

NOAA Response Asset Directory (NRAD)

Glossary of Terms

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| Aerial survey and imagery | A service in which images of Earth are collected from an elevated position, usually from aircraft |
| Asset Contacts | Person(s) to be contacted for information regarding an asset |
| Asset Data Manager | Users responsible for maintaining asset records. In addition to having all privileges of General Users, Asset Data Managers can add, delete, edit, transfer, and review assets they manage. Note that some Asset Data Manager functions must be approved by the Site Administrator before changes are live in the directory. |
| Asset Home Base Location | The permanent home base location for an asset. Note that an asset may not always be at the home base location. |
| Aircraft | A manned or unmanned craft that flies through the air |
| All-terrain vehicle (ATV) | A small, open-motor vehicle with one or two seats and three or more wheels fitted to large tires, designed for use on rough ground or in locations where roads may be impassable |
| Amateur radio | A type of communication equipment (also called a ham radio) in which licensed operators operate portable (via vehicle) or stationary radio transmitters and receivers using designated radio frequency spectra for emergency communication |
| Area Contingency Plan (ACP) | A reference document prepared for the use of all agencies involved in responding to environmental emergencies within a defined geographic area |
| Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) | An unmanned, programmable vehicular unit capable of being submerged within deep waters for hydrographic survey missions without operator intervention and returns to a pre-programmed location for data download and processing |
| Bathymetry | The measurement of water depth |
| Boat barn/Warehouse/Storage | A large enclosed space capable of storing equipment, supplies, or vessels |
| Boat launch/Pier space | A location on a body of water that is designated for the purpose of launching or docking vessels |
| Bunking area | A space designed to house staff overnight and includes beds or cots, showers, and a lavatory |
| Coastal-Marine Automated Network (C-MAN) station | A meteorological observation network of stations maintained by NOAA's National Data Buoy Center and located near lighthouses, offshore platforms, or shore islands that record weather observations such as atmospheric pressure, air temperature, wind speed, and direction in hourly increments |
| Category | A broad classification for assets |

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| Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) | Passed in 1972 and administered by NOAA, CZMA provides for the management of the nation’s coastal resources to “preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation’s coastal zone” |
| Communication Equipment | A specialized tool or device used to transmit information remotely and which could be used during response operations, including a ham radio station, satellite phone, video teleconferencing equipment, etc. |
| Community Health and Resource Management (CHARM) | A mapping application that enables local officials, stakeholders, and citizens to explore large and small development scenarios that reveal impacts, instantaneously, to the environment by the development, as well as impacts to the development |
| Community Resiliency Index (CRI) | A tool that allows community leaders and officials to self-asses their community’s preparedness for storms and storm recovery |
| Compliance expertise | A service in which personnel have expertise in evaluating compliance with regulations and laws specific to their office, such as the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, etc. |
| Date Last Revised | The most recent date on which an asset and corresponding information has been updated and/or approved |
| Detail | A narrow classification for assets |
| Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) | A three-dimensional (3-D) representation of a terrain’s surface |
| Displacement hull | A type of hull that is supported exclusively by the pressure of water removed, such as that of canoes and sail boats |
| Divers | A service in which personnel are trained and certified to dive and perform a variety of tasks underwater |
| Emergency generator | A portable or stationary machine capable of generating electricity in the event of an electrical outage |
| Emergency Operations Center (EOC) | A location which serves as a central command and control location during emergency response operations. An EOC is typically a large open space which can accommodate a large staff and could be set up to accommodate multiple telephone land-lines and internet access for many computers. |
| Enclosed/cargo trailer | A non-motorized vehicle used to transport goods and normally towed by a motored vehicle via a trailer hitch |
| Endangered Species Act (ESA) | Federal legislation that aims to preserve and protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats |
| Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) | Maps produced by NOAA that are a compilation of information about coastal shoreline sensitivity, biological resources, and human use resources. This information is used in planning to create cleanup strategies before an accident occurs so that authorities are prepared to take action in the event of such a spill. |

