Woods Hole Laboratory
166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA

The Woods Hole Laboratory houses both the Woods Hole Laboratory Research Divisions and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Directorate. The Center provides overall management and direction for the 6 laboratories located in the Northeast Region, from Orono, ME, to Washington, DC. In addition, the Operations, Management, and Information Division and Data Management Systems staff are located at the Woods Hole Laboratory.

Laboratory staff conduct inshore state fisheries surveys and cooperative research on the 72-foot Research Vessel Gloria Michelle. Researchers use the 209-foot Henry B. Bigelow, temporarily berthed at the Newport Naval Station in Newport, R.I., for offshore surveys and various NEFSC research programs. Other NOAA ships, aircraft, and contract vessels are also used for research and survey work.

Our Strengths
- Ecosystem monitoring, ocean circulation, and drifter studies
- Standardized research vessel surveys from Cape Hatteras to the Scotian Shelf
- Documenting the region’s commercial fishing operations, sampling landed catch and discards
- Commercial fishery species guide
- Age and growth studies of fish species, predator-prey interactions, and food habits
- Statistical analysis and modeling of stocks trends and assessment of marine resource sustainability
- Aerial marine mammal surveys
- Examining the distribution, ecological relationships, and human interactions with cetacean, pinniped, sea bird and marine turtle species
- Applied economic and socio-cultural research on commercial and recreational fisheries
- Modeling natural and anthropogenic factors affecting the Northeast Shelf ecosystem

Our Place in the Nation
- History - The Woods Hole Laboratory, founded as a summer research station in 1871, is the oldest marine research station in the United States, and is the founding laboratory of today’s National Marine Fisheries Service. It also houses the nation’s oldest marine science public and research aquarium, the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, which is open to visitors year-round.
- Location - Woods Hole, a village in the town of Falmouth, has a deep-water port and easy access to major oceanic features in the North Atlantic.
- Community – Woods Hole is home to 6 marine science and research institutions. Researchers collaborate with these institutions as well as regional, national, and international scientists and offer vocational/technical and high school/undergraduate education programs.

New Directions
- How vulnerable are commercial and recreational fish stocks to warming ocean waters and a changing ecosystem?
- Catchability studies for the NEFSC bottom trawl surveys
- Incorporating environmental and other ecosystem data into stock assessments
- Use of video and acoustic data, AUV technology to better understand marine mammal behavior

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