



NICOLE LEBOEUF

Acting Assistant Administrator
NOAA's National Ocean Service

Nicole LeBoeuf has over 20 years of scientific expertise and program management experience at NOAA, with an emphasis on the connections between science and policy. Throughout her career, she's worked on a wide range of issues from protected species conservation and oil spill response to international treaty negotiation. Currently, she serves as the acting assistant administrator (she is the permanent deputy assistant administrator) at NOAA's National Ocean Service. In this role, she oversees all strategic and operational aspects of an agency with more than 1,700 staff located across more than 50 places around the country. The National Ocean Service's mission is to provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our ocean and coasts and to provide data, tools, and services that support coastal economies and their contribution to the national economy.

Before arriving at NOS, Nicole served as acting deputy director of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources and, before that, was the chief of the Office's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division. Her professional expertise includes strategic inter-agency engagement, oversight of budget formulation and execution, personnel, public process, policy analysis, and synthesis and application of scientific and technical information for use by decision makers. She is also known for being a subject matter expert in the implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Although most of her professional career has been spent at NOAA Fisheries, she previously served as acting deputy director for NOS' National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. There, she managed day-to-day financial and personnel operations that included five laboratories and a diverse portfolio of intramural and extramural research. Nicole also spent time in NOAA Headquarters, both in the NOAA Budget Office and as NOAA's finance lead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Before completing NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program in 2009, Nicole gained over a decade of international environmental treaty experience, overseeing NOAA's Antarctic Treaty System responsibilities, coordinating NOAA's protected species bycatch reduction efforts in multiple tuna treaties, as well as representing NOAA at the U.N. General Assembly regarding the protection of deep sea corals. Next to her passion for marine conservation and serving coastal communities, she is committed to fostering and maintaining a diverse and inclusive workplace at NOS and with all whom she interacts.

Nicole holds a bachelor's in marine biology from Texas A&M University and a master's in sustainable development and conservation biology from the University of Maryland.
