

## NOAA In Your State

### Mississippi

*“NOAA’s work touches the daily lives of every person in the United States and in much of the world. Our products and services are the result of the hard work of NOAA’s dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the country. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”*

- Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator



#### **MS**

**Bobo, Okolona, Stennis Space Center, Vicksburg**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

**Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division**

**Ground- Based GPS Meteorology**

The Earth System Research Laboratory maintains the Ground-Based GPS Meteorology project, currently consisting of 400 GPS water vapor observing systems that provide near real-time integrated precipitable water vapor (IPW) measurements for weather forecasting, climate modeling, calibration and validation of satellite and radiosonde water vapor measurements, and research. This project provides water vapor data available to all users.

<http://www.gpsmet.noaa.gov/jsp/raob.jsp>

#### **Coastal**

**National Ocean Service (NOS)**

**Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services**

**National Water Level Observation Network**

NOAA’s Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) expanded and strengthened its National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) in the Gulf region. There are two long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Mississippi located at Pascagoula NOAA Lab and Bay Waveland Yacht Club that provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends. These stations have been strengthened to deliver real-time storm tide data during severe coastal events.

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>

**National Ocean Service (NOS)**

**Coastal Services Center (CSC)**

**Coastal Elevation Mapping**

The Center works with state and local officials to collect and distribute high-resolution topographic and bathymetric data sets. The Center worked with the private sector to acquire new light detection and ranging (lidar) and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IfSAR) data for coastal management applications such as the analysis of storm surge and storm inundation, erosion, and habitat mapping. The Center also worked with state and federal partners to share costs and find multiple uses for coastal lidar and IfSAR data sets.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/tcm/>

**National Ocean Service (NOS)  
Coastal Services Center (CSC)**

**Land Cover Mapping**

Nothing provides a big-picture view of land cover status better than these maps, which are developed using remote sensing technology. The Center has baseline land cover data for most of the coastal zone, including Mississippi. The goal is to update the imagery every five years to also provide a means of detecting change or trends.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover/>

**National Ocean Service (NOS)  
Coastal Services Center (CSC)**

**Topographic and Bathymetric Applications**

The Center provides information about the availability of topographic and bathymetric data sets and assists coastal managers in working with these sets—particularly in relation to storm surge and inundation modeling. The current focus of this project is on developing a data inventory for Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia and guidance documents describing the coastal management applications of topography and bathymetry.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/topobathy/>

**National Ocean Service (NOS)  
Integrated Ocean Observing System Program  
IOOS Regional Association**

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS), part of Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), is one of 11 Regional Associations being established through IOOS. GCOOS seeks to establish a sustained observing system for the Gulf of Mexico to provide observations and products needed by users in the region for the purposes of detecting and predicting climate variability and consequences, preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems, ensuring human health, managing resources, facilitating safe and efficient marine transportation, enhancing national security, and predicting and mitigating against coastal hazards.

<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/>

**National Ocean Service (NOS)  
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science  
Mussel Watch Program**

Mussel Watch Program is the longest continuous, nationwide contaminant monitoring program in U.S. coastal waters. The program analyzes sediment and bivalve tissue chemistry for a suite of organic contaminants and trace metals to identify trends at over 300 selected coastal sites, including Mississippi, from 1986 to present.

<http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/about/coast/nsandt/welcome.html>

**National Weather Service (NWS)  
National Data Buoy Center  
National Data Buoy Center – Stennis Space Center**

The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) located in Bay St. Louis at the Stennis Space center, develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of 175 moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations located primarily around the coastline of the United States. There is one such buoy off the coast of Mississippi. NDBC also operates NOAA's network of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART®) stations, for the early detection and real-time reporting of tsunamis in the open ocean. Data from the DART®s are used by the National Weather Service Tsunami Warning Centers in Alaska and Hawaii to provide tsunami forecasts, warnings, and information. NDBC supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. NDBC also operates the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Array of bouys in the tropical Pacific. The TAO/TRITON array consists of approximately 70 moorings in the Tropical Pacific Ocean, telemetering oceanographic and meteorological data to shore in real-time via the Argos satellite system. The array is a major component of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Observing System, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). These data provide valuable information used by NWS super computers to produce computer generated model forecasts of the atmosphere, and climate. NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations.

