



18 February 2011

## **Enhanced transatlantic research collaboration**

**The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) have agreed to formally explore strengthening their cooperation in areas of common interest.**

A letter of intent signed today by Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, and Dominique Ristori, JRC Director-General, expresses the organisations' interest to further explore and propose cooperative activities in the following fields:

- Earth Observation Data Collection, Quality Control and Sharing
- Environmental contaminants and effects in the marine environment
- Promoting coastal activities within the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
- Defining downstream services on marine and coastal issues for public administration and policy support
- Development of a common global/regional modelling and analysis tool for coastal hazards and extreme events
- Space weather, disaster monitoring, and crisis management
- Climate change, climate services and climate change monitoring, within GEO
- Atmospheric and air quality monitoring such as for volcanic ash events and the applications of atmospheric dispersion modelling techniques.

A NOAA/JRC coordination group will be established to follow up these cooperation proposals. It will build on the longstanding relations between the two entities, which have been working together for over 20 years in the field of Earth observation, including topics such as ocean colour, hydrology, sensor calibration and validation, involvement in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, and in the Group of Earth Observation.

### **NOAA & JRC mission and vision**

NOAA's vision of the future is: healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change. NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; to share that knowledge and information with others; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

The JRC's vision is to be a trusted provider of science-based policy options to EU policy makers to address key challenges facing our society, underpinned by internationally-recognized research. Its mission is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, and implementation and monitoring of European Union policies.

### **Links**

US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <http://www.noaa.gov/>  
European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC): <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu>