



NOAA FISHERIES

Key Projects

- Apex Predators Program
- Cooperative Research Program
- Ecosystem Monitoring Program
- Hydrographic Monitoring Program
- Fisheries and the Environment (FATE) studies
- Ecosystem Assessments
- Climate Assessments

Key Collaborations

- University of Rhode Island - Graduate School of Oceanography
- US Environmental Protection Agency – Atlantic Ecology Division
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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Narragansett Laboratory

28 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI

The Narragansett Laboratory conducts research on changing oceanographic and ecological conditions and how they affect the productivity and health of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf ecosystem, the recovery of depleted fish stocks, and conservation of protected species. The Laboratory is home to the Northeast Cooperative Research Program, which works with fishermen on a variety of research and data collection projects. Studies also are conducted on the demography and ecology of shark populations to provide information for shark assessment and management. The Laboratory has also been a focal point in the region for incorporating climate information into fishery and endangered species assessments.

Our Strengths

- Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf
- Production of ecosystem advisories and ecosystem status reports used for regional ecosystem-based fisheries management
- Ecological studies of important sharks
- Cooperative research with fishermen including surveys, gear studies, and assessments
- Process-oriented research on the influence of the environment and lower trophic levels on living marine resources
- Impact of climate variability and change on living marine resource distribution and productivity
- Contribution of oceanographic and ecological information to living marine resource assessment
- Satellite oceanography and application to fisheries and endangered species research
- Support of other NOAA Programs including Habitat Restoration, NOAA Coast Survey, and AOML Northeast U.S. Operations
- Development of social indicators to understand human interactions in marine ecosystems

Our Place in the Region

History - Originally built for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sportfish and Wildlife and dedicated in October 1966, the lab moved to NOAA Fisheries in 1970, and has been operated since by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

Location - As part of the Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island, the Lab is adjacent to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and the Atlantic Ecology Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Community – Close collaborations with federal, state, and academic scientists, students, and recreational and commercial fishermen.

New Directions

- Development of climate-ready Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management
- Expand use of cooperative research products in living marine resource assessments
- Advanced sampling technologies including satellite, acoustics, optical, and genetic techniques to improve ecosystem observing



Nancy Kohler, head of the Apex Predators Program, captures a tiger shark during a research survey. The shark was later released. Photo credit: NEFSC/NOAA



A CTD (conductivity, temperature, depth) with a rosette of Niskin bottles is recovered from a research vessel. Photo credit: Jerry Prezioso, NEFSC/NOAA