



# U.S. National Ice Center

## Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee Winter Meeting



USN



USCG



NOAA

*Director: CDR Tucker Friesmuth, USN  
Deputy Director: Mr. Kevin Berberich, NOAA  
January 14, 2026*



# Mission and Organizational Alignment

*The U.S. National Ice Center, in collaboration with its global partners, empowers mariners and Naval forces operating in polar, subpolar, and Great Lakes regions with **authoritative** and **timely** snow, sea- and lake-ice products and forecasts. **USNIC** safeguards life and property at sea, **defends access and commerce**, and **further enhances Naval maneuver and superiority.***

## VISION STATEMENT

*To be the globally recognized authority for ice and snow decision support services for increased commerce, homeland security, and national defense.*

## Tri-agency organization composed of:

### NOAA component:

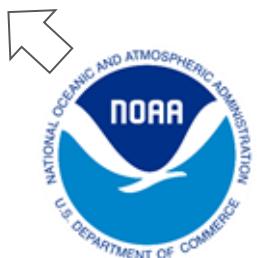
NWS, Ocean Prediction Center, Ice Services Branch

### Navy component:

Fleet Weather Center Norfolk, Naval Ice Center

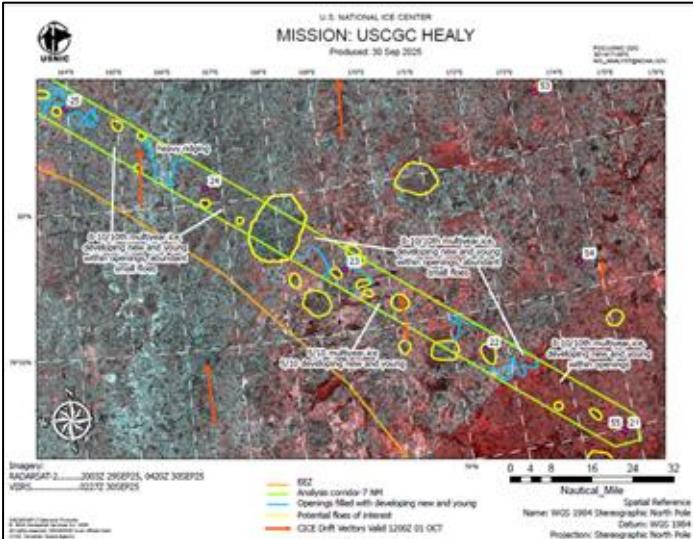
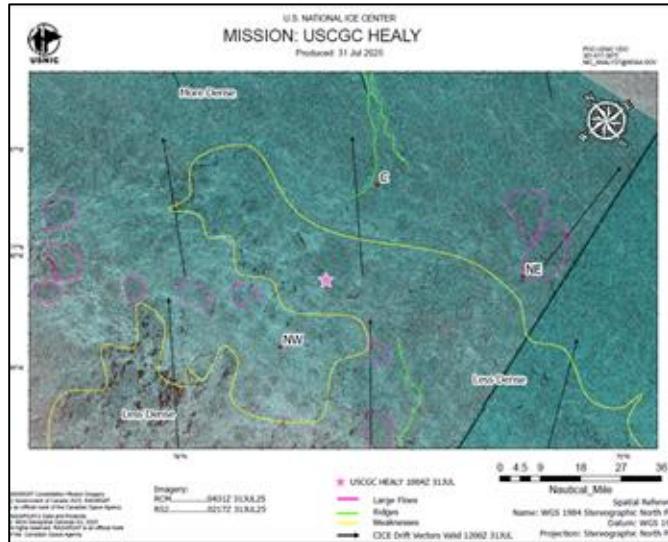
### USCG component:

