



NOAA's Blue Economy initiatives benefit American prosperity, resource conservation, and national security

NOAA enables growth in the American Blue Economy, with seaports alone supporting \$5.4 trillion in economic activity, helping to offer new sources of growth, jobs, and innovation by leading five major initiatives¹ and leveraging:

- Transformative technologies²—unmanned systems, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and 'omics—to make the most of the sustainable economic contributions of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;
- Multisector partnerships in the follow up to the November 2019 White House Summit on Ocean Science and Technology; and
- Environmental intelligence on the ocean in the Earth system by prioritizing new observing methods and accelerating weather modeling through NOAA's flagship Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC).



Seafood Production

Increase domestic marine aquaculture production and maximize sustainable commercial fishing by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens in accordance with the May 2020 Seafood Competitiveness Executive Order (E.O.).

Marine Transportation

Strengthen marine commerce by increasing vessel transit safety and efficiency at major U.S. seaports through NOAA's world-class navigation services.

Tourism & Recreation

Promote sustainable tourism and recreation in the U.S. coastal areas and Great Lakes by, for example, expanding marine sanctuaries, reducing marine debris, combating harmful algal blooms, conserving and restoring coral reefs, and producing tailored weather forecast products.

Ocean Exploration

Map, explore, and characterize the U.S. exclusive economic zone in accordance with the November 2019 presidential memorandum.

Coastal Resilience

Help communities prepare for and recover from extreme weather, water, and climate events by providing actionable information and tools to empower local decision makers and businesses.

Targeted investments

To make the most of the sustainable economic and social contributions of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, NOAA seeks targeted investments in FY 2021 to:

- Map, explore, and characterize priority areas of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and help develop and begin implementing a strategy to map the shoreline and nearshore of Alaska;³
- Leverage our Unmanned Systems Operations Program to rapidly expand UxS applications and benefits across every NOAA mission area.
- Improve access to credible marine data and information for decision makers through regional ocean data portals; and
- Increase support for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

Seafood Production: As directed by the Seafood Competitiveness E.O., NOAA is undertaking sweeping changes to reduce outdated and unnecessary regulations to maximize domestic seafood production. To increase sustainable aquaculture production, NOAA is leading interagency efforts through increased permitting efficiency, regulatory transparency, and developing science-based tools for world-class aquaculture management.



Marine Transportation: To protect maritime security, NOAA is improving access to marine data to support the movement of \$1.8 trillion in waterborne cargo. As Chairman of the Committee on the Marine Transportation System, Deputy NOAA Administrator and Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet will leverage a whole-of-government response to “Advance U.S. Maritime Competitiveness,” including in the Arctic.



Tourism & Recreation: Building on our addition in 2019 of Mallows Bay-Potomac River as the 14th national marine sanctuary, NOAA is pursuing additional opportunities to expand and strengthen sanctuaries, including an expansion proposal for Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico. Given the importance of tourism and recreation to local economies, NOAA is also leading in preventing and removing marine debris, combating harmful algal blooms, and conserving and restoring coral reefs.



Ocean Exploration: Buoyed by a November 2019 presidential memorandum setting a bold new era in ocean exploration, NOAA is harnessing cutting-edge science, new technologies, and innovative partnerships—such as our respective collaborations with Caladan, Fugro, Ocean Infinity, OceanX, the Schmidt Ocean Institute, and Vulcan—to unlock the potential of our ocean and coastal resources through increased ocean mapping, exploring, and characterizing.



Coastal Resilience: To enhance economic and national security in communities vulnerable to extreme weather, water, and climate events, NOAA is improving access to reliable tools and up-to-date data to enable coastal managers and businesses to plan, prepare, and recover when environmental hazards strike—and to leverage opportunities in blue economy industries.



¹ For recent accomplishments of our five Blue Economy initiatives, see the NOAA 2020 Business Brief at <https://bit.ly/2WKLbor>.

² NOAA's new strategies for its science and technology focus areas are available at <https://nrc.noaa.gov/NOAA-Science-Technology-Focus-Areas>.

³ NOAA's request aligns with the November 19, 2019, “Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska.”

NOAA's Blue Economy initiatives also align with:

Executive Office of the President of the United States. The National Science and Technology Council. *Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision*. November 2018.

President of the United States. *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. December 2017.

President of the United States. *Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth*. May 7, 2020.