

NDBC Overview

for Stennis Business Counsel

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The National Data Buoy Center

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www.ndbc.noaa.gov



The Blue Economy

If U.S. coastal counties were a standalone nation, their GDP would rank third globally, trailing only the U.S. as a whole and China, emphasizing the strategic economic importance of the nation's coastal areas.

AMERICA'S MARINE ECONOMY

Based on Most Recent 2021 Data from Marine Economy Satellite Account



America's Coasts

Almost **40%** of the population, **10%** of the land mass*
\$10 trillion in goods and services annually
\$54.6 million employed
\$4 trillion in wages annually



*Excluding Alaska

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Total Economy for U.S. Coastal (Shoreline) Counties (2020)

90% of imports enter/exit U.S. via ship

2.3 million jobs generated



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The NDBC Mission

ENSURING MARITIME SAFETY

Collecting and disseminating in-situ, real-time, quality-controlled observations in the marine environment to ensure the nation's maritime safety, and to understand and predict the atmosphere, ocean, waves, ice and climate.



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MAP LEGEND



Weather Buoy



DART Buoy



TAO Buoy



CMAN Station

A Global Network

We operate a buoy network of 240 stations— they go from the Atlantic all the way to the Western Pacific in Japan, and from Alaska in the Bering Sea all the way to the South Pacific. There's not a nation in the world that can even attempt a third of the amount of buoys that we have here, and it's all done in South Mississippi.

-Dr. William Burnett



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Our Observing Platforms



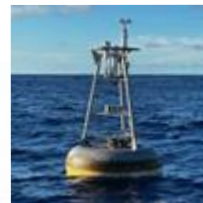
Weather Buoys

- SCOOP payload
- Wind speed and direction
- Air temperature
- Barometric pressure
- Wave information
- Water temperature
- Camera



DART Buoys

Deep-ocean
Assessment &
Reporting of Tsunamis
Anchored seafloor bottom
pressure recorder (BPR) with
acoustic link to moored
surface buoy



TAO Buoys

Tropical Atmosphere
Ocean

Moored along select
longitudinal lines in the
Pacific, north and south of
the Equator



C-MAN Stations

Coastal Marine
Automated Network

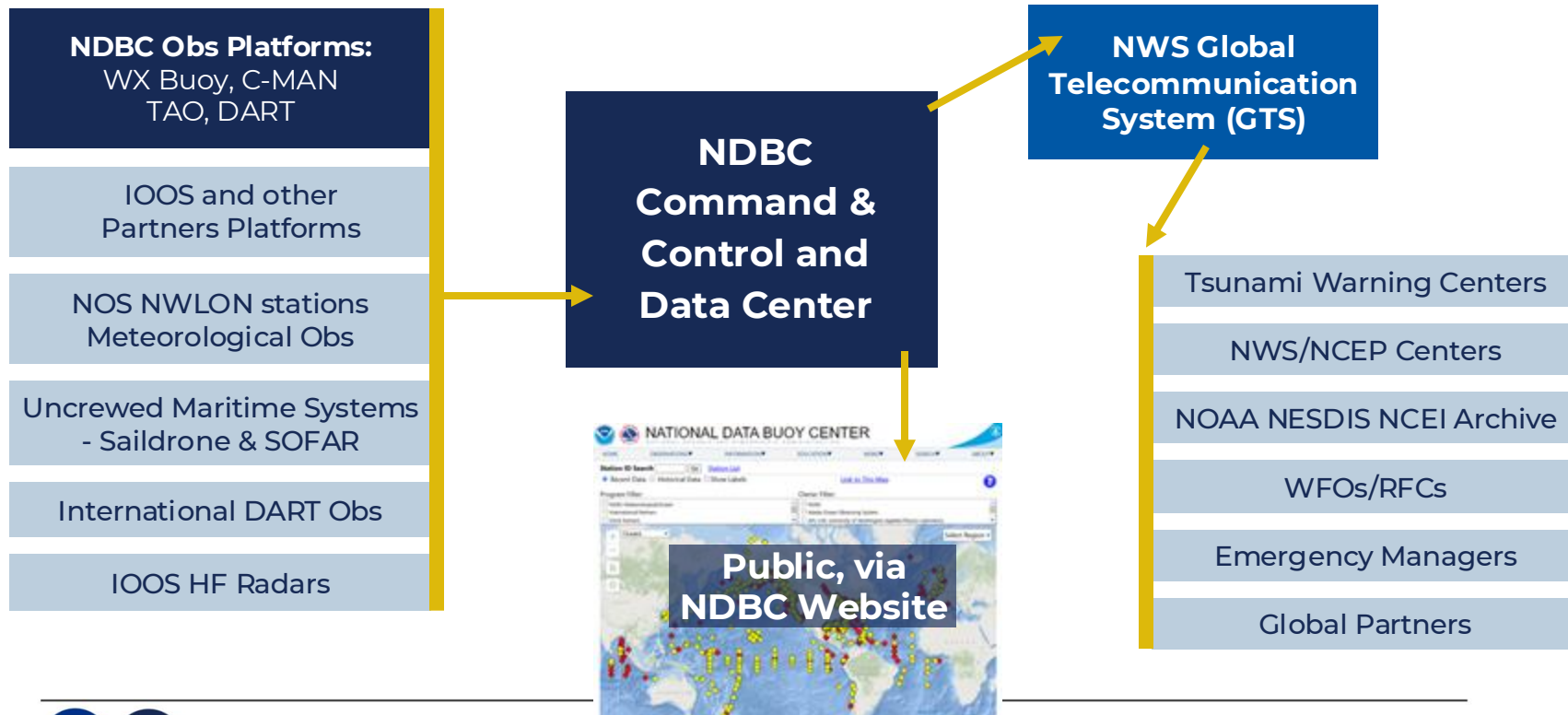
On or near land, providing
coastal observations similar
to those gathered by
weather buoys