Office of Waterways and Ocean Policy, Mobility and Ice Operations Division





# Healy 2501 and 2502



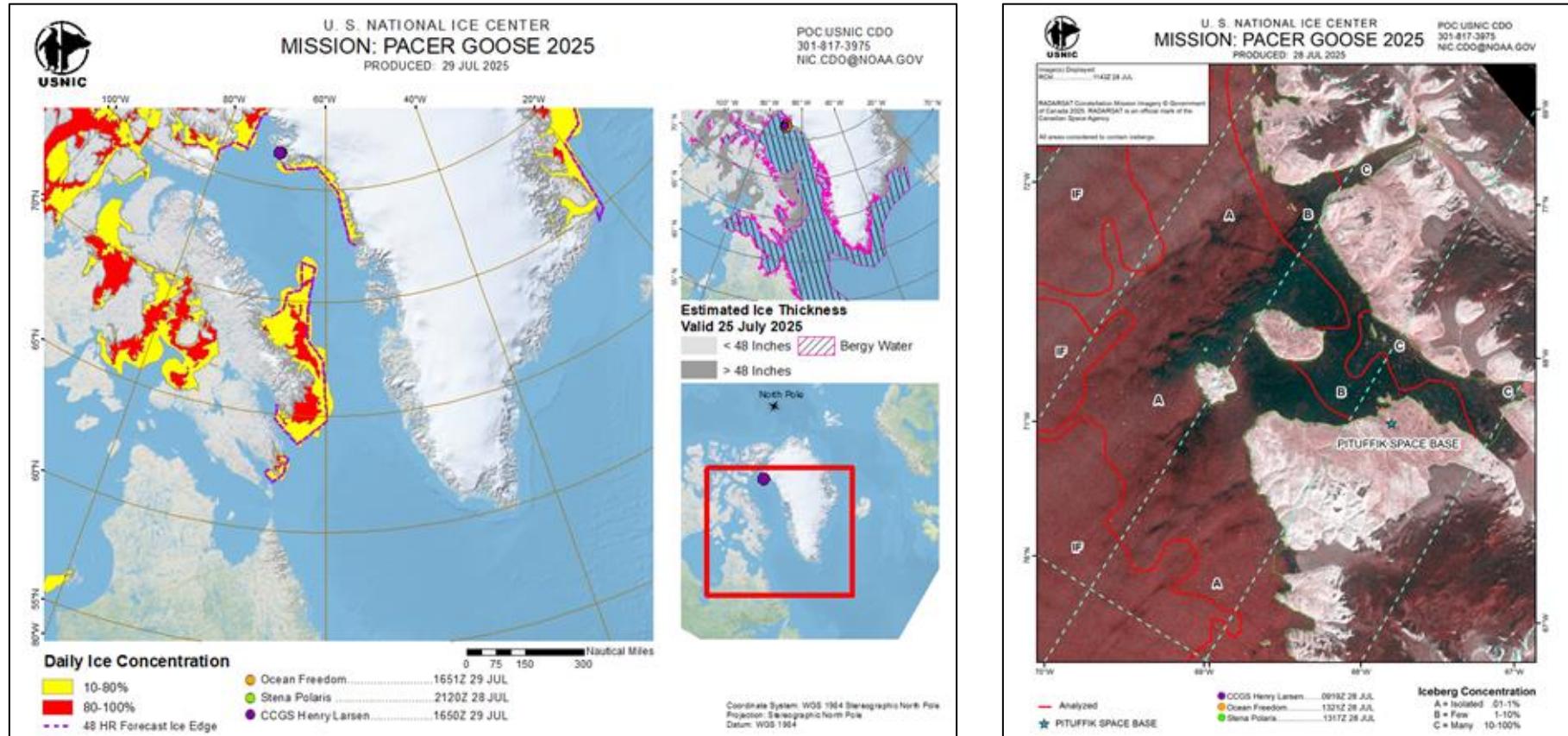
**USNIC analysts onboard the USCGC Healy provided real-time support during the vessel's 2025 summer and early fall deployments across the Beaufort, Chukchi, East Siberian, and Laptev Seas. Product requirements were adjusted in response to the evolution of missions and sea ice conditions.**

**While deployed, USNIC analysts:**

- Assisted with route planning for sea ice transits**
- Delivered daily briefs to the Captain and department heads**
- Provided analyzed imagery to watchstanders to enhance situational awareness**
- Were available continuously to provide ice support during science missions**



