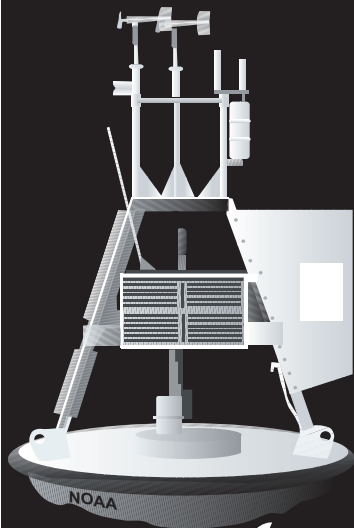


Ocean Observation Systems




Sea Grant
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www.seagrantsfish.lsu.edu

A network of data collection platforms scattered along the coast and throughout the Gulf of Mexico aid scientists in ecological and weather forecasting, modeling, and storm surge prediction. Data collected at the various stations include wave height and direction, air and sea temperature, humidity, speed and direction of currents, wind speed and direction, and water depth.

The real time and near-real time data is not only available to scientists and researchers, but also the general public via the Internet. Data on the western Gulf of Mexico, along with information from other coastal areas, can be accessed through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center at www.csc.noaa.gov/coos/texas_gulf.html.

Data collection platforms include moored and drifting buoys, meteorological towers and stations, bottom-moored instruments, stand-alone instruments, satellite imagery, and remotely and autonomously operated vehicles.