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| Evidence locker/specimen freezer | A refrigerated compartment for preserving evidence, samples, specimens, etc. at very low temperatures |
| Facility/Site | An organizational office or building used as a place of employment or to serve a specific function |
| Facility | A structure or location designed for a specific use, including a boat launch, bunking area, laboratory, meeting space, outside staging area, staff workspace, etc. |
| Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act | Act which aims to protect fish and wildlife resources when federal actions result in the control or alteration of a natural stream or body of water |
| Flood preparedness | A service or tool which provides information related to flood risk, flood-control measures, tidal-surge data, storm surge in coastal areas, and pre-event preparedness |
| Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act | An act that establishes the boundary of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, requires NOAA to develop a comprehensive management plan with implementing regulations to govern the overall management and protection of the sanctuary, prohibits oil drilling and exploration within the sanctuary, and requires the development and implementation of a water quality protection program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Florida, in conjunction with NOAA |
| General User | A user with ability to perform searches and can download and print reports of search results. General Users are not able to add, delete, or edit assets. |
| Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping | A service or tool in which a computer system is used to store, analyze, and retrieve spatially referenced data |
| Geographic Response Plan (GRP) | Geographic maps which are part of the Area Contingency Plans for oil spills to water. They include response strategies tailored to a specific beach, shore, or waterway and are designed to minimize impacts on sensitive resources threatened by a spill. GRPs are intended to direct local responders during the first 24-48 hours of a major coastal oil spill until additional resources can arrive. |
| Ham radio station | A type of communication equipment (also called amateur radio) in which licensed operators operate portable (via vehicle) or stationary radio transmitters and receivers using designated radio frequency spectra for emergency communication |
| Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) forecasting | A service or tool which provides early warning of development, intensification, transport and associated impacts of HABs, a toxic algae <i>K. brevis</i> commonly referred to as "red tide" |
| Hazardous (HAZWOPER) | Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response; a set of guidelines enforced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that regulates hazardous waste operations and emergency services conducted around the United States and its territories |

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| Hypoxia modeling | A service or tool which uses data and map products to model and predict the extent of the hypoxic zone (dead zone) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Hypoxia refers to waters where dissolved oxygen levels are so low that most aquatic life cannot survive. |
| Incident Command System (ICS) | A standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach that allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure among various public and private jurisdictions and establishes common processes for planning and managing resources |
| Joint Task Force (JTF) | A combination of mixed resources with common communications operating under the direct supervision of a Leader |
| Laboratory | A room or building equipped for scientific experiments or research |
| Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) | A remote sensing method that uses light to measure distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light |
| Local knowledge | A service in which personnel have expertise and institutional knowledge specific to a particular area or region. This may include knowledge of local waterways, critical habitat locations, endangered species of concern, community and local contacts, etc. |
| Long-term community resilience and recovery | A service or tool which provides information related to long-term flood risk, sea level rise, climate change, etc. |
| Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) | The primary law governing the management of marine fisheries throughout the federal waters of the United States |
| Manned aircraft | A craft that flies through the air carrying and operated by one or more persons |
| Marine debris expertise | A service in which personnel have expertise related to marine and waterway debris, including impacts and response |
| Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) | Act that protects against the harassment, hunt, capture, kill (or attempt to kill) of marine mammals in federal waters by United States citizens as well as the introduction of marine mammals and products into the United States |
| Marine mammal/Sea turtle stranding response | A service in which personnel have expertise in response to marine mammal and/or sea turtle stranding, which includes responding to sick, injured, or entangled animals |
| Meeting/training space | An area suitable for holding meetings, trainings, or media briefings. Meeting/training space has seating for multiple individuals and may include conference rooms, classrooms, training rooms, auditoriums, media rooms, etc. |
| Metadata | Within the context of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), information that describes the characteristics of other data, including the content, quality, condition, or origin |

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| Motorized boat | A smaller vessel powered by a motor, such as a skiff |
| NAO 212-15 | A NOAA administrative order that establishes the Environmental Data Management Policy, which provides the guidance to how the policy is implemented |
| National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) | Act intended to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States |
| National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) | Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate and protect areas of the marine environment with special national significance as national marine sanctuaries due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities |
| Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) | A process performed by government officials to identify, plan, and restore natural resources that were damaged by contaminant releases |
| Navigation response | A service in which personnel have expertise to respond to threats to navigation or other hazards in waterways |
| Navigation Response Team (NRT) | Response units within NOAA's Office of Coast Survey who are positioned around the country to conduct hydrographic surveys and update nautical charts as well as to respond to underwater navigation emergencies |
| Oil Pollution Act (OPA/OPA 90) | An act signed into law in 1990 to improve the nation's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills by establishing provisions that expand the federal government's ability, and provide the money and resources necessary, to respond to oil spills. OPA also created the national Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. |
| Oil spill trajectory modeling | A service in which computer models are used to predict how spilled oil will travel in waterways and help guide recovery efforts by showing which locations are most likely to need resources |
| On-scene weather and water forecasting services | A service in which personnel are capable of providing real-time, on-location information regarding current and upcoming weather and water conditions during emergencies. Examples include Emergency Response Specialists and Incident Meteorologists. |
| Organization | NOAA Staff Directory Organization Name for asset or NOAA-partner organization name |
| Organization Code | NOAA Staff Directory line office organization for asset |
| Other Equipment/Technology | Any non-communicative piece of equipment/instrument/technology that could be used during response and recovery efforts. Examples include unique sampling equipment, emergency generators, specimen freezers, waterway mapping equipment, remotely operated underwater vehicles, etc. |
| Other watercraft | A vessel other than a motorized boat or ship/research vessel which could be used during response operations including rafts, kayaks, and personal watercraft |

