



TOP TEN THINGS TO KNOW SERIES

Discover an Ocean of Business Opportunity.

NOAA AND THE MARINE ECONOMY

The U.S. marine economy comprises six business sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes: living resources, marine construction, marine transportation, offshore mineral resources, ship and boat building, and tourism and recreation.

Top 10 things to know about this important component of the U.S. economy:

1. **It's big.** And it grew. The marine economy's contribution to gross domestic product grew by two percent between 2020 and 2021.
2. **It's complex.** Some sectors have strong economic ties, such as ship building, marine construction, and marine transportation. Other sectors, such as tourism and recreation and living resources, benefit from healthy ecosystems. Some sectors compete for coastal and offshore space.
3. **It employs millions.** The six sectors of the marine economy provide 3.2 million jobs annually.
4. **It packs a punch.** The marine economy contributes \$369 billion annually in gross domestic product.
5. **Tourism pays.** The tourism and recreation sector of the marine economy contributed \$140 billion to the gross domestic product in 2021.
6. **Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW).** NOAA publishes data and information describing the size, makeup, and regional distribution of employment, wages, and gross domestic product produced by ocean-related industries.
7. **Now available for the U.S. territories.** The same marine economy sectors used throughout the U.S. coastal zone are now available—with some bonus sectors—for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
8. **Facilitates economic growth.** Our data, products, methods, and training help communities understand and grow their local marine economies.
9. **Tracks trends.** With over a decade of marine economy data, trends can be viewed for gross domestic product, employment, and wages. Long-term trends provide insight into changes in the composition of the marine economy over time.
10. **Working together.** NOAA's ENOW data are derived from the most current data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, and Puerto Rico Planning Board. Working with these agencies and using peer-reviewed methods enable NOAA to generate reliable data for the nation's ocean industries.

NOAA AND THE MARINE ECONOMY

Economic Products from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management

- Ocean and Great Lakes Economy Data – Download time-series marine economy data for counties, states, territories, regions, and the nation.
coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html
- ENOW Explorer – View county- and state-level marine economy data with this tool.
coast.noaa.gov/enowexplorer/
- NOAA Reports on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy – Review the national report and the regional and state analyses of marine economy data.
coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/econreport.html
- Economic Value of Working Waterfronts – Use this training to determine the value of your marine economy at the local level.
coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/marine-economy.html
- Ocean Jobs Snapshot – Get a quick look of how marine-related employment influences a county's economy.
coast.noaa.gov/snapshots/

Visit the Coastal and Ocean Economy topic page on Digital Coast to find these and other marine economy resources: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/economy.html

Economic Data in Action

Assessing Economic Vitality Along the Puget Sound

vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/VitalSign/Detail/22

Natural resource-based industries provide jobs, income, and cultural heritage to the Puget Sound's local communities. In recognition of its importance, Greene Economics regularly draws from the Economics: National Ocean Watch data to update key economic indicators that assess the region's economic vitality.

The Economic Value of the Tampa Bay Estuary System

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/stories/tampa-bay.html

An economic impact analysis of Tampa Bay used NOAA's classification scheme for the marine economy. The results underscored the significant economic value of the bay and provided a replicable process for other communities. It was conducted by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

The Economy and Flood Vulnerability of Coastal New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Coastal Program and the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance wanted a better understanding of how flood hazards would affect their marine economy and tax base. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provided technical assistance and conducted an analysis of the coast's marine economy and its flood vulnerability to sea level rise and storm surge.

Visit coast.noaa.gov for more fast facts related to the marine economy.
