



NOAA@Nauticus

What Is NOAA@Nauticus?

NOAA@Nauticus is an exciting partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Nauticus to promote scientific and environmental literacy and to inform the public about NOAA's programs and activities. Nauticus is a maritime-themed science and education museum in Norfolk, Virginia, that attracts more than 350,000 visitors a year with interactive programs and hands-on exhibits focused on exploring the "Power of the Sea." NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. Together, NOAA and Nauticus develop a variety of educational programs and exhibits.

The NOAA@Nauticus partnership began in 1998, when NOAA's Office of Coast Survey established an office and exhibits at Nauticus. Since that time, the NOAA@Nauticus partnership has expanded to include the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program (a division of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries) and other NOAA programs listed below.

What Is New at NOAA@Nauticus?

In 2005, NOAA formally opened the first-of-its-kind NOAA Education Resource Center at Nauticus. Educators and the general public frequently visit the Center to obtain science curricula and other educational materials.

In 2005, the NOAA@Nauticus team completed work on a master plan for NOAA exhibits at Nauticus. Since the completion of the master plan, the following exhibits have gone from concepts to completion:

- NOAA's *Science On a Sphere*[™] is an innovative system that uses high-speed computers, projectors, and advanced imaging techniques to create the illusion of a six-foot, rotating Earth suspended in mid-air.
- *The Living Shoreline* exhibit uses a 1000 gallon aquarium, marine species and land forms to replicate a creek of the lower Chesapeake Bay and to interpret NOAA's Bay restoration activities.
- NOAA and Nauticus debuted the *Treasures of NOAA's Ark* exhibit in the museum's changing gallery in 2006. This exhibit featured artifacts from NOAA's 200-year history.
- The *Secrets of the Deep* exhibit explores NOAA's national marine sanctuaries through an interactive submersible experience.
- More exhibits are on the way—check <http://nauticus.noaa.gov> for updates.

