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| NOAA Header |
| **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 Atmosphereand NOAA Administrator |

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| where is mississippi |

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| Due to congressional redistricting after the 2010 Census, we have tried to ensure that all changes in districts and locations have been accurately reflected. Corrections to the district and location for any entry may be sent to NIYSupdate@noaa.gov. |
| ***MS******Coastal*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Mississippi Coastal Management Program**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 management 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.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/ms.html>**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) operates two long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Mississippi located at Pascagoula NOAA Lab and Bay Waveland Yacht Club which 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](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/)**National Ocean Service (NOS)****U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Program****IOOS Regional Association**U.S. IOOS® is envisioned to be an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information.   The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS), 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 Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Coast Survey****Navigation Manager**NOAA’s navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Mississippi. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Mississippi and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Lafayette, LA and Mobile, AL to support mariners and stakeholders in Central Gulf Coast waters.<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/reps.htm>***Statewide*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) brings together conservation partners to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on these important lands that are threatened by development. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. To date, the program has protected more than 90,000 acres of land nationally and five grants have been completed in Mississippi, with one more ongoing in 2012. CELCP was established in 2002 as a companion the *Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)* and reauthorized in 2009.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/> **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Habitat Conservation****Restoration Center**NMFS Restoration Center works with 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, more than 360 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 is supporting the planning and review associated with this undertaking and contributed to the development of an interim report.<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/regional/southeast.html> **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Region****Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program**The NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET currently serves seven areas of the country: California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Gulf of Mexico B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.  Please see regional funding opportunity for priorities and eligibility details.<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/outreach/B-WETmainpage.htm> **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 to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public. NMFS’ Southeast Regional Office (headquartered in Saint Petersburg, FL) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Miami, FL) are responsible for living marine resources 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 Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center 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 in waters off Mississippi and throughout the Southeast Region.The Southeast Regional Office conducts mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive energy and coastal development activities, participates in state and regional habitat planning and restoration efforts, provides assistance during hazardous material incidents and hurricane events, and participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects.The Southeast Fisheries Science Center has two facilities in Mississippi in Pascagoula, MS and Stennis Space Center, Bay St. Louis, MS that are collectively known as the Mississippi Laboratories.[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html and http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html)**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). ASOS serves 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 15 ASOS stations in Mississippi.<http://www.nws.noaa.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 other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used 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 individuals’ energy bills monthly. There are 148 COOP sites in Mississippi.<http://www.nws.noaa.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 (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS 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 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories.There are 12 NWR transmitters in Mississippi.<http://www.nws.noaa.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 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium is a federal-state partnership that matches NOAA Sea Grant expertise and resources with state academic institutions. Created in 1972, members of the consortium include Auburn University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of South Alabama. The mission of MASGC is to enhance the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and coastal resources to benefit the economy and environment. The bi-state consortium focuses on a safe, sustainable seafood supply; sustainable coastal development; healthy coastal ecosystems; and hazard resilient coastal communities. Sea Grant specializes in extension, research, outreach and education.[http://www.masgc.org](http://www.masgc.org/)***MS-1******Oxford*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Office of Ocean Exploration and Research** **NOAA’s 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](http://www.explore.noaa.gov/)***MS-2******Goodwin Creek*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Surface Radiation Measurement Network**The Earth System Research Laboratoryoperates 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***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****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>***MS-3******Jackson*****National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Forecast Office****Jackson WFO**Located at Jackson Municipal Airport, this NWS 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, including 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 NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during 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. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.