The National Working Waterfront Network increases the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of working waterfronts and waterways.

What are working waterfronts?
Working waterfronts are waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for a water-dependent activity, such as ports, small recreational boat harbors, fishing docks, and hundreds of other places across the country where people use and access the water.

Who are we?
Municipalities, State and Federal agencies, Nonprofits, Universities, Sea Grant programs, Businesses, Industry Associations, and individuals dedicated to supporting and enhancing our nation’s working waterfronts and waterways.

What do we do?
- Cooperate to research and celebrate our nation’s working waterfronts and waterways.
- Provide our partners with access to the historical, economic, financial, and policy information and resources they need to address issues on working waterfronts and waterways at the local, state, regional, and national level.
- Maintain and strengthen a diverse network of partners who collaborate internally and act as liaisons to their stakeholders and communities.

What can you do?
This website contains lots of information, data, and tools that individuals, communities, and governments at all levels can use to develop, inform, and enhance their sustainable working waterfront initiatives. The compilation of this information was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. To learn more, follow the links below to access the various sections of the Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit:

- Financing
- Law & Policy
- Economics
- Tools in Action
- Historic Trends
- About the Toolkit (with links to the Final Report)

To stay informed about NWWN activities, sign up to receive our newsletter (see left column) and join the NWWN Community Center.
Case Studies Page

Florida - Waterfronts Florida Program

name
Florida - Waterfronts Florida Program
description
Waterfronts Florida Program
(http://www.wateraccessus.com/case_study.cfm?ID=34)
Oral History: Revitalizing Panacea’s Working Waterfront
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z_KwTvfSk)

List by Tools (maybe subhead from nav), sorted by title
Find a case study by tool:

SELECT A TOOL - Go

Search box for case studies (searches text boxes, and all righthand bar except region, waterfront uses. Search tools by tool type)
Find a case study by keyword:

Case Studies by Region

Northeast

- Gloucester, Massachusetts, City of Gloucester, Massachusetts
  - Oral History: Identifying the Waterfront Economy in Gloucester, City of Gloucester, Massachusetts
Case Study

Waterfronts Florida Program

Location
Florida

Timeframe
1997 - present

Summary
The Waterfronts Florida Program (WFP) provides resources and technical assistance to help local governments in coastal Florida revitalize their waterfronts. The Florida Coastal Management Program originally created the WFP in 1997 to address the physical and economic decline of traditional working waterfront areas. Today, the Program is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and its funding sources have varied, but usually come from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Coastal Management Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To date, 23 coastal communities have been designated as Waterfronts Florida Partnership Communities (April 2012). During the designation process, a community receives intensive technical assistance to guide the revitalization of its designated waterfront area. This process includes establishment of a formal Waterfronts Florida Partnership, preparation of a community-designed vision plan to guide revitalization efforts, and implementation of prioritized projects to realize the community’s vision. The public dialogue and the partnerships that are developed with state agencies, private organizations, and other Waterfronts Florida Program communities enable a designated community to identify and implement proactive solutions that address the concerns of its citizenry.

Transferrability
The Program in its current form was created in 2006 by the Florida Legislature, thus limiting its transferrability to other states unless adopted by their legislatures. Nonetheless, there are aspects and outcomes of the Program that could be considered transferrable as noted in the section on best practices.

Best Practices
- Communities that want to apply for designation as a Waterfronts Florida Partnership Community are encouraged to take part in a two-day training event.
- Designation Ceremony - The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Coordinator and other program staff visit a community following its designation to promote/publicize the local Waterfronts Florida Partnership.
Preserving the Working Waterfront Oral History Collection

Do you want to be inspired by working waterfront champions who have made a difference in their communities? Then check out the NWWN’s oral history collection and audio slideshow series: “Preserving the Working Waterfront.”

