



**NOAA National Ocean Service
Office of Response & Restoration
Marine Debris Program**

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Marine Debris Program

Mission: To investigate and prevent the impacts of marine debris

Mandate: 2006 Marine Debris Act, amended in 2012 and 2018





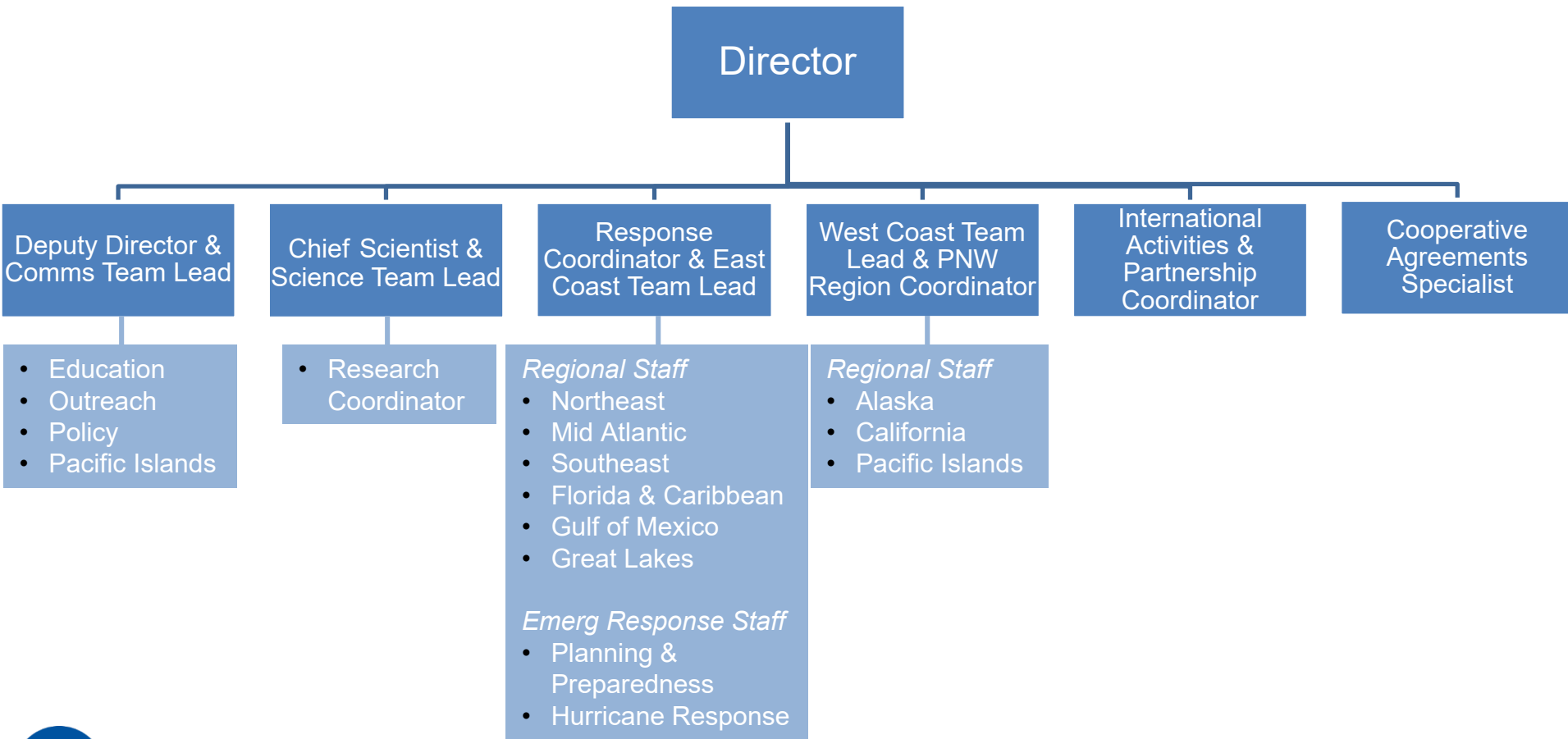
Marine Debris Program

What We Do

Mandated Activities

- identify, determine sources, assess, prevent, reduce, remove marine debris
- national and regional coordination
- lead & coordinate Interagency Marine Debris Coordination Committee
- maintain Marine Debris Clearinghouse
- reduce adverse impacts of DFG
- community outreach & education incl. w/ other Fed agencies
- timely response to severe marine debris events
- promote international action
- provide grants for marine debris projects (prevention, removal, research)

Marine Debris Program Organizational Structure





Marine Debris Program FY 17 & 19 Research Priorities

Risk Assessment & Exposure/Response

- quantitative or qualitative estimates of exposure & effect
- population level effects: commercial, recreational, aquaculture species
- ecologically relevant exposure concentrations
- exposure across space and time (magnitude, frequency, duration)

Fate and Transport

- nearshore/coastal

Habitat Impacts

- quantify damage from debris & recovery post-removal
- benthic, nearshore, intertidal foundation species



Marine Debris Program Anticipated Research

FY 20 National Academies of Sciences Study

- evaluation of US contributions to global ocean plastic waste in US waterways
- assessment of the prevalence of marine debris & mismanaged plastic waste in US waterways
- examination of the import and export of plastic waste to & from the US

FY 21 Research Grant Competition

- details late summer 2020

**NEW STRATEGIC
PLAN 2021-2026**





Marine Debris Program Monitoring & Assessment Project

Status

- volunteer citizen science initiative
- NOAA standardized protocols
- monthly site surveys
- publicly accessible database





NOAA Marine Debris Capabilities Webinar

March 11, 2020