

EXPANDING OCEAN ECONOMY DATA, FROM MAINE TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Millions of jobs depend on ocean and Great Lakes resources. The Economics National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data provide time-series statistics on economic activities that are dependent on the resources of the oceans and Great Lakes. These statistics currently cover U.S. coastal counties and states, but data on the ocean economy do not exist at local levels, such as cities, or the U.S. territories, where the ocean economy is likely to constitute a much larger share of the total economy.

Recognizing this gap, the Office for Coastal Management has undertaken two pilot efforts. The first pilot adapts the ENOW framework for use at local-level working waterfronts. The second effort aims to obtain and synthesize relevant data and information to more accurately and completely represent ocean economic conditions in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This presentation will share some insights from both efforts on expanding the ocean economy data.