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

## **Statewide**

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

#### **NMFS Restoration Center**

##### **Habitat Program**

NMFS Restoration Center works with 18 private and public partners in Mississippi to restore tidal marshes and oyster reefs, and to remove marine debris, including derelict crab traps. Through Community-based Restoration Program projects, 343 acres of fisheries habitat have been restored and rehabilitated since 2000. The local community supported these restoration efforts through the time and effort of almost 200 volunteers. Community-based Restoration Program has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources on three separate projects to restore 15 acres of oyster reef habitat. In response to the major damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Congress required that comprehensive improvements or modifications to existing improvements in coastal areas of Mississippi (including coastal fishery habitats) be analyzed and designed. NMFS Fisheries Service is supporting the planning and review associated with this undertaking and contributed to the development of an interim report.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/>

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

#### **Southeast Region**

##### **Southeast Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center**

NMFS studies, protects and conserves living marine resources in federal waters (water to 200 miles off the seaward boundaries of coastal states) to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. NMFS' Southeast Regional Office (SERO) (headquartered in Saint Petersburg, FL) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) (headquartered in Miami, FL) are responsible for living marine resources in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean. Using the authorities provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and other federal statutes, the SERO and SEFSC partner to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammals and other protected resources, develop and ensure compliance with fishery regulations, restore and protect habitat, and recover threatened and endangered species, such as whales and turtles, in federal waters off Mississippi and throughout the Southeast Region.

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html> and <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov>

### **National Weather Service (NWS)**

#### **Automated Surface Observing Systems**

##### **Mississippi Stations**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). The ASOS systems serve as the nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorm, and fog. There are 10 ASOS stations in Mississippi.

[http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map\\_images/state-maps/asos\\_09/ms\\_asos.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/asos_09/ms_asos.pdf) and

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/asos/>

### **National Weather Service (NWS)**

#### **Cooperative Observer Program**

##### **Mississippi Sites**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by Department of Homeland security, the insurance industry, and energy sector, and many others. These and other federal, state and local governments, and private company sectors use the data daily to make billions of dollars worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine everyone's energy bill monthly. There are 169 COOP sites in Mississippi.

[http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map\\_images/state-maps/coop\\_09/ms\\_coop.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/coop_09/ms_coop.pdf) and

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>

**National Weather Service (NWS)  
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards  
Mississippi Transmitters**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 14 NWR transmitters in Mississippi.

[http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map\\_images/state-maps/nwr\\_09/ms\\_nwr.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/nwr_09/ms_nwr.pdf) and  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)  
National Sea Grant College Program  
Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant College Program Consortium**

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education, and outreach (extension and communications). Sea Grant forms a network of 32 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium supports efforts that foster the conservation, sustainable development, and use of oceanic and coastal resources for the benefit of both the economy and the environment in Mississippi and Alabama. Recent research targets critical areas in marine natural products, fisheries and seafood safety, marine aquaculture, coastal ecosystems and habitats, coastal communities and economies, and marine education and outreach. Citizens, industry and policy makers are kept informed on issues related to these areas of research through the Sea Grant extension and communication programs in both states. The National Sea Grant Law Center, located at the University of Mississippi, provides legal research, outreach and advisory services, and education and training on ocean and coastal law and policies including fisheries, coastal development, marine habitat conservation, and other natural resource issues. Current Mississippi members of MASGC include Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Southern Mississippi.

<http://www.masgc.org>

**MS-1  
Goodwin Creek**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)  
Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division  
Surface Radiation Measurement Network**

The Earth System Research Laboratory operates seven stations as part of its surface radiation measurement network (SURFRAD). The station measurements support regional and global weather and climate research with accurate, continuous, long-term measurements of the surface radiation budget over the United States. Solar radiation is the driving energy for geophysical and biological processes that control weather and affect planetary life; understanding the global surface energy budget is therefore key to understanding climate and the environmental consequences to agriculture and other statewide concerns. Because it is impractical to cover the whole earth with monitoring stations, the answer to global coverage lies in reliable satellite-based observations. Accurate and precise ground-based measurements across a range of climate regions are essential to refine and verify the satellite observations. One of these stations is located near Goodwin Creek. These ground-based measurements also support special research projects on radiation and climate processes in the Mississippi region and serve as important verification for weather forecasts.

