



News from

Winter 2009

NOAA in the North Atlantic

Welcome to the first issue of the quarterly NOAA North Atlantic Region e-newsletter. NOAA's North Atlantic region spans from the mountains of Maine to the beaches of Virginia and includes all or part of 12 states and the District of Columbia. Here are highlights of recent activities in our region, brought to you by the North Atlantic Regional Team (NART).

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[Attention on Deck! A New Regional Coordinator for the North Atlantic](#)

On March 2, Nicole Bartlett started as the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Coordinator. Nicole is one of eight regional coordinators who have been hired to improve regional efficiency and effectiveness for employees and stakeholders.



Nicole Bartlett, new NART coordinator

She comes to the NOAA North Atlantic region after almost four years in Hawaii, where she worked as the Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator for NMFS. Before her assignment in Hawaii, she worked at NMFS HQ as a member of the recreational statistics team in the Office of Science & Technology. She has a masters degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Seton Hill University. Nicole will be working out of the NMFS Science Center in Woods Hole, MA and will be your contact person for all NOAA regional collaboration activities in the North Atlantic. We are looking forward to great things to come!

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey and National Weather Service Respond to U.S. Airways Water Landing on Hudson River

On January 15, U.S. Airways Flight 1549, made an emergency water landing on the Hudson River in New York, NY. In the hours following the accident, NOAA's Office of Coast



U.S. Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River

Survey Navigation Response Team 5 was on the scene supporting survey efforts to locate debris from the accident via side scan sonar, including a portable "fly away" side scan. Several items of interest were located by the Navigation Response Team.

NOAA's National Weather Service New York Forecast Office also provided weather decision support information to the local recovery teams through local emergency management. Water and air temperatures were provided along with the forecast information for the days following the incident. The forecast team also responded to media requests for current weather conditions affecting local operations on the Hudson.

NOAA Day at Nauticus



NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* in Norfolk

On March 21, the NOAA offices in the Hampton Roads, Virginia region partnered with Nauticus, a maritime museum on the downtown Norfolk waterfront, to sponsor the first ever "NOAA Day at Nauticus." The purpose of NOAA Day was to honor local NOAA employees and to help the public get to "know" NOAA in Hampton Roads. The event featured public tours of the NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* at the museum's pier, a NOAA film festival in the museum's theater, special NOAA displays and NOAA "docents-for-day" interpreting the museum's many NOAA-related exhibits. Hundreds of museum visitors attended "NOAA Day" and organizers hope to make it an annual event.

For more information about NOAA's partnership with Nauticus, visit www.nauticus.noaa.gov .

NOAA's National Hurricane Center Director speaks at Blue Planet Forum



Bill Read at the National Hurricane Center

On March 31, Bill Read, the Director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center spoke at the Blue Planet Forum, an environmental lecture series in Norfolk, Virginia co-sponsored by NOAA, Old Dominion University, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Nauticus. Mr. Read's lecture was entitled "The People Problem-The Impact of Hurricanes in Hampton Roads and the Nation" and was well received by the approximately three hundred people who attended.

New England Gets to B-WET

NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Regional Office has been selected to host the New England Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program, an environmental education grant program. The NOAA B-WET Program promotes locally relevant, experiential environmental education for grades K through 12. This new location enables B-WET to work with schools and education providers from Maine to Connecticut. B-WET will be strongly coordinated with the NART's activities to ensure it represents a "one-NOAA" view.

While new to New England, the B-WET grant program continues to be a major part of NOAA's environmental education efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the coming months B-WET New England and B-WET Chesapeake will announce the FY09 grant recipients. For more information about B-WET and how to apply for future opportunities go to <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>

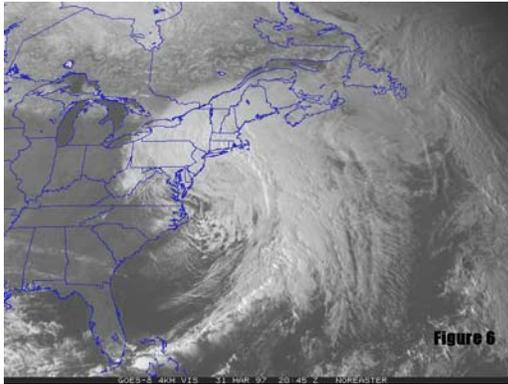


Students in Maine document the occurrence of purple loosestrife.
Photo: GMRI

Before the Flood: New England Coastal Inundation Model

Impacts from coastal flooding from extra-tropical storms (e.g. nor'easters) can be far-reaching and catastrophic to the New England coast. NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) offices in the North Atlantic Region are working to increase the resiliency of coastal communities by creating new forecast and related products aimed at local decision-makers. The

pilot project promotes the development of enhanced storm surge models and inundation visualization tools. The information from these new products will allow coastal decision-makers, like emergency managers and coastal flood plain planners, to more effectively prepare and respond to coastal flooding from extra-tropical storms.