<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/crn/>***MS-4******Bay St. Louis*****Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO)****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 2010, NOAA issued 2,306 grants, totaling over $1.061 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](http://www.grants.gov/)**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/>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Mississippi Laboratories – Stennis Space Center**The Stennis Space Center facility of the Mississippi Laboratories conducts research on advanced technologies such as electronic data collection technologies, gliders, and automated underwater vehicles and research and modeling activities to support oceanographic and ecosystem assessments. Models are being developed to monitor annual hypoxic events in the Gulf of Mexico, to track mortalities of stranded sea turtles, to determine the impacts of environmental factors on fish abundance, and to model plankton distribution and abundance in relation to ocean currents and other oceanographic factors. Research is also focusing on the development of an acoustics program to map marine habitats and provide information on distribution and abundance of marine resources. This facility provides engineering support for marine resource surveys through the design and construction of innovative data collection methods such as digital video camera systems, automated underwater vehicles and gliders.<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/labs/mississippi/>**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 buoys 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/>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Cooperative Institute****Northern Gulf Institute, Mississippi State University**The Northern Gulf Institute (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](http://www.ngi.msstate.edu/)**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 that 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***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 near-shore, 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***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.gcgcusm.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 Reserve’s new 20,000 square-foot LEED Gold certified Coastal Resources Center demonstrates the use of sustainable “green” building features creating a functional and environmentally friendly working space.  The Center provides office, laboratory, classroom, interpretive and dormitory facilities to support reserve programs.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/ReservesMap.aspx> **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Air Resources Laboratory****Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring Network**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 and is a part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program's Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring Network (AMNet). The state-of-the-art monitoring site provides 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***Pascagoula*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Sustainable Fisheries****National Seafood Inspection Laboratory**The Lab provides leading edge analytical laboratory services, fish meal export certification, 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 range of laboratory analyses for chemical and microbiological hazards and fraud in imported and domestic seafood products. Data from the analyses are used for export certifications, regulatory and criminal enforcement, consumer consumption advisories, and to verify the performance of seafood hazard control plans. The Lab also manages several Import Control Programs, which include the processing and reporting of data collected for the Patagonian Toothfish, Swordfish, Bigeye tuna, and Bluefin tuna. The Import Monitoring Programs also respond to international data requests and issue mandatory reports to several regional fishery management organizations.<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/sfweb/nsil/index.htm>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Mississippi Laboratories - Pascagoula Laboratory**The Pascagoula Mississippi Laboratory conducts fisheries-independent resource surveys to monitor the number, distribution, and health of marine resources and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean. Information on abundance and distribution of fish, marine mammals and sea turtles are used 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 in waters off Mississippi and throughout the Southeast Region.  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 minimize interactions with protected resources and reduce incidental bycatch mortality. Research in advanced technologies improves our data collection programs, and ecosystem assessment research furthers our understanding of the interactions between the environment and marine resources.Three research vessels are based at Pascagoula: the NOAA ship R/V *Gordon Gunter,* the NOAA ship R/V *Oregon II,* and the NOAA ship R/V *Pisces*. The Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) and the Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction Project (MARMAP) are coordinated and managed in Pascagoula. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center has port agents stationed in Pascagoula, charged with collecting marine fisheries data used in research and fishery management. Pascagoula oversees a satellite facility at Stennis Space Center and the combination of these two facilities is referred to as the “Mississippi Laboratories.”<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/labs/mississippi>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Southeast Fisheries Science Center****Fishery Statistics Office**Field agents serve as the principle data collection agent for marine fisheries throughout the Southeast U.S. (NC-TX). They implement and coordinate surveys involving the collection of fishery related data from the public. Responsibilities and functions are to develop, implement, operate, and manage an integrated fishery statistical data acquisition program for research and fishery management. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is the headquarters for the Southeast Port Agent program. A field agent is stationed in Pascagoula, MS.<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/interview/>**Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)****Homeport****NOAA Ships *Oregon II*, *Pisces*, and *Gordon Gunter***The NOAA ships *Oregon lI, Pisces,* 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 and the Port Captain provides operational, administrative and logistical support to the ships.All of the vessels are operated under the direction of officers from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The NOAA Corps today provides a cadre of professionals trained in engineering, earth sciences, oceanography, meteorology, fisheries science, and other related disciplines. Officers operate ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in staff positions throughout NOAA.<http://www.moc.noaa.gov/ot/index.html> and <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/gu/index.html> and <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/pc/index.html> |
| **NOAA’s Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs**[**http://www.legislative.noaa.gov**](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov) |