<http://www.srrb.noaa.gov/surfrad/index.html>

### ***Hattiesburg and Ocean Springs***

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

#### **Office of Ocean Exploration and Research**

#### **Institute for Undersea Science and Technology**

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research focuses on interdisciplinary exploration, systematic research, advanced technology development, and communication of results through education and outreach. Based at the University of Mississippi at Oxford and the University of Southern Mississippi at Stennis Space Center in Ocean Springs, the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology (NIUST) provides cutting-edge technologies to further the nation's research capabilities in nearshore, deepwater and extreme marine environments. NIUST is made up of three divisions: the Ocean Biotechnology Center and Repository, a national repository of biochemical and biomolecular products of marine organisms from U.S. and international waters for use by the biotechnology research sector; the Seabed Technology Research Center, focused on the research and development of remote sensor and direct sampling technologies for the investigation of the deep seabed; and the Undersea Vehicles Technology Center, which develops viable technologies involving interactive communication, data assimilation, and artificial intelligence appropriate for the deployment and operation of ROVs and AUVs. NIUST owns and operates two autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs): the Eagle Ray AUV and the Mola Mola AUV.

<http://www.explore.noaa.gov> and [www.niust.org](http://www.niust.org)

### ***MS-2***

#### ***Indianola***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

#### **National Seafood Inspection Program**

#### **Mississippi Delta Lot Inspection Office**

The National Seafood Inspection Program conducts a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis. The office offers a wide range of services to the area's fishermen and fish processors including process and product inspection, product grading, lot inspection, laboratory analysis, and training. All edible foodstuffs, ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fishmeal used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification.

<http://seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

### ***Jackson***

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS)**

#### **National Geodetic Survey (NGS)**

#### **Geodetic Advisor**

The Geodetic Advisor is a jointly funded National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in the state to provide liaison between NOS and the host state. The Geodetic Advisor guides and assists the state's charting, geodetic, and surveying programs through technical expertise. The program is designed to fill a need for more accurate geodetic surveys, and is in response to the desire of states to improve their surveying techniques to meet Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee standards and specifications. The surveys provide the basis for all forms of mapping and engineering projects, and monitoring of the dynamic Earth. This program also provides technical assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/ Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects.

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/ADVISORS/AdvisorsIndex.shtml>

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

#### **Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division**

#### **Weather In-situ Deployment Optimization (WISDOM)**

The WISDOM project seeks to improve the 3 to 7-day predictions of Atlantic hurricane track and intensity by deploying specialized balloons into important data-sparse regions of the atmosphere. An interagency effort is underway, sponsored by DHS and NOAA that has been testing the concept during the 2008 hurricane season.

<http://wisdom.noaa.gov/>

### **MS-3**

#### **Jackson**

#### **National Weather Service (NWS)**

#### **Weather Forecast Office**

#### **Jackson WFO**

Located at Jackson Municipal Airport, this National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around the clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of most of Mississippi, and portions of northeastern Louisiana and southeastern Arkansas. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events over land and sea including hurricanes and tropical storms, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation, and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support for critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. The Warning Coordination Meteorologist actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. These relationships are invaluable in helping to prepare people to respond appropriately when threatened by severe weather or other hazards. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations and the local Doppler Weather Radar. The radar provides critical information about current weather conditions for the forecasters to issue tornado warnings or flood and flash flood warnings.

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/>

#### **Newton**

#### **National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

#### **Climate Reference Network**

#### **Newton Station**

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operational network of climate stations. Data from the USCRN will be used in operational climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) manages the USCRN. The USCRN will also provide the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service and NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research jointly manage USCRN.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/uscrn/>

### **MS-4**

#### **Bay St Louis**

#### **National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)**

#### **National Oceanographic Data Center**

#### **National Coastal Data Development Center**

NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) manages and administers the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC). NCDDC is dedicated to supporting ecosystem management by providing access to the Nation's coastal and ocean data resources. NCDDC fulfills this mission by bringing together diverse coastal data from a variety of sources and creating ways for users to access data via the Internet. In order to make coastal data more accessible, NCDDC maintains a searchable metadata catalog of coastal data, develops gateways to data repositories, and uses technology that allows users to receive data in specific formats for their needs. To enhance its mission, NCDDC forms partnerships across NOAA and with agencies in federal, state and local government, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations that collect or provide coastal data and information. By maintaining these partnerships, NCDDC is able to know what partner data collections are available and produce dynamic end-to-end data and information products.