A GOES satellite image of a nor'easter.

NWS and NOS are collaborating to produce forecast and reference products that integrate tide predictions and data, extra-tropical storm surge forecasts, wave forecasts, and GIS-based visualization maps for the two pilot communities of Scituate, MA and Saco, ME. These products will provide critical information for emergency managers and others to assess the potential risk from approaching storms and to take appropriate action. Although the short term emphasis is on the

protection of life and coastal property, long-term potential benefits include enhanced habitat and shoreline restoration, better erosion predictive capability, improved marine navigation, and enriched land use planning that anticipates projected sea level rise from climate change.

NART Climate Working Group Promotes Collaboration

The NART Climate Working Group is comprised of members from all of the NOAA line offices who are focused on climate activities at the global, regional, and sub-regional scales. Recent working group activities include:

- Developing a proposal to promote training regional climate representatives on the latest NOAA climate capabilities and messages
- Creating an draft inventory of ongoing regional climate projects and programs across NOAA and its federal partners
- Serving as a clearing house for sharing recent climate information among regional NOAA offices.



In the near future, the NART Climate Working Group plans to participate in a review of the role of the regional teams in the National Climate Service, to contribute to the development of a regional plan for ocean acidification, and to coordinate an interagency Federal workshop on climate in New England.

NOAA Sponsors Ecosystem Based Management Conference in Baltimore

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office sponsored a regional ecosystem based management (EBM) conference, *Ecosystem Based Management: The Chesapeake and Other Systems*, on March 22-25, 2009 in Baltimore. The goal of the conference was to identify EBM currently in place across the basin and opportunities for expanded EBM in the future. Federal, state and local officials, NGO representatives, K-12 educators, and policy makers participated in the conference's 28 sessions. During the conference, NART held a facilitated session **“Identifying Regional Needs and Collaborative Opportunities for Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management in the Mid-Atlantic”** and received feedback from partners and stakeholders on ecosystem-based approaches to natural resource management in the Mid-Atlantic region. For more information about the conference and proceedings go to <http://www.chesapeakemeetings.com/EBM/>



Regional Stakeholders Get to Know NOAA

The NART held its first outreach session on March 6 at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockland, ME. The session focused on a set of discussion topics that reflect major challenges facing marine users and coastal communities in the North Atlantic region including ecosystem based management, climate change, community hazard resilience, and ocean and coastal energy production.



NOAA stakeholders provide feedback at the Maine Fishermen's Forum.

The Maine Fishermen's Forum provides a venue for interaction among fishing groups, government, environmental organizations, researchers and the public on marine resource issues. In a roundtable setting, representatives from these groups were introduced to NOAA Regional Collaboration and the opportunities it presents to improve services and solve problems.

Among the ideas generated from this session were:

- NOAA should pilot place-based, resource management on a small scale, including experimental MPAs;
- NOAA should work to bring the coastal and fishery management communities together;
- Ecosystem based management should build on, not replace the management systems we have now;

- NOAA should continue to develop visualization tools to help the public understand the impacts of climate change;
- NOAA should sustain and build on the observation systems;
- NOAA should support the many state and local efforts already underway.

NART outreach sessions also took place at the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Working Group meeting on March 25 in Portsmouth, NH. Additional outreach sessions are planned for later in the year.

[NART Representatives Attend Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Workshop](#)

The Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Priority Area Task Team (PATT) met February 2-3 in Bay St. Louis, MS. Held in conjunction with the Gulf of Mexico Regional Team meeting, the IEA workshop included a focus on identifying modeling, data management, and region specific requirements for the IEAs. A number of NART members attended the workshop, which was the second in an IEA PATT series. The next is tentatively scheduled for this spring in Charleston, SC before moving on to the Chesapeake Bay and Northeast Region. Of interest to the Northeast Region, attendees were briefed on ongoing modeling and research being conducted by Dr. Jason Link of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA and Dr. Robert Wood of the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory in Oxford, MD. The group was also briefed on the Coastal Data Development Center's Regional Ecosystem Data Management efforts, a data-integration framework to support NOAA's Ecosystem Based Management, including IEAs.