmental measurements; • Improved data interoperability and usability through application and use of common data management standards; • Enhanced access and use of environmental data through data storage and access solutions, integration of systems, and long-term stewardship; and • Reduced life cycle cost of observations through increased partnerships, integration of systems leveraging available data, and reducing unnecessarily duplicative capabilities.
<p>An integrated environmental modeling system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and efficient collaboration and coordination within NOAA and with partners to enhance the scope and predictive accuracy of integrated Earth system models for global, national, and regional applications, and for specific phenomena; • Increased capacity, capability, and use of models to support ecological forecast services; • Improved predictive performance of global, regional, and local climate, weather, ocean, and ecosystem models for variable temporal scales; • Increased development and implementation of integrated modeling science plans incorporating prioritization, and partnerships to accelerate the advancements of modeling capabilities, capacities, and enterprise solutions; • Increased volume and diversity of data and information effectively integrated into models, particularly at different global, national, regional, and local scales; • Increased evaluation and optimization of NOAA's investments in observation and monitoring through the use of models; • Acceleration of model coverage, transitioning, and interoperability; and • Increased development and use of enterprise and community models.

NOAA’s Engagement Enterprise

Objective	Metrics
An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding and use of climate, weather, ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal environmental information to promote stewardship and increase informed decision making by stakeholders, educators, students, and the public who are interested in science; A diverse pool of students with degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and other fields critical to NOAA's mission, connected to career paths at NOAA and in related organizations; and NOAA effectively engages key stakeholders and the public to enhance literacy of climate, weather, ocean, and coastal environments
Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder needs continually and adequately assessed for NOAA science, service, and stewardship; Integrated products and services tailored to the needs of NOAA's regional stakeholders and customers; Organizational responsiveness to stakeholder needs through the evaluation of and adjustments to products and services; Two-way communication with regional stakeholders, including regional governance initiatives, to build understanding, trust, and partnerships; and A workforce operating with shared awareness and understanding of its cross-Agency missions and capabilities.
Full and effective use of international partnerships and policy leadership to achieve NOAA’s mission objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of the provisions of the MSA to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources in international fisheries; Fulfillment of the Coral Triangle Initiative objectives; Build transboundary relationships that support NOAA regional engagement, including that in the Arctic, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico; Implement the International Marine Mammal Action Plan; Expanded collaborations and partnerships on international environmental observing capabilities and on climate observing systems, assessments, and services; and Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from and response to high-impact international events.

NOAA’s Organization and Administration Enterprise

Objective	Metric
Diverse and constantly evolving capabilities in NOAA’s workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased leadership, managerial training, and certification in the career development of NOAA professionals and NOAA Corps Officers; Increased numbers of qualified program and project managers; Increased numbers of interdisciplinary professionals and science translators to enable functions of engagement and integration; Increased use of social scientists for research, service development, and operations; Increased capacity of the NOAA Corps to lead integration of advanced technologies into NOAA's missions; and Increased numbers of underrepresented groups in the NOAA workforce.

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<p>A modern IT infrastructure for a scientific enterprise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of a common architecture and framework for IT services and solutions; • Delivery of critical high-performance computing capabilities for evolving environmental modeling requirements; • Implementation of enterprise-wide and holistic protection from cyber security threats; and • An IT workforce that possesses the competencies required to fulfill NOAA's evolving scientific mission.
<p>Modern, safe, and sustainable facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved facility condition indices; • Reduced accidents and injuries; • Increased energy efficiency in facility operations, including an increased percentage of NOAA's total facility portfolio certified by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; and • Increased operational efficiency.
<p>A high-performing organization with integrated, efficient, and effective business systems and management processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful results from audits and evaluations of NOAA's financial and non-financial control systems; • Sound project engineering, cost estimation, and acquisition management practices that generate routine success in meeting cost, schedule, and performance targets for programs and major projects; • Increased organizational efficiency and effectiveness through continuous improvements in NOAA-wide business processes and strategic and performance management systems; and • Improved project and program management skills.