<http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/>

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**  
**Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division**  
**Science On a Sphere® - Stennis Space Center**

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere which is used to explain what are sometimes complex environmental processes, in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating. <http://www.sos.noaa.gov/> and [http://sos.noaa.gov/news/sos\\_sites.html](http://sos.noaa.gov/news/sos_sites.html)

***Biloxi***

**National Ocean Service (NOS)**  
**Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**  
**Mississippi Coastal Management Program/ Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works with the Mississippi Coastal Program, led by the state's Department of Marine Resources, to implement the National Coastal Management Program in Mississippi. OCRM provides the coastal program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect, restore, and responsibly develop our nation's coastal communities and resources by balancing the often competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation. The Mississippi coastal zone includes the three coastal counties as well as all adjacent coastal waters and the barrier islands of the coast.

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/ms.html>

**Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)**

**Port Office Pascagoula**  
**NOAA Ships *Oregon II* and *Gordon Gunter***

The NOAA ships *Oregon II* and *Gordon Gunter* are managed by NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk Virginia. The ships support the science and research missions of NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center and its allied laboratories. The ships are homeported at the Gulf Marine Support Facility in Pascagoula. The Port Captain provides operational, administrative and logistical support to the ships.

<http://www.moc.noaa.gov/ot/index.html> and <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/gu/index.html>

***Gulfport***

**National Ocean Service (NOS)**  
**National Geodetic Survey**  
**Mississippi Spatial Reference Center**

In a partnership with NOAA, the Mississippi Spatial Reference Center (MSRC) serves as a new way of providing a spatial referencing liaison between Federal and local authorities. The Center is a nonprofit organization located at the Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC), University of Southern Mississippi. The mission of the GCGC/MSRS is to provide coastal geospatial information, research, and applications that will benefit both the public and private sector. Current project areas include the Mississippi Height Modernization Program, remote sensing science and technology to address topics of importance to the ecology and economy of the northern Gulf of Mexico, and the Mississippi Digital Coast Initiative.

<http://www.gcqcusm.org/>

***Moss Point***

**National Ocean Service (NOS)**  
**Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**  
**Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

The 18,400 acre Grand Bay Reserve was designated in 1999 and is managed by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The Grand Bay Reserve is one of the most biologically productive estuaries in the northern Gulf of Mexico and includes part of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Nature Conservancy has dedicated the area as one of its Last Great Places in America. Located between Pascagoula and the Alabama state line, the Reserve's habitats support rare and endangered plant and animal species, important marine fisheries and archeological sites. Sea turtles, bottlenose dolphin and manatees can be found in the deeper waters of the reserve. Many species of carnivorous plants and orchids are present in the higher savanna habitats. Its productive oyster reefs and seagrass beds serve as nursery areas for important marine species, such as shrimp, blue crab, speckled trout and red fish.

Research at the Reserve includes: ecological effects of sea-level rise, ecology of unique habitats, monitoring ecosystem effects of atmospheric mercury, coastal plant ecology and mapping, and long-term monitoring of environmental conditions.

The Reserve's K-12 education program provides field experiences for both students and teachers. The Reserve's Coastal Training Program works with surrounding communities to provide information and trainings on conservation planning, floodplain management, and low impact development, which community leaders identified as high priority issues after Hurricane Katrina.

<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/GrandBay/>

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

##### **Air Resources Laboratory**

##### **Mercury Measurement Site**

NOAA maintains a specialized ambient air mercury measurement site at the Grand Bay Reserve in Moss Point, Mississippi. The site is operated in collaboration with the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The state-of-the-art site is one of only a handful of stations nationwide providing semi-continuous measurements of reactive gaseous mercury, elemental mercury, and particulate mercury in air. Additional data are collected for ambient air concentrations of trace gases (e.g., sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone), as well as meteorological parameters such as temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and direction. The site, operated since September 2006, provides high quality data to air quality and mercury transport models.

