

NOAA – 2006 Gold and Silver Medals

Gold Medals

Nancy B. Thompson

Leadership

National Marine Fisheries Service

For leadership in executing the Department's fisheries mission activities despite unprecedented devastation due to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Christopher Parish

Heroism

National Ocean Service

For risking personal safety while delivering food and other life necessities to hurricane-affected citizens, greatly assisting in their recovery during the first few weeks of Katrina's aftermath.

NOAA Fisheries Service: National Seafood Inspection Laboratory and Southeast Fisheries Science Center Mississippi Labs; CAO's Project Planning and Management Division; NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO)

Personal & Professional Excellence

National Marine Fisheries Service

For expeditiously re-establishing NOAA Fisheries Service's Northern Gulf of Mexico operations, under formidable post-hurricane Katrina conditions.

WFO New Orleans, LA; WFO Mobile, AL; Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For providing life-saving hurricane warnings and continuous service to the public while at great personal risk during the devastation wrought by Katrina.

Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For critical and life-saving forecasts provided during the unprecedented hurricane season of 2005, which included three of the six strongest storms in the past 150 years.

Todd Wilson, Vernon Swiger, Mondle Burrell

Heroism

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations

For heroic acts in the waning hours of Hurricane Katrina that ensured the NOAA Ship OREGON II remained secured at her mooring.

WFO Jackson, MS

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For increasing tornado warning lead times by nine minutes, over the average lead time of fourteen minutes, contributing to life-saving efforts during the April 6, 2005, eastern Mississippi tornado outbreak.

Seth Gutman, Susan Sahm, Kirk Holub, Stanley Benjamin

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

For the development of GPS water vapor observing systems for use in NOAA weather forecasting, global climate monitoring and research.

Richard Feely, Christopher Sabine, Rik Wanninkhof, Tsung-Hung Peng, Dana Greeley, Marilyn Roberts (ret.), Catherine Cosca, Esa Peltola, Robert Castle, Betty Huss

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

For pioneering research leading to the discovery of increased acidification in the world's oceans due to the absorption of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Aircraft Operations Center

Personal & Professional Excellence

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations

For doubling annual hurricane flights, providing 7,000 aerial photos of Katrina-affected areas, and delivering life-saving supplies during the historic 2005 hurricane season.

Vera Trainer

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

National Marine Fisheries Service

For establishing an internationally recognized research and monitoring program for early warning of harmful algal bloom events.

Morris Bender, Timothy Marchok, Naomi Surgi (NWS), David Michaud (NWS)

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

For timely improvements to the GFDL hurricane model that led to outstanding track and intensity forecasts for Katrina and Rita.

Silver Medals

Joseph Stinus, Russell Beard, Elizabeth Schenck-Gardner, Bradlee Nunn, Mary O'Chery, Susan Starke, Sharon Mesick, Eric Roby, Julie Bosch

Customer Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

For extraordinary service exhibited during the post-Hurricane Katrina Recovery of the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC).

WFO Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For issuing life-saving warnings, all above average lead times, during Wisconsin's largest single outbreak of tornadoes in a 24-hour period.

Bernadita Anulacion, Jon Buzitis, Tracy Collier, Shailer Cummings (OAR), LT William Mowitt, Mark Peterson, Linda Rhodes, Elizabeth Scott-Denton, Sean Sol, Gina Ylitalo

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

National Marine Fisheries Service

For conduct of field operations immediately following Hurricane Katrina that were vital for ensuring that seafood was safe for public consumption.

John Jensenius, Jr.

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For outstanding initiative, creativity, and execution in leading NOAA's Lightning Safety Awareness Program.

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

National Marine Fisheries Service

For quickly analyzing seafood from the Gulf of Mexico to assure its safety for public consumption following the passage of Hurricane Katrina.

Mark Miller, Jerry Muhasky, James Farr, Pauline Jenne, Jon Reinsch, Robert Jones, Debra Payton, Robert Pavia, William Lehr, Glen Watabayashi

Personal & Professional Excellence

National Ocean Service

For developing and updating the CAMEO/ALOHA software, the number-one chemical emergency response and planning tool in the U.S., to meet post-9/11 needs.

Sam Albanese, Aimee Devaris, Christopher Maier, Mary Jocelyn Perry, James Prange, Michael Richmond, Craig Searcy, Larry Van Bussum, David White, Edward Zingone

Customer Service

National Weather Service

For outstanding customer service, rapid response, and dedication to the recovery mission of the grounded Selendang Ayu cargo ship.

Edward Little, Jr., Jay Boulet, Deborah Batiste, Charles Armstrong, Albert Gabel, Kathleen Hebert, Gary Rousse, Linda Guidry, Elizabeth Bourgeois, Horace Flowers, Jr.

Personal & Professional Excellence

National Marine Fisheries Service

For operating under adverse post-hurricane conditions to provide critical eye-witness reports on hurricane-devastated fishing communities.

Sarah Borakove, Alan Bunn, David Elliott, LCDR Rick Fletcher, Bert Ho, Brian Link, Robert Ramsey, Anthony Godette, Warren Krug, LT Sarah Mrozek

Personal & Professional Excellence

National Ocean Service

For conducting critical underwater hazard surveys that enabled the USCG to reopen 13 vital Gulfports within days after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.