Ten people around the nation were interviewed to learn why and how they are helping protect working waterfronts. View stunning archival and current images of working waterfront communities, including wharves, piers, boats, marine industry, shorelines and more, as planners, fishermen, elected and municipal officials, and advocates tell their working waterfront story in their own words. Why do these people care so deeply about working waterfronts? What are the tools they are using to protect them?

The full interviews and transcripts are archived in the NOAA Voices from the Fisheries available at https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/human/dimension/voices-from-the-fisheries/index.

The audio slideshows are available on the NWWN’s Youtube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/WorkingWaterfrontVideos). You can view the slideshows as a series or each can be viewed individually. Each slideshow is about 4 to 5 minutes long.

This project was made possible by a NOAA Preserve America award and generous in-kind support from project partners: NOAA, National Sea Grant Law Center, and Maine Sea Grant.

Oral Histories

Oral History: Identifying the Waterfront Economy in Gloucester
Sarah Garcia, former Community Development Director and Harbor Planning Director, Gloucester, Massachusetts, was interviewed to document the community’s experience in completing an economic assessment to better understand the economic contribution of waterfront activities. Ms. Garcia discusses the history of Gloucester, the long standing polarization around waterfront issues, and the harbor planning effort which included the economic assessment. For Gloucester, the economic assessment was key to understanding the value and continued economic importance of the community’s waterfront.

Oral History: Revitalizing Panacea’s Working Waterfront
Sharron Miller, Vice-Chairman of the Panacea Waterfronts Florida Partnership, was interviewed to document Panacea, Florida’s experience as a designated Waterfronts Florida Partnership Community. The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program was created by the Florida Coastal Management Program in 1997 to address the physical and economic decline of traditional working waterfront areas. Designated communities receive technical assistance to develop and implement community visioning plans to revitalize and preserve the working waterfront. Ms. Miller discusses the Panacea’s history as a tourist destination, its efforts to develop the Panacea 2020 Visioning Plan, and several activities that resulted in revitalization.
Preserving the Working Waterfront

HUMAN DIMENSIONS

Voices - Preserving the Working Waterfront: Stories From The Nation's Coasts

Please select an image below to view or hear the interview.

ENOW Explorer

Contributing Partners: NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Overview  In Action  Support

Get It Now

View and interact with Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data for your state or county without having to download the data set. Use the ENOW Explorer to describe and compare the six sectors of the ocean and Great Lakes economy:

- living resources
- marine construction
- marine transportation
- offshore mineral resources
- ship and boat building
- tourism and recreation

Features

- Provides a quick summary of your ocean economy
- Compares your ocean economy to other states and counties
- Displays the composition of your ocean economy
- Shows how your ocean economy has changed over time
- Produces downloadable graphics

Videos

- Econ 120: Two-minute Videos on Economic Concepts

Related Data

- Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)
- Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) for Self-Employed Workers
- Gross Domestic Product
- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
- Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics

Related Tools

- Coastal County Snapshots
- Quick Report Tool for Socioeconomic Data

https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/enow
**Employment: Total Ocean Economy**

**TOTAL OCEAN ECONOMY**
All ocean economic activities within a geography.

**QUICK SUMMARY**
- % of Total Economy: 6
- Rank: 2 of 30
- Employed: 436,767
- Self Employed: 21,150

**EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN**
- Employed: 436,767
- Self Employed: 21,150
- Total Employment: 457,917

**SECTORS**
- State
- National

**RANK: 2 OF 30**

**TRENDS**
- Graph showing employment trends from 2005 to 2012.
GDP: Marine Transportation

MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Includes deep sea freight, marine passenger transportation, pipeline transportation, marine transportation services, search and navigation equipment, and warehousing.