[http://www.arl.noaa.gov/Mercury\\_meas.php](http://www.arl.noaa.gov/Mercury_meas.php)

#### **Oxford**

#### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

##### **Office of Ocean Exploration and Research**

##### **NOAA's Institute for Undersea Science and Technology**

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<http://www.explore.noaa.gov>

#### **Pascagoula**

##### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

##### **Office of Sustainable Fisheries**

##### **National Seafood Inspection Laboratory**

The National Seafood Inspection Laboratory, located in Pascagoula, MS, is part of NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries. The Lab is one of the leading seafood chemical and microbiological testing and information transfer facilities in the United States, providing leading edge analytical laboratory services data management, regulatory risk analysis and policy development, and support for national and international seafood safety and aquatic animal health activities. The Lab conducts a wide variety of analyses on imported and domestic seafood products including. Data from the analyses are used to develop new regulatory techniques, consumer consumption advisories, and training materials. The Lab also manages the processing and reporting of data collected for the Patagonian Toothfish and Swordfish Import Control Program.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/sfweb/nsil/index.htm>



**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Pascagoula Laboratory**

The Pascagoula lab monitors the number, distribution, and health of marine resources and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. The Pascagoula Laboratory is NOAA's only fishing gear development, testing, and engineering facility in the southeast. Engineers and scientists design, test, develop and evaluate new fishing gears and harvesting strategies to reduce bycatch of non-target species and increase harvest efficiencies. Two research vessels are based at Pascagoula: the NOAA ship R/V *Gordon Hunter* and the NOAA ship R/V *Oregon II*. A third vessel, to be shared with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, is the R/V *Pisces*. The Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program for southeastern states and the Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction Project in the Atlantic are coordinated and managed in Pascagoula. Southeast Fisheries Science Center has port agents stationed in Pascagoula, charged with collecting marine fisheries data used in research and fishery management.

<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/>

***Stennis Space Center***

**Acquisition and Grants Office  
Eastern Acquisition Division  
National Data Buoy Center Office**

The Acquisition and Grants Office provides financial assistance and acquisition services for NOAA by overseeing and implementing all processes related to contracts and grants. For FY 2009, NOAA issued 1,232 grants, totaling over \$1.127 billion, to partner organizations and institutions throughout the United States and our territories.

<http://www.ago.noaa.gov/ago/index.cfm> and <http://www.grants.gov>

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Office of Law Enforcement  
Field Office**

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is dedicated primarily to the enforcement of laws that protect and regulate our nation's living marine resources and their natural habitat. Office of Law Enforcement special agents and enforcement officers have specified authority to enforce over 37 statutes, as well as numerous treaties related to the conservation and protection of marine resources and other matters of concern to NOAA. Stretching across the Gulf of Mexico, up the eastern seaboard from the Florida Keys to the northern shore of North Carolina and covering United States territorial waters in the Caribbean, the Southeast Enforcement Division's responsibility is vast beyond measure.

The Southeast Division is home to the nation's large shrimp trawl fishery, and is widely known for its vast coral reefs fisheries, turtle beaches, and highly prized saltwater game fish. Georgian waters also play host to the calving grounds for the approximately 350 endangered Northern Right whales, while Floridian waters hold the only continental coral reef in the United States. The Division is also responsible for enforcement activities within the Florida Keys, Flower Garden Bank, the Monitor and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuaries.

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/se\\_southeast.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/se_southeast.html)

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Stennis Research Facility**

The Stennis Research Facility is located at the Stennis Space Center, near Bay St. Louis. Research activities include engineering, data management and remote sensing such as satellite remote sensing of ocean parameters, satellite tracking of endangered species, and satellite linked forecast models for several species. Engineering activities (basic support and R&D) provide day-to-day repair, maintenance and modification of oceanographic instruments and systems, develop and demonstrate prototype equipment and advance technology in both general and specific engineering applications.

<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/>

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

**Cooperative Institute**

**Northern Gulf Institute (NGI), Mississippi State University**

NGI was established at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, in October 2006. NGI is a consortium of universities led by Mississippi State University, in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi, Louisiana State University, Florida State University, and Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The fundamental philosophy of NGI is integration: integration of the land-coast-ocean-atmosphere continuum; integration of research to operations; and integration of individual academic institutional strengths into a holistic research and educational program specifically geared to the needs of Northern Gulf of Mexico users. Among NGI's major NOAA research collaborators are the National Weather Service, the Coastal Services Center, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, the National Ocean Service (NOS), the National Coastal Data Development Center, the National Data Buoy Center, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Sea Grant Office. NGI conducts research under four scientific themes, focusing on the northern Gulf of Mexico: (1) ecosystem management; (2) geospatial data integration and visualization in environmental science; (3) climate change and climate variability effects on regional ecosystems; and (4) coastal hazards.

<http://www.ngi.msstate.edu>