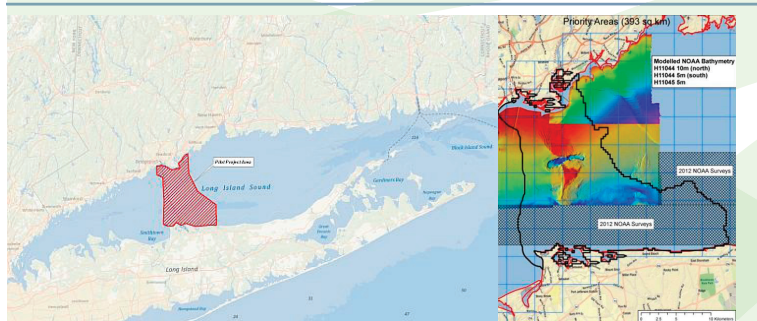


# NOAA in the North Atlantic



## Long Island Sound Collaborative Mapping Project Kicks Off

On June 15, the Long Island Sound (LIS) Collaborative Mapping Project held a kick-off event in New London, Conn. Working in partnership with federal, state, and academic institutions, NOAA will provide vital data and products to support this important regional initiative.

In June 2004, a settlement fund was created for the purpose of mapping the seafloor environment of the LIS to identify areas of special resource concern, as well as areas that may be more suitable for the placement of energy and other infrastructure. Last year, the LIS Program (State of Connecticut, State of New York, Connecticut and New York Sea Grant, and the U.S. EPA) requested NOAA's assistance in providing management and technical expertise, survey data acquisition, and product development for LIS. Nautical charting data collected by the NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* will provide information needed to map seafloor habitats. In addition, data collected by other parties through LIS Program funding will meet NOAA nautical charting requirements.

Within NOAA, the Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM) Program works to coordinate NOAA's various mapping needs, modify projects to meet more than one objective, and improve the agency's ability to use data for multiple applications (i.e., bathymetry for charting and bottom type for habitat mapping) – hence the mantra: “map once, use many times.”

“Ocean floors are amazingly dynamic, and we have to chart those changes. Our data is used to update NOAA's nautical charts, but the hydrographic information can also be used to support a number of non-traditional uses, ranging from benefits to fisheries management to support of regional ocean planning efforts,” said NOAA Corps Cmdr. Lawrence Krepp, commanding officer of NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* and the ship's chief scientist.

“This is exactly the kind of state-federal partnership we need to collect new information to make better decisions. That's what the National Ocean Policy is all about,” said Betsy Nicholson, NOAA representative on the Northeast Regional Ocean Council.

In addition to the Office of Coast Survey, NOAA offices included in the effort include Sea Grant (OAR), the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NOS), and the Joint Hydrographic Center (NOS).

For more information, contact [Tim.Battista@noaa.gov](mailto:Tim.Battista@noaa.gov) with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science.



## NOAA Commissions New Survey Vessel *Ferdinand R. Hassler*

### *Ship Will Operate in North Atlantic Region*

On June 8, NOAA commissioned a state-of-the-art coastal mapping vessel, NOAA Ship *Ferdinand R. Hassler*, at a special ceremony held at NOAA's Marine Operations Center - Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.

The new ship's primary mission is to detect and monitor changes to the sea floor. Data collected by the ship is being used to update nautical charts, detect potential hazards to navigation, and enhance our understanding of the ever-changing marine environment.

The *Hassler* will operate mainly along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in support of the NOAA Office of Coast Survey's nautical charting mission. The 124-foot ship is conducting basic hydrographic surveys of the sea floor using side scan and multibeam sonar technologies. The ship is also equipped to deploy buoys and unmanned submersibles and conduct general oceanographic research. *Hassler's* twin-hull design is particularly suited to NOAA's mission to map the ocean floor, as it is more stable than a single-hull vessel.

The *Hassler* is operated and maintained by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the ship will be homeported in New-castle, N.H., beginning in 2013.

The ship has already been busy testing her equipment and capabilities and conducting survey operations in support of maritime commerce and fisheries habitat identification. In 2011, the *Hassler* played a key role in NOAA's response to the closure of the Port of Hampton Roads as a result of Hurricane Irene. The ship performed surveys of the navigation channels and adjacent areas to determine if these areas were free from hazards and obstructions so that seaborne commerce could resume.

The *Hassler* also participated in OpSail 2012 festivities in Norfolk and in Baltimore. This summer and fall, the *Hassler* will be surveying the approaches to the Chesapeake Bay and the northeast undersea canyons off of New York.

The ship's namesake, Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler (1770-1843), served as the founding superintendent of the Coast Survey, the precursor to today's NOAA.



## DID YOU KNOW?

On June 7, 2012, **Captain Anita Lopez** assumed command of the NOAA Marine Operations Center - Atlantic. The Marine Center serves as a homeport for four NOAA research and survey ships and provides administrative, engineering, maintenance and logistical support to NOAA's Atlantic fleet.

Prior to her current assignment, Capt. Lopez worked in Washington, D.C. as the Executive Director to NOAA's Deputy Under Secretary of Operations. She was appointed into the NOAA Corps in 1991. Her professional career has focused on fisheries management, oceanographic research, operational support, project management, and program and risk analysis.





## NOAA Supports War of 1812 Bicentennial

NOAA supported the War of 1812 Bicentennial celebrations at several port cities in the North Atlantic region, including events in New York (May 23-30), Norfolk (June 6-10), Baltimore (June 15-17), and Boston (June 30 - July 5).