We also utilize Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) and
uncrewed marine systems such as Saildrone and Sofar Ocean.

Observations Collection and Distribution

World Class Capability to Disseminate Observations to Nation



Organizational Structure

A Cradle-to-Grave Operation

Approximately 150 employees

- NWS Federal
- NOAA Corps
- US Coast Guard
- Primary Contractor
 - Lynker
 - Subcontractors:
Axiom, GDIT, ECS

Observational Systems

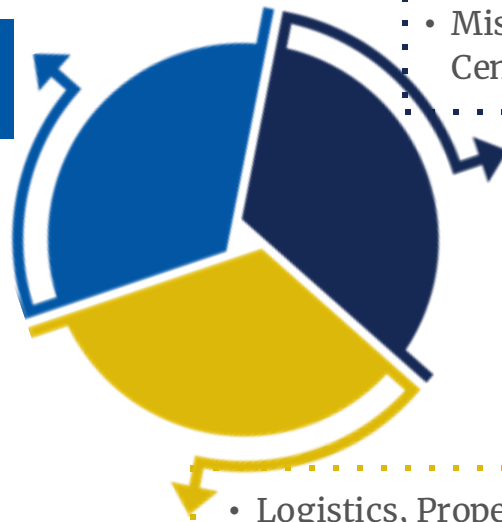
- Field Operations
- Product Engineering
- Mission Support Engineering
- Technology Development

Resources

- Logistics, Property & Facilities
- Financial & Procurement Management
- Security & Human Resources
- Safety & Environmental

- Information Technology
- Mission Control Center

Mission Control



Engineering at NDBC

NDBC Systems, Platforms, Electronics, Sensors and Moorings

Design, prototyping, integration, testing, calibration, validation, analysis, evaluation, and life cycle maintenance. Conducted through processes of requirements, design reviews, lab & field tests, and across departmental teams. Software/Firmware, hardware, systems, and moorings.

Quality & Reliability Engineering

Ensure quality and reliability of products.

Provide information on component/system performance.

Identify poor equipment performance and corrective actions.

Configuration Management & Drafting

Accurate drawings and documentation for operational systems.

Controlled access to design and operational documentation (drawings, specifications, test procedures, related design documents). Provides support by creating or modifying 2D or 3D drawings.



Equipment Preparation

Equipment Testing (Green Tag)

- 280 payloads tested (WX, DART, TAO)
- 990 discrete sensors tested (WX, DART, TAO)



System Testing (Blue Tag)

- 95 WX Systems
- 52 DART Systems
- 45 TAO Systems

Mechanical Preparation

- 75 hulls blasted and painted
- 168 miles of mooring material assembled



Procurements

Parts, Supplies, and Equipment

Procurements

- 7- 8 Multi-year contracts for equipment
- 10-12 annual single-purchase contracts for equipment
- Approximately 805 individual pieces of new equipment purchased

Consumable Inventory

- Approximately 3,000 part types maintained as stock
(i.e. Approximately 440,000 ft of nylon line purchased yearly)







Logistics

Shipment Details

- 125 flatbed trucks between NDBC and CONUS mobilization/demobilization ports and container ports
- 20 barge and container ship transports to Hawaii, Alaska and international ports, including
 - Honolulu, HI
 - Kodiak, AK
 - Dutch Harbor, AK
 - Agana, Guam
 - Apia, Samoa
 - San Juan, PR
 - Panama City, Panama
 - Yokohama, Japan



