

**U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA**



**Privacy Threshold Analysis
for the
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Research
Support System (NOAA6301)**

U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Threshold Analysis
NOAA/National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Research
Support System (NOAA6301)

Unique Project Identifier: 006-00-02-00-01-0511-00

Introduction: This Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) is a questionnaire to assist with determining if a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary for this IT system. This PTA is primarily based from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privacy guidance and the Department of Commerce (DOC) IT security/privacy policy. If questions arise or further guidance is needed in order to complete this PTA, please contact your Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO).

Description of the information system and its purpose: The NOAA6301 National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Research Support System provides the network infrastructure, hardware and software necessary to enable the mission of NCCOS, the organization. NCCOS's mission is to provide coastal managers with scientific information and tools needed to balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals.

NCCOS is passionate about supporting NOAA's environmental and economic missions by providing valuable scientific information to its constituents. NCCOS's fundamental principles are:

- To deliver high-quality science in a timely and consistent manner using productive and strong partnerships.
- To develop and maintain relevant research, long-term data collection and analyses, and forecasting capabilities in support of its customers, stakeholders, and partners.
- To build capacity in the private, local, state, and tribal sectors by transferring technology and providing technical assistance and knowledge to its customers and partners.
- To conduct the anticipatory science necessary to manage potential impacts of multiple stressors on coastal ecosystems.

The NOAA6301 system:

- provides support to the program areas which are responsible for conducting research in the areas of marine bio-toxins; eco-toxicology; forensics; biotechnology; marine mammal stranding and necropsies; risk analysis; DNA sequencing; and marine related viruses and pathogens;
- provides an operational environment supporting the mission and staff of the program offices located on the Silver Spring Metro Center Campus - NCCOS Head Quarters (HQ), Center for

Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR), and Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment (CCMA); Beaufort, NC - Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR); Charleston, SC – Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) and Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML); and Oxford, MD – Cooperative Oxford Laboratory (COL); Beaufort, NC (CCFHR); Charleston, SC (CCEHBRC and CHHR/HML); and Oxford, MD (CCEHBRO);

- provides all resources related to data management, electronic file, COTS, printing, computer and software, field data acquisition, backup and restoration, LAN and WAN, helpdesk, specialty applications for GIS and statistical analysis, moderate programming, Web design and Web product delivery, video conferencing, and other media support services; and

- Provides continued service to the local area network (LAN) and the wide area network (WAN) connections for non-SSMC locations.

Questionnaire:

1. What is the status of this information system?

_____ This is a new information system. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

___X___ ☐ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks.

Complete chart below, continue to answer questions, and complete certification.

Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)					
a. Conversions		d. Significant Merging		g. New Interagency Uses	
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous		e. New Public Access		h. Internal Flow or Collection	
c. Significant System Management Changes		f. Commercial Sources		i. Alteration in Character of Data	
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify): Transition from 800-53 rev3 guidance to 800-53 rev 4 guidance with Appendix J Privacy Controls. Transition from on premise NOAA6001 hosting to Microsoft Azure PaaS (FedRamp IDs F1209051525 and F1305012101) hosting of CSCOR Review Application is expected in April FY17.					

___ ☐ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks.

2. Is the IT system or its information used to support any activity which may raise privacy concerns?

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4, Appendix J, states “Organizations may also engage in activities that do not involve the collection and use of PII, but may nevertheless raise privacy concerns and associated risk. The privacy controls are equally applicable to those activities and can be used to analyze the privacy risk and mitigate such risk when necessary.” Examples include, but are not limited to, audio recordings, video surveillance, building entry readers, and electronic purchase transactions.

_____ Yes. *Please describe the activities which may raise privacy concerns.*

☒ No

3. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate business identifiable information (BII)?

As per DOC Privacy Policy: "For the purpose of this policy, business identifiable information consists of (a) information that is defined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." (5 U.S.C.552(b)(4)). This information is exempt from automatic release under the (b)(4) FOIA exemption. "Commercial" is not confined to records that reveal basic commercial operations" but includes any records [or information] in which the submitter has a commercial interest" and can include information submitted by a nonprofit entity, or (b) commercial or other information that, although it may not be exempt from release under FOIA, is exempt from disclosure by law (e.g., 13 U.S.C.)."

☒ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates BII about: *(Check all that apply.)*

☐ Companies

☒ Other business entities

☐ No, this IT system does not collect any BII.

4. Personally Identifiable Information

4a. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate personally identifiable information (PII)?

As per OMB 07-16, Footnote 1: "The term 'personally identifiable information' refers to information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, etc... alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, etc..."

☒ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about: *(Check all that apply.)*

☒ DOC employees

☒ Contractors working on behalf of DOC

☒ Members of the public

☐ No, this IT system does not collect any PII.

If the answer is "yes" to question 4a, please respond to the following questions.

4b. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII other than user ID?

☒ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII other than user ID.

☐ No, the user ID is the only PII collected, maintained, or disseminated by the IT system.

4c. Will the purpose for which the PII is collected, stored, used, processed, disclosed, or disseminated (context of use) cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level?

Examples of context of use include, but are not limited to, law enforcement investigations, administration of benefits, contagious disease treatments, etc.

☐ Yes, the context of use will cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

☒ No, the context of use will not cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.


If any of the answers to questions 2, 3, 4b, and/or 4c are “Yes,” a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the IT system. This PTA and the approved PIA must be a part of the IT system’s Assessment and Authorization Package.

CERTIFICATION


 X ☐ I certify the criteria implied by one or more of the questions above **apply** to the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Research Support System (NOAA6301) and as a consequence of this applicability, I will perform and document a PIA for this IT system.

 ☐ I certify the criteria implied by the questions above **do not apply** to the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Research Support System (NOAA6301) and as a consequence of this non-applicability, a PIA for this IT system is not necessary.


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