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| Outside staging area | A large open area such as an unused parking lot or empty yard that could be utilized for equipment preparation and storage during response and recovery efforts and may or may not be fenced and/or locked |
| Pole barn | A foundation-less farm building supported by poles set into the ground in 8-foot intervals |
| Public affairs and/or risk communication expertise | A service in which personnel have expertise related to communicating with stakeholders, serving as an organization spokesperson, coordinating with the media during emergency response and recovery, etc. |
| Real Time Kinematic (RTK) | A satellite navigation technique used to enhance the precision of position data from satellite-based positioning systems |
| Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle (ROV) | An unmanned, programmable vehicular unit capable of being submerged within deep waters for hydrographic survey missions and connected to an operator by a series of cables to transmit information |
| Representational State Transfer (REST) | A service that provides the public and governmental agencies the ability to access National Digital Forecast Data (NDFD) over the internet that is encoded in Extensible Markup Language (XML), a language that defines rules in a format that is both human and machine-readable |
| Research Vessel | A vessel designed and equipped to carry out scientific research and/or experiments at sea |
| Satellite phone | A hand-held mobile phone that connects to an orbiting satellite instead of a cellular network and is used primarily in the field when cellular coverage is limited |
| Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) | NOAA personnel located around the country who coordinate application of NOAA assets and services during emergencies |
| Seafood safety monitoring and closures | A service including seafood safety testing, seafood safety monitoring, and/or evaluation of the need for and enforcement of fisheries closures |
| Security and law enforcement | A service in which personnel have expertise and authority to enforce laws and maintain security during response and recovery operations |
| Service | An intellectual resource, tool, or specialized capability that could be used during emergency response and recovery operations |
| Ship | A large vessel with the ability to hold a large number of people and/or equipment (including smaller boats) |
| Sidescan sonar | Equipment towed behind a survey boat that is used to map the sea floor in the form of echo returns |
| Site Administrator | Users that have full control of the site, including all privileges of General Users and Asset Data Managers. This user has the final authority to delete and approve assets. |

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| Skiff | A shallow, flat-bottomed open boat typically with a sharp bow and square stern |
| Staff workspace | An area designed to accommodate staff as they perform their jobs and typically includes desk space, a telephone, and internet connection |
| Tropical storm/hurricane preparedness | A service or tool which provides information related to forecasting/tracking tropical storms or hurricanes and pre-event preparedness measures |
| Truck | A heavy-duty motored vehicle with an enclosed compartment for passengers and an attached truck bed for carrying cargo |
| Unique sampling equipment | Sampling equipment that serves a unique purpose and cannot be readily procured immediately following a disaster or emergency |
| Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)/Drone | An aircraft with no pilot on board that can be remote controlled or flown autonomously by a computer |
| Van | A boxlike vehicle, often with sliding side doors, fitted with rows of seats and capable of carrying multiple passengers or goods |
| Vehicle | An automobile or un-motorized trailer which could be used during response operations, including a truck, van, all-terrain vehicle, enclosed/cargo trailer, etc. |
| Vessel | A craft for traveling on water, including a motorized boat, ship, research vessel, etc. |
| Video teleconferencing equipment (VTC) | A form of communication equipment that allows users in different locations to hold face-to-face meetings in a live setting |
| Watershed | An area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, aquifer, or ocean |
| Waterway mapping equipment | A piece of equipment used to survey or map waterways, including detecting objects under water and measuring water depth |
| Waterway mapping | A service or tool in which a computer system and/or equipment is used to survey or map waterways |
| Wet Laboratory | A laboratory where materials are handled in liquid solutions or unstable phases that require direct ventilation and specialized piped utilities |