MAP LEGEND

-  Weather Buoy
-  DART Buoy
-  TAO Buoy
-  CMAN Station

2025 Mission Season Plan

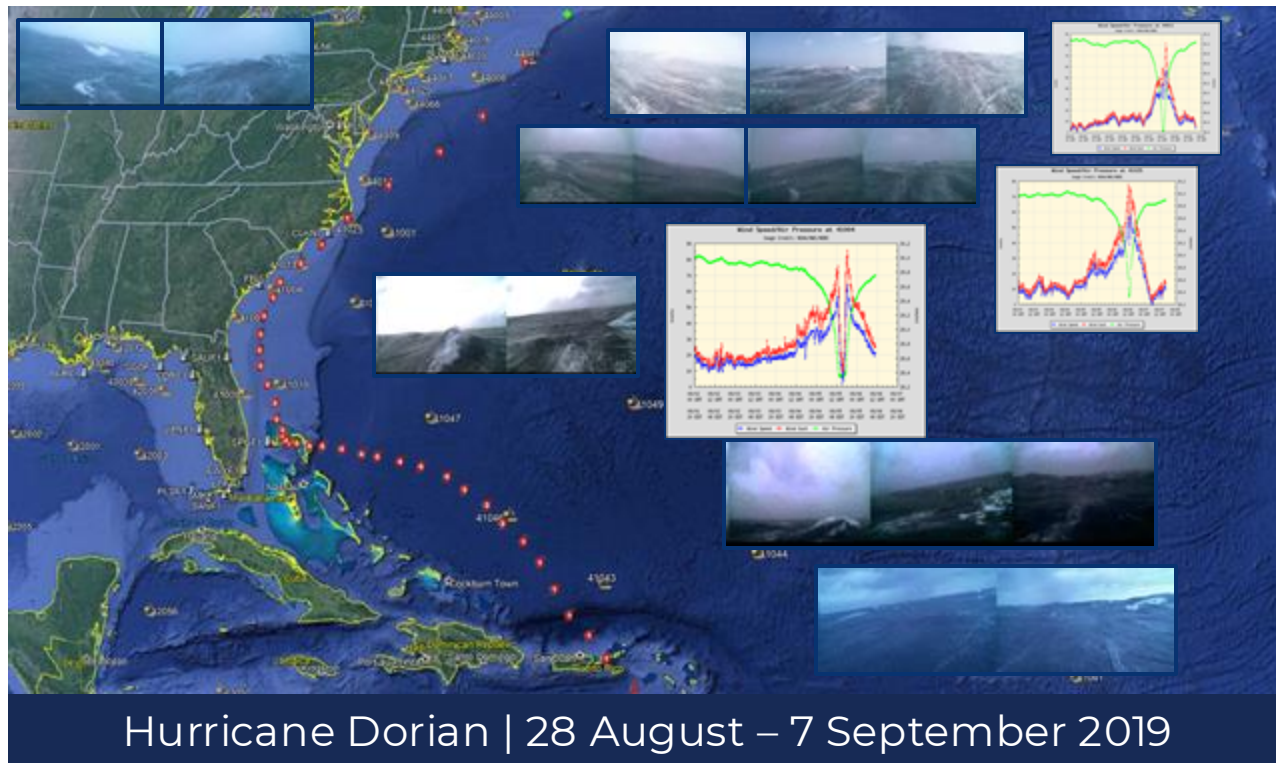
San Diego to Seattle
(CCW loop of Pacific Ring
and Equatorial Region)
8-11 Legs
34,000+ NM

Gulfport to Gulfport
(Gulf of America, Caribbean,
East Coast, Hurricane array)
5-6 Legs
19,000+ NM



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Command Center = Situational Awareness



