



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES
FY 2024-2025 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES
May 2024

Background

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) represents over 100 marine science laboratories in the United States and its territories that: (1) generate key data and guidance for sustainable use of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources, (2) are important parts of the fabric of coastal communities, and (3) enhance local economies. As such, this network of place-based marine and Great Lakes laboratories is a unique and valuable U.S. national asset. The geographic reach of this network includes estuaries, the coastal zone, the Great Lakes and inland watersheds, the global ocean including polar regions, and the sea floor. NAML labs connect scientists, students, public and civic leaders with leading edge science, environmental and coastal intelligence and professional training that contributes to the understanding, management, and stewardship of our ocean, coastal zones and Great Lakes. Marine and Great Lakes science laboratories play pivotal roles in contributing to U.S. national priorities identified in the [U.S. National Committee for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#), [Ocean Climate Action Plan](#), [NOAA's Ocean Policy](#), and [Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century](#).

NAML Public Policy Priorities for FY 2024-FY 2025:

1) Research, Data, and Information Management

- Maintain core strengths in research, monitoring, and observation networks by advocating for funding of federal programs that support R&D at NAML labs.
- Facilitate data and information management, as well as dissemination via NAML's communication networks consisting of meetings, e-mail announcements, and dynamic web-site and dashboard.

2) Communication

- Expand communications in support of challenges common to nonprofit marine laboratories in the United States and to inform the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources via NAML's communication networks consisting of meetings, e-mail announcements, and dynamic web-site and dashboard.
- Improve environmental justice by communicating best practices from state and federal agencies, as well as NGOs..

3) Workforce Development and International Competitiveness

- Enable an inclusive, diverse, and effective workforce that ensures our competitiveness at home and abroad through best practices identified in NAML's DEI Committee.
- Enhance educational opportunities through shared best practices and resources.

These priorities, in turn, support:

1. Human and economic health of coastal and Great Lakes communities,
2. Resilient ecosystems in the face of climate change,
3. Food security,
4. Blue Economy,
5. Global commerce,
6. National defense, and
7. Appropriate representation of historically marginalized groups in all aspects of environmental public policy.

NAML requests that our Nation's Leaders fund the Federal Government's investment in extramural, merit-based, competitive research, infrastructure, observing and education programs at NSF, NOAA, NASA, EPA, DOI, USGS, and other ocean, coastal and Great Lakes related agencies at levels commensurate with the challenges faced by the Ocean and Great Lakes, and the communities and economies dependent upon them, and at levels no lower than FY 2024. Investments through these agencies are essential for NAML partners to effectively contribute to such U.S. national policies as a diversified workforce, climate change, food security, ocean health and commerce, and national defense. We re-emphasize that ocean and human health are inextricably linked.