



a Strategic Plan for NOAA's National Ocean Service

FY 2003-2008 and Beyond

I am pleased to present the *National Ocean Service (NOS) Strategic Plan*, which charts our course for preserving and enhancing coastal and ocean ecosystems while supporting long-term economic growth. Developed by NOS's leadership and employees, this Plan describes our goals and strategies for achieving them over the next five years. This Plan also provides a framework within which we will execute NOS programs and measure performance to better connect to NOAA's planning, budget formulation, budget execution, and performance management.

As we enter the 21st century and respond to changes in society's demands on our oceans and coasts, emerging technologies, and changes in U.S. and international policies, we are determined to build on the great strides we have made during the past 30 years. This Strategic Plan outlines NOS's framework for addressing the challenges and opportunities in coastal and ocean stewardship and building the capacity to address new priorities. We will continue to seek innovative measures and approaches to ensure that America's coastal resources sustain livelihoods, provide recreational opportunities, and support the economy now and in future generations.

This is a dynamic and flexible Plan that will be revised and updated annually. We welcome input from our employees and stakeholders to ensure that this guiding document remains relevant and useful. I look forward to working with NOS's partners and customers as we pursue the goals and strategies outlined in this Plan.

You can read a summary of the plan and download a .pdf version at:

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/about/welcome.html>

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