24x7x365
Mission Control Center



NDBC Facilities at Stennis Space Center

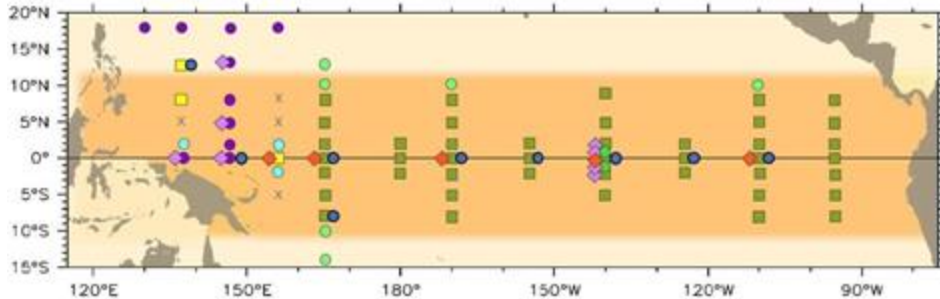
DART & TAO Recapitalization

FY 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Provisions 11&17



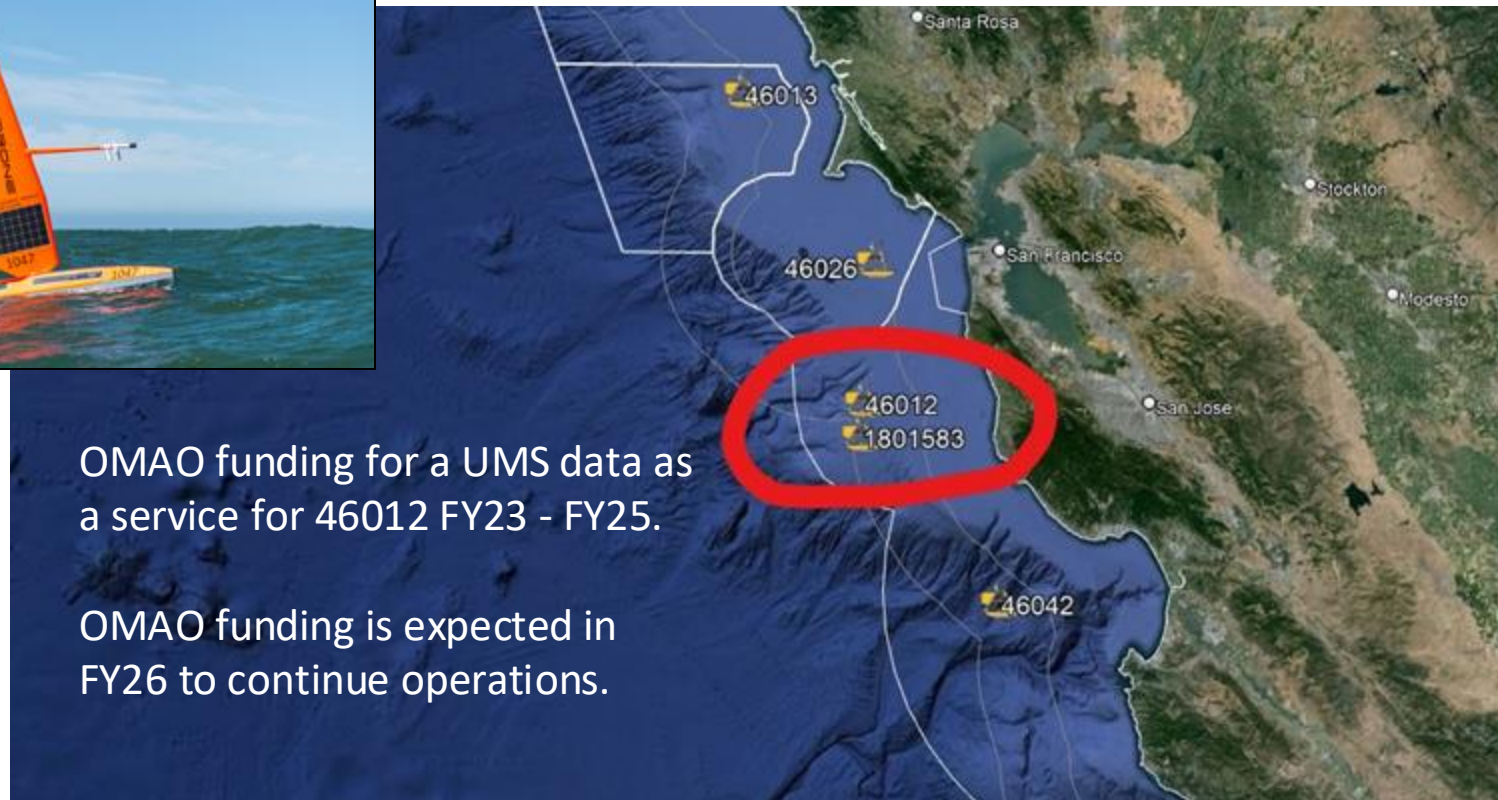
FY 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided \$50M for modernization and recapitalization of the TAO Array and DART network, to address obsolescence of the aging equipment impacting NOAA's ability to sustain the systems and the observations data

Implementation of the recommendations from the Tropical Pacific Observing System (TPOS) 2020 Project



Acquisition of commercially available DART systems

UMS “data buy” Mission in Monterey Bay NMS



OMAO funding for a UMS data as a service for 46012 FY23 - FY25.

OMAO funding is expected in FY26 to continue operations.

We Cannot Do it Alone!



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Questions?



Thank You

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