NOAA Research in Connecticut

CT-1 through 6 (Statewide)

Climate and Global Change Program

NOAA is responsible for providing climate information to the Nation in order to prepare and protect climate sensitive sectors of society and the economy. To carry out this mission, NOAA's Climate and Global Change Program conducts focused scientific research to understand and predict variations of climate. The Program is comprised of a number of research elements, each focusing on a specific aspect of climate variability. Taken together, this research contributes to improved predictions and assessments of the effects of climate variability and change on different environments over a continuum of time scales from season to season, year to year, and over the course of a decade and beyond. This research is accomplished through the strong support of the academic and private sectors, as well as NOAA and other federal laboratories. In FY 2001, NOAA's Climate and Global Change Program provided approximately $36,100 in support of climate research in the State of Connecticut. For more information please visit http://www.ogp.noaa.gov

CT-2, 3 and 4 (Personnel in Groton - serves entire Connecticut coast)

National Sea Grant College Program
Connecticut Sea Grant College Program

The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program, part of the National Sea Grant College Program, is based at the Avery Point campus of the University of Connecticut. It is a statewide program of research, education, and extension services that works to promote the conservation and wise use of marine resources. Connecticut Sea Grant activities are currently being conducted at Yale University, Wesleyan University, the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, and a variety of other colleges and universities in addition to several campuses of the University of Connecticut. Current research themes include aquaculture, biotechnology, climate change, Long Island Sound issues, and potential solutions for harmful algal blooms. The public, industry, and policy makers are kept informed on issues relating to these research themes plus habitat restoration, introduced species, estuarine ecosystems and watersheds, fisheries, public access, seafood safety, and water quality through the Connecticut Sea Grant Extension Program (SGEP). SGEP promotes clean water through its Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials program that educates local officials and the public about the sources and impacts of nonpoint source pollution. The Program's long-standing participation in international Sea Grant activities involving the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and China has been extended recently to include Chile. Currently, Connecticut Sea Grant is the primary point-of-contact for the NOAA/CTDEP Lobster Disease Research competition in which $3.5 million dollars in federal funds have been allocated for research on Long Island Sound lobster mortalities. In FY 2001, Connecticut Sea Grant received funding of approximately $928,000 from the National Sea Grant College Program, $1.4 million in matching funds, and additional support via the EPA Long Island Sound Study. For more information please visit http://www.seagrant.uconn.edu

CT-2 (Groton)

National Undersea Research Program
National Undersea Research Center for the Northeastern United States and Great Lakes

The National Undersea Research Center for the Northeastern United States and Great Lakes is located at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point. It is one of six regional centers supported by the National Undersea Research Program (NURP). The Center supports and conducts undersea research in the waters off the northeast coast of the United States (i.e., Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and the Southern New England Bight including Long Island Sound) and the Great Lakes. The center provides science and operational support (occupied submersibles, remotely operated vehicles and mixed gas diving technologies) and funding for reviewed projects within this region. The Center supports research on the physical, chemical, and biological factors controlling the cycling and fates of organic contaminants and heavy metals (trace metals) at the sediment/water interface and their ultimate impacts on biological productivity. Also receiving special attention are the habitat characteristics controlling the recruitment and population dynamics of recreational and commercial species of fish, including "pest" species. The FY 2001 funding for the Center totaled $1.36 million. For more information please visit http://www.nurc.uconn.gov

CT-2, 4 (Mystic, Groton, Norwalk)

Office of Ocean Exploration

In 2001, with a $4 million appropriation from Congress, NOAA launched a systematic, strategic effort through the Office of Ocean Exploration to search and investigate the oceans for the purpose of discovery. Connecticut researchers played a role in two voyages of discovery. Dr. Bob Ballard's Institute for Exploration, located in Mystic, used side-scan sonar to survey "Shipwreck Alley" in the deep waters of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Lake Huron. The collection of shipwrecks in Thunder Bay is an historical archive of commerce on the Great Lakes and also of the shipbuilding style characteristic of the last century. In addition, scientists from the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut and the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk participated in the 'Deep East' voyage. Conducted during September and October of 2001, scientists explored three regions of the Atlantic Ocean stretching from Maine to Georgia. For more information please visit http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov

For further information about these and other NOAA programs, please contact NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 482-4981.

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