

Natural World – Extraordinary People Script  
(noaa\_five\_min in the SOS media tree)

The atmosphere, earth's preciously thin blue envelope of air. This ever-changing fluid layer interacts with the planet's oceans in dynamic and complex ways. Water and air, two vital Eco-systems that energize our planet directly and indirectly affecting all living things on earth. The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA, the Nation's premier science agency, a highly trained team of dedicated scientists and personnel working together through the agency's seven main line offices to monitor and probe the mysteries of the natural world.

From orbiting satellites in space replete with complex arrays of instruments, to climate laboratories next to frozen arctic seas and atop the summit of a Hawaiian volcano, in crystal blue tropical waters restoring damaged coral reefs, in estorean reserves, in national marine sanctuaries along our coasts, in ports and harbors, in submersibles, planes, ships and in offices throughout the world. The people of NOAA are seeking to understand, monitor and provide stewardship for natural wonders that have fascinated human kind since the earliest hunter looked outward past endless oceans, slept under a canopy of stars or sought shelter from a vengeful sky. NOAA people are charged with a vital mission to describe and predict changes in the earth's environment and conserve and wisely manage the nation's coastal and marine resources. NOAA's array of polar orbiting or POES and geo-stationary orbiting or GOES environmental satellites keep watch on the earth monitoring and disseminating information, serving to enhance the nation's economy and improve the quality of life.

The NOAA workforce includes meteorologists, hydrologists, cartographers, oceanographers, fishery managers, physicists, computer scientists, engineers, technicians, law enforcement agents and support personnel to name a few. They come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Aware that they are part of an indispensable public trust, one of environmental assessment, prediction and stewardship, knowing that the health of our economy is surely linked to the health of our environment. NOAA people are part of a strategy that integrates environmental, observation, assessment and forecast services in order to enhance public safety and the nation's economic and environmental security. A purpose and mission that is reflected in the faces of members of the NOAA team who proudly look forward to and accept the many challenges ahead.