



National
Oceanographic
Partnership
Program

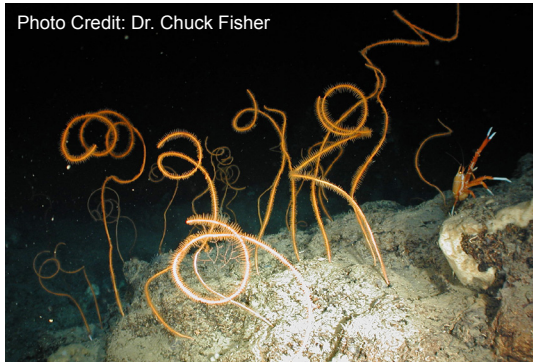
Promoting Partnerships for the Future of Oceanography





OVERVIEW The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) is an innovative collaboration of federal agencies that support ocean research partnerships among academia, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations. These sectors pursue ocean-related scientific and technical information on some of the nation's most pressing issues. NOPP investments encompass numerous areas, including oceanographic research and exploration, technology development, resource management, and ocean education; these focus areas have led to community advances in oceanography and impacts on society. Since 1997, NOPP has become an excellent forum for development of new interagency initiatives and priorities that transcend single agency mandates in the pursuit of wise use of the ocean and maintenance of its health.

Photo Credit: Dr. Chuck Fisher



NOPP RESEARCH To ensure high quality results, NOPP uses a peer-review process to identify and fund the most scientifically and technically meritorious research that clearly demonstrates public/private sector partnerships in the areas of interest. NOPP-funded research varies widely by topical content, but all research projects include two of three sectors (government, academia and private industry).

NOPP has supported diverse topics, such as: Sensors for Marine Ecosystems, Assessing Meridional Overturning Circulation Variability – Implications for Rapid Climate Change, Improving Tropical Cyclone Intensity Forecasting, Exploration and Research of Deepwater Coral Communities, Effects of an Ice-Diminished Arctic, the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment, and Understanding and Predicting Changes in the Ocean Workforce.

The 1997 Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 104-201) established the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) for two purposes:

1. To promote national goals of assuring national security, advancing economic development, protecting quality of life, and strengthening science education and communication through improved knowledge of the ocean; and
2. To coordinate and strengthen oceanographic efforts in support of those goals by identifying and carrying out partnerships among federal agencies, academia, industry, and other members of the oceanographic scientific community and reporting annually to Congress.

Awards for Excellence in Partnering are presented to research teams that best demonstrate the partnership objectives of NOPP, recognizing the project's commitment to partnering, the success of the partnership effort, and the impact of the partnership on oceanography.

FUTURE OF NOPP

Advancement towards appropriate stewardship of the ocean, and associated societal gains, can be more rapidly and efficiently achieved through collaborative partnerships. Through leadership and guidance from its oversight bodies, NOPP will continue to focus on ocean-related objectives which are too large for single agencies to undertake, but satisfy multiple agency missions and would benefit from partnerships between government, private industry and academia. NOPP remains available as a means for implementation of federal ocean priorities, as well as continued exploration of new ocean research topics.

Why Interagency and Intersector Partnering is Important:

1. To address critical national priorities that cannot be accomplished by a single agency or sector and priority issues that bridge the mandates of individual federal agencies;
2. To contribute to the cutting edge or forefront of interdisciplinary and intersector science and technology;
3. To help ensure that institutional resources are invested and leveraged wisely, while planning for the future; and
4. To provide the necessary flexibility for supporting new, emerging issues that may not yet be part of a “mandate” but are of interest and value to many.

Working together, partner agencies and research teams may realize benefits through an entire spectrum of possibilities, from the simple cost benefit of leveraging funding to a broader situational awareness of the national implications of their goals and missions.



MANAGEMENT OF NOPP Interagency committees and working groups provide guidance and oversight to NOPP activities and funding opportunities. The **Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships** is the operational federal body charged with organizing, directing and conducting most NOPP activities; it functions under the **National Science and Technology Council** in the White House. The **Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel** provides advice and scientific guidance to NOPP and its oversight committees, such as the **National Ocean Research Leadership Council**.

The **NOPP Office (NOPPO)** assists in the management and coordination of NOPP and related activities. A five-year contract for the operation of NOPPO was competitively awarded by the Office of Naval Research to the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in 2008. The Consortium for Ocean Leadership is a Washington DC-based nonprofit organization that represents 94 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria, and industry.



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