QUICK SUMMARY

- % of Total Ocean Economy: 6.4
- Rank: 51 of 402
- GDP: $112.9 Million

GDP PER EMPLOYEE

$72,700.00

SECTORS

- County
- State
- National

RANK: 51 OF 402

TRENDS

Values

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011
An Overview of the U.S. Ocean Economy

Waterfront communities in the United States, whether rural or urban, recreational, commercial or industrialized, have been subject to economic, technological, ecological, and demographic changes that challenge their continued existence or development. While many of these changes are documented throughout this website, here we analyze and describe facets of the U.S. ocean economy, which is defined by the National Ocean Economics Program to include six major sectors or industry groups: Marine Construction, Marine Living Resources, Offshore Minerals, Ship and Boat Building and Repair, Coastal Tourism and Recreation, and Marine Transportation.

To help promote the long-term prosperity of coastal communities and their Working Waterfronts, it is essential to document their current economic status and future prospects. The work introduced here does so by providing a comprehensive evaluation of all ocean related economic activity for eleven coastal regions of the United States. The information that follows provides just a brief glance at the state of the U.S. ocean economy and some of its specific sectors. In the pages that follow, we provide links that allow readers to explore the detailed economic information and results that are contained in the full report. We also provide an example – using Duval County, Florida – of how the data and economic analyses in the report can be applied to specific locations.

Numbers of people employed, the wages they earn, and overall contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are primary measures used to gauge the size and importance of our nation’s ocean economy. However, it is important to note that these measurements, while vital to making good decisions and planning for the future, are often inadequate to convey the overall significance of Working Waterfronts to the thousands of local communities where they are found and, indeed, to generations of families they sustain. Our nation was founded on its working waterfronts and they continue to embody our early traditions and heritage, as is portrayed in the case studies contained on this website. That said, we now turn our attention to a glimpse of our nation’s ocean economy.

Current Status
The current status (as of 2009) of ocean related economic activity in our nation’s waterfront communities was evaluated in terms of its share of the total U.S. economy, as well as that of the overall economies of 11 coastal regions, 30 coastal states, and 444 coastal counties (of 3,033 U.S. counties in total). First, we evaluated impacts that result from what is sometimes called ‘first-round’ spending, which includes, for example, wages paid by business owners to their employees, as well as money they spend on goods and services to run and/or expand their businesses. Next, we evaluated the economic ripple effect that first round spending catalyzes. This economic multiplier effect occurs as employees and other businesses “re-spend” the wages and payments they receive. The overall result is that every $1 of first round spending helps grow and expand the economy even more as dollars are “re-cycled.”

Nationally, ocean related economic activity in 2009 accounted for 130,855 businesses, with 2,388 million full-time and part-time employees, who received $84.25 billion in wages and benefits, and produced $217.87 billion in GDP. In terms of relative importance to the overall U.S. economy, this represents 3.37 percent of total GDP and 4.81 percent of total employment. When accounting for multiple or ripple effects, total economic contributions of ocean related activities in all U.S. coastal counties amounted to $7.74 million jobs, $283.5 billion in wages, and $643.9 billion in value-added or GDP. These total contributions for the ocean economy represented 2.6 to 3.4 times the direct effects attributed to first round spending alone.

Regional Differences
The relative significance of the ocean economy varies from region to region, state to state, county to county and, indeed, from community to community. For example, you may see the figures below, which show the national relative significance of the ocean economy in terms of the share of employment in various states.
Landed Value for Top Commercial U.S. Fishing Ports, by Coastal State and County (in million 2010 dollars)

*Data for Great Lakes ports were not available

Select one or more states on the bar chart (below on the left) to map and chart corresponding counties with top ports. Use the drop-down filter to select one or more years. (Hover over map marks or chart bars for more information)

Port(s): Empire-Venice; Lafitte-Barataria
County: Gulf of Mexico - West
Landed Value (MS): $74 M

© OpenStreetMap contributors

Landed values and weights for the top commercial U.S. fishing ports for the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 were downloaded from the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP). The data were compiled by NOAA Fisheries (NMFS). Data for Great Lakes ports were not available.
http://www.oceaneconomics.org/LMR/topPorts.asp