



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NOAA Fisheries Priorities Fiscal Year 2024



Assistant Administrator's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the priorities of NOAA Fisheries for Fiscal Year 2024. NOAA Fisheries is committed to sustainable management and conservation of our nation's fisheries, protected species, and critical marine habitats, even as we face the challenges posed by climate change, offshore wind production, and other factors affecting the seafood sector. We recognize that this will require collaboration and innovative solutions, and we look forward to working with our partners to address these issues. The recently enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will enhance capacity to understand marine resource trends in the face of climate change, protect and restore habitat important to marine species, conserve and recover endangered marine mammals and migratory species, and support the sustainability of commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries.

In the coming year, NOAA Fisheries will focus on several key priorities that are critical to our mission, including:

- **Promoting Sustainable Fisheries:** NOAA Fisheries will continue to support the development and implementation of sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices to ensure that our nation's seafood is responsibly managed for long-term sustainability.
- **Protecting Marine Life and Habitats:** We are committed to protecting and conserving marine life and habitats, including threatened and endangered species and marine mammals, and the ecosystems that support them.
- **Supporting Coastal Communities, including tribal, indigenous, and underserved:** NOAA Fisheries will continue to work closely with coastal communities to support economic opportunities and sustainable fisheries management and foster sustainable aquaculture development.
- **Strengthening International Fisheries Management:** We recognize the importance of

international collaboration in the sustainable management of our shared global fisheries resources, and will work to strengthen international fisheries management efforts.

- **Addressing the Effects of Climate Change:** We recognize that climate change is one of the greatest threats facing our marine resources, and we will prioritize efforts to understand, address, and mitigate its impacts on fisheries, habitats, and protected species.
- **Addressing Offshore Wind Impacts:** We are committed to supporting the growth of offshore wind energy production, while also consulting to minimize its impacts on marine ecosystems, protected marine species, and fisheries.
- **Enhancing Seafood Sector Resilience:** We will work to strengthen the resilience of the seafood sector in the face of changing market conditions, environmental pressures, and other challenges.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to fulfilling our mission through sound science, transparent decision-making, and effective communication with our stakeholders. We believe that, by working together, we can ensure the long-term sustainability of our nation's marine resources for future generations.



Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Adaptively manage fisheries for sustainability and economic competitiveness

STRATEGY 1.1 Manage stocks for optimum yield and build climate and economic resilience in U.S. fishing and seafood sectors	STRATEGY 1.2 Advance climate science and ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) to increase the sustainability of marine fisheries	STRATEGY 1.3 Mitigate and adapt to climate-driven changes in fisheries habitat	STRATEGY 1.4 Diversify our data collection technologies and expand data products and services	STRATEGY 1.5 Counter IUU fishing activity <i>*Note: Priorities for Strategy 1.5 were combined under Strategy 3.8</i>
Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Priorities				
Engage with the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils to prevent overfishing, rebuild fish stocks, and ensure equitable allocation decisions.	Implement the Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative to integrate climate into fishery management and aquaculture planning..	Modify survey and assessment methodologies or effort to account for changing species distribution.	Establish a National Survey Program and expand our use of advanced sampling technologies (e.g., 'Omics, UxS, acoustics, and optical systems).	Implement programs and continue to develop strategies to detect and deter IUU fishing activity and the importation of IUU fish and fish products.
Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into fisheries management, including efforts to implement EBFM.	Complete development of an Offshore Wind National Science Plan.	Implement Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) transformational habitat restoration to restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and ensure a climate-ready nation.	Mitigate anticipated impacts of offshore wind energy development on NOAA Fisheries' scientific surveys and stock assessments.	Continue capacity building and technical assistance for regional and international efforts to combat IUU fishing activities, including implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.
Commence implementation of the National Seafood Strategy to support a thriving domestic U.S. seafood economy and enhance the resilience of the seafood sector.	Research the social science and economic impacts of climate change on the fishing industry and fish stocks.	Identify and conserve high-priority areas of Essential Fish Habitat, with consideration of changing habitat conditions and geographic distribution of fish populations.	Modernize our fishery-dependent data infrastructure and the integration of disparate data streams with cloud platforms to better support new at-sea data collection tools (e.g., electronic reporting, electronic monitoring) and advanced analytics.	
Advance identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Southern California, and Alaska.			Strengthen internal and external partnerships within the recreational fishing sector to improve acquisition and use of recreational data in scientific analysis and management.	

