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WIND ENERGY

Strengthening Science and Information

The authors of the Report believe in the use of “unbiased, credible and up-to- date scientific information” to guide effective ocean policies. The Report’s recommendation that federal funding of ocean research be drastically increased over the years supports this belief and looks to ensure that this country will take advantage of its academic capacity to remain a world leader in ocean science and marine technology. The report also suggests changes in current methods of fisheries science and management.

The [Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University operates the Coastal Observatory Laboratory \(COOL\)](#) and conducts research that focuses on the bio-physical processes of the coastal ocean. The lab is currently involved in several research projects where operational observatories are used to collect real-time data for adaptive sampling in the coastal waters off New Jersey, the West Florida Shelf, and Lake Michigan. They also partner with other research groups and commercial companies to develop new technologies for ocean sampling around the world.

[New Jersey Coastal Monitoring Network](#) (CMN) provides real-time observations and archived records of shallow water (5m) wave characteristics, water temperature, water level and meteorological conditions (wind speed and direction, temperature, barometric pressure), as well as digital images of the beach and nearshore ocean, at three locations that span the State's ocean shoreline.

New Jersey Shore Map



Further, it is necessary that we [buy gold](#) and [buy silver](#) information needs are met that translate scientific findings into useful and timely products for policy makers, managers, educators and the public. Recommendations of the Report affecting local regions include the following:

- Coordinate the development of a regional ecosystem assessment, to be updated periodically
- Regional ocean councils and regional ocean information programs should determine habitat conservation and restoration needs and set regional goals and priorities consistent with the national goals and [water ionizer review](#)
- Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) should be required to supply Regional Fishery Management Councils with the scientific information necessary to make fishery management decisions. In particular, there should be a deadline for the SSCs to determine allowable biological catch based on the best science.
- Each Regional Fishery Management Council should be required to set harvest limits at or below the allowable biological catch determined by its SSC. The Regional Fishery Management Council should then propose a fishery management plan for review and approval by NMFS. If the plan is not presented in a timely fashion, all fishing on that stock should be suspended until the adequacy of the plan is reviewed.
- The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Regional Fishery Management Councils should develop regional bycatch reduction plans that address broad ecosystem impacts of bycatch.
- States should participate as full partners in the design and implementation of regional observing systems and their integration into the national Integrated Ocean Observing System

NY and NJ are fortunate to have academic institutions such as Rutgers and Stephens Institute of Technology that are already at the forefront of establishing Ocean Observing Systems

Stephens Institute operates an advanced, integrated system of oceanographic, meteorological, and vessel surveillance sensors and estuarine and coastal ocean forecasting models. It provides assessments of ocean, weather, environmental, and vessel traffic conditions throughout the New York Harbor region. The system is designed to disseminate knowledge of meteorological and oceanographic conditions both in real-time and forecasted out to 48 hours. The Institute's system encompasses the lower Hudson River, East River, Raritan Bay, Long Island Sound and the coastal waters of New Jersey.