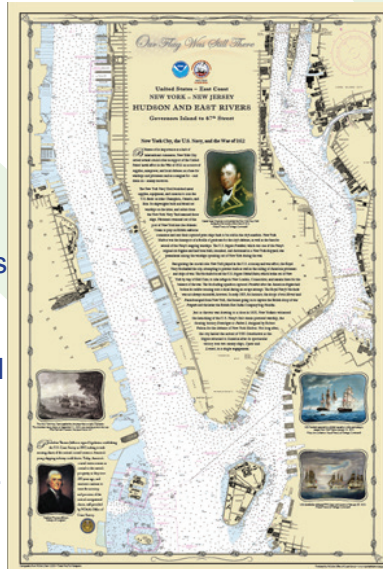
The NOAA Ship *Ferdinand R. Hassler* represented NOAA in the Parade of Sail at the Norfolk event, joining tall ships and naval vessels from around the world. The *Hassler* was a top attraction at "NOAA Days on the Hague," an open house event at the NOAA Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (MOC-A) in Norfolk. This outreach event drew approximately 1,000 visitors to MOC-A where they toured the *Hassler* and other visiting vessels, participated in shoreside activities like build-a-buoy, met NOAA staff, and viewed informational displays. Many NOAA offices in Hampton Roads contributed to make the event a success.

In Baltimore, the *Hassler* and the *Bay Hydrographer II* hosted nearly 10,000 visitors during that city's "Sailabration" event in the inner harbor area. Several NOAA offices in Maryland represented the agency at outreach booths adjacent to the ships.

During the Boston celebration, the NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* was docked at the Boston navy pier, alongside vessels from the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, and several foreign ships. The *Jefferson* hosted many visitors during the July 4th holiday period. Several NOAA staff in New England also gathered shoreside to support outreach efforts designed to help the public get to know NOAA.

Prior to the festivities, NOAA conducted hydrographic surveys of the harbors in Norfolk, Baltimore, and Boston, to determine accurate water depths that would support safe navigation during the events.

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey then developed special commemorative poster charts of each of the War of 1812 seaports as well as BookletCharts™ that were free for boaters and used by visiting mariners. The harbor pilots in Hampton Roads praised the booklet charts and provided them to the captains of all ships visiting Norfolk for the festivities. The booklet charts and commemorative posters are available at [www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/WarOf1812/](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/WarOf1812/)



Vessels participating in the parades and other festivities relied on real-time tide and currents information provided by NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS).

The National Weather Service assisted the Coast Guard during the events by placing a meteorologist at the Coast Guard's incident command posts at all these seaports during the various parade and fireworks events. In Boston, NOAA meteorologists played a key role by recommending the temporary evacuation of the July 4 Boston Pops concert and fireworks when a thunderstorm roared through.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, working in partnership with the National Park Service, is providing new audio recordings interpreting War of 1812 historical events for several of the "smart buoys" in the Chesapeake Bay. Listen to the new recordings by calling 1-877-BuoyBay or visiting [www.buoybay.noaa.gov](http://www.buoybay.noaa.gov).

## NOAA People in the North Atlantic Region

### NART Member

**Erica Rule** is the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Fla. Erica works with scientists from across this interdisciplinary NOAA Research laboratory to highlight and communicate AOML's scientific accomplishments and research programs to a wide range of audiences including formal and informal education organizations, members of the media and Congress, and NOAA and other federal partners.



As the NART's most southern NOAA partner, Erica looks for opportunities to connect aspects of AOML's broad research portfolio to other NOAA entities in the north Atlantic, including hurricane, ocean, and coastal observations and modeling. In this capacity, she has had the opportunity to work alongside many of AOML's scientists in the field, including cruises on the NOAA ship *Ronald Brown* and flights into hurricanes on NOAA's P-3 Orion hurricane hunter aircraft.

Originally from the Mid-Atlantic, Erica has an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Mary Washington and a master's degree in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science. She lives in Miami with her husband and two children.

## NOAA Places in the North Atlantic Region

NOAA Fisheries  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Narragansett Laboratory

**The NOAA Narragansett Laboratory** is located adjacent to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and the Environmental Protection Agency's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory. Scientists at the NOAA lab conduct research on the effects of changing climatic, oceanographic, and ecological conditions on the production of fisheries stocks in the Northeast. In addition, researchers at the lab examine the ecology of shark populations in order to provide information for shark management plans. In support of this work, the lab maintains the longest time series of catch-and-release tag data for Atlantic sharks and the longest running plankton survey in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean.

The Narragansett Laboratory also hosts members of the Northeast Habitat Conservation Division of NOAA Fisheries, as well as the Northeast Salmon Team. This latter group conducts research and implements programs to promote the recovery and future sustainability of Atlantic salmon. The lab is also the duty station of NOAA's Northeast navigation manager.

Dr. Jonathan Hare serves as the lab director and oversees a staff of approximately 50. The facility consists of one main building, four adjacent office modular buildings, and several storage buildings. Specialized features at the lab include a large dissection wet laboratory, computer servers hosting satellite and environmental data, a biochemistry laboratory, facilities for aging sharks and finfish, and a laboratory dedicated to the processing and identification of plankton.

For more information go to <http://na.nefsc.noaa.gov/>

#### NART Background

The NART is one of eight regional teams created by NOAA's Regional Collaboration effort. It is composed of 16 members from five line offices and is currently led by Peyton Robertson. Nicole Bartlett is the NART Regional Coordinator. For more information on team members and activities visit: [http://www.regions.noaa.gov/north\\_atlantic](http://www.regions.noaa.gov/north_atlantic)