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Safeguard protected species and propel their recovery

STRATEGY 2.1 Implement actions to recover listed endangered and threatened species	STRATEGY 2.2 Model and predict the effects of climate change on protected species to improve conservation outcomes	STRATEGY 2.3 Expand the use of advanced and innovative technologies	STRATEGY 2.4 Protect and restore important habitats necessary for the recovery of endangered marine species	STRATEGY 2.5 Protect marine species while supporting ocean-based economic growth
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Make measurable progress on recovery strategies for the Species in the Spotlight and other protected species under our jurisdiction, especially North Atlantic right whales.	Develop and implement models to predict the effect of climate change on protected species under our jurisdiction.	Implement advanced sampling technologies to improve data collection for protected species (e.g., 'Omics, UxS, acoustics, ASTER3).	Identify, protect, and restore habitat critical to the recovery of endangered marine and anadromous species.	Conduct environmental compliance and science on offshore wind energy development to ensure minimal adverse impacts on protected marine species.
Engage in international treaties and conventions to strengthen measures globally for protected species under our jurisdiction.	Assess protected species vulnerability to climate change and incorporate results into conservation and recovery efforts.	Develop technological solutions to mitigate human impacts on protected species (e.g., innovative fishing gear, vessel strike reduction, bycatch reduction, real-time monitoring).	Remove fish passage barriers and implement provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to maximize access to spawning and rearing habitat, and build climate resilience.	Reduce fisheries bycatch to recover protected species and maintain sustainable fisheries through partnerships and stakeholder engagement.
Incorporate observed and predicted effects of climate change into protected species science and management.	Inform species protection efforts with NOAA Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) products and work with our regulatory offices to co-develop them.			Effectively implement the MMPA Import Provisions and the Moratorium Protection Act to ensure nations with bycatch of Protected Living Marine Resources (PLMRs) have comparable conservation and management measures to the U.S.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Diversify our workforce, promote equity, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence *(continued)*

STRATEGY 3.1 Promote total worker wellness	STRATEGY 3.2 Improve workforce diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA)	STRATEGY 3.3 Develop workforce skills for the future	STRATEGY 3.4 Embrace a new paradigm for the workplace	STRATEGY 3.5 Adaptively manage infrastructure
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Institute policies and programs to promote employee physical and mental health.	Increase recruitment efforts to underrepresented groups for entry, mid-level, and senior leadership positions.	Provide continuous training and competency development for employees to enhance key leadership skill sets.	Implement a workplace design/ layout and policy to support a hybrid workforce.	Implement programs and continue to develop strategies to detect and deter IUU fishing activity and the importation of IUU fish and fish products.
	Expand partnerships, both internal and external, to further enhance DEIA efforts and achieve strategic priorities across NOAA Fisheries.		Provide a culture of leadership, trust, and prioritization at every level of the organization.	Use activity-based planning to determine workplace needs and space requirements for major leases.
	Strengthen agency commitment to DEIA through education, accountability, and data collection and analysis.		Establish a foundational cloud service delivery model to support the modernization of administrative and science-based workloads, reduce infrastructure footprint, and improve the execution of regulatory requirements to benefit a climate-ready nation.	

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Diversify our workforce, promote equity, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence		
STRATEGY 3.6 Optimize resources	STRATEGY 3.7 Expand internal and stakeholder communications	STRATEGY 3.8 Implement Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy, ensuring equity and accessibility for tribal, indigenous, and underserved communities
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Establish a process for developing long-range program plans.	Implement the Congressional Engagement Strategy.	Implement NOAA Fisheries’ Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy to eliminate systemic barriers and help serve all communities more equitably and effectively.
Improve survey program prioritization and planning.	Improve user experience as a way to expand our reach on digital platforms.	Engage with communities to develop Equity and Environmental Justice Regional Implementation Plans.
	Coordinate strategic communications across the agency.	Coordinate the implementation of BIL and IRA funding to build capacity for tribal and underserved communities to participate in habitat restoration and barrier removal to restore fish passage.



Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown, a fishery biologist at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, conducts field work at an oyster reef.



A Saildrone, an uncrewed surface vehicle, sails under the Golden Gate Bridge.