# Pacer Goose 2025

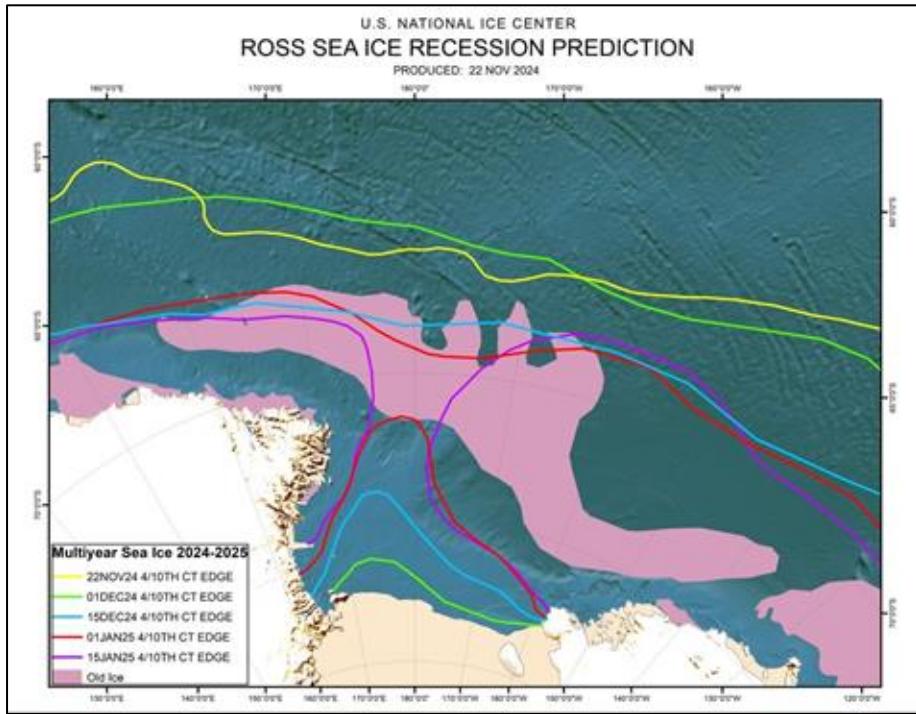
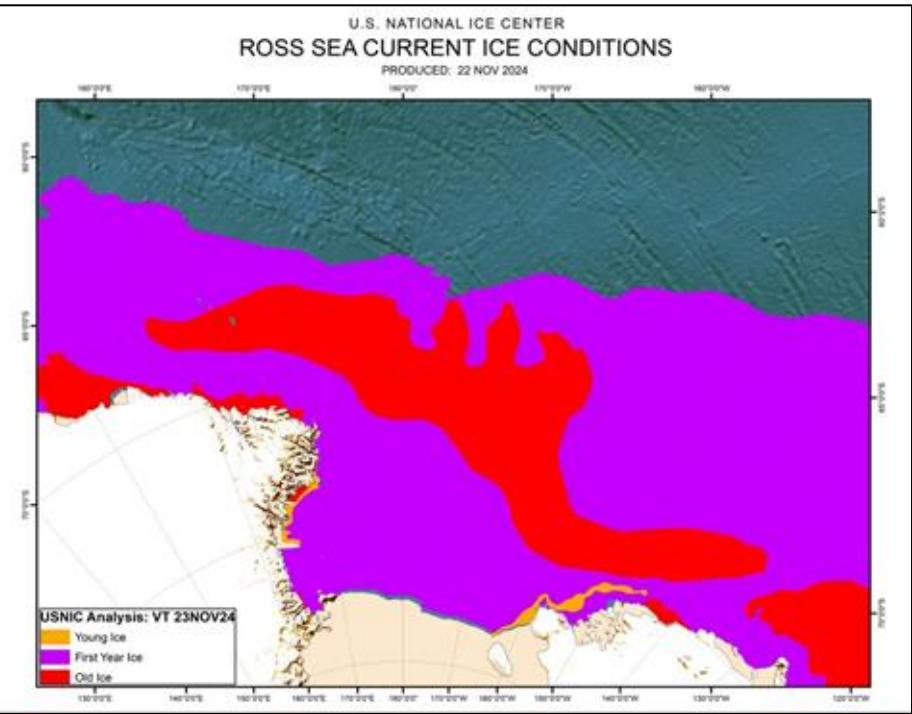


USNIC supported Ocean Freedom, Stena Polaris, and CCGS Henry Larsen for Pacer Goose 2025.

A pre-sail brief was also provided, covering current conditions and expected conditions based on climatology and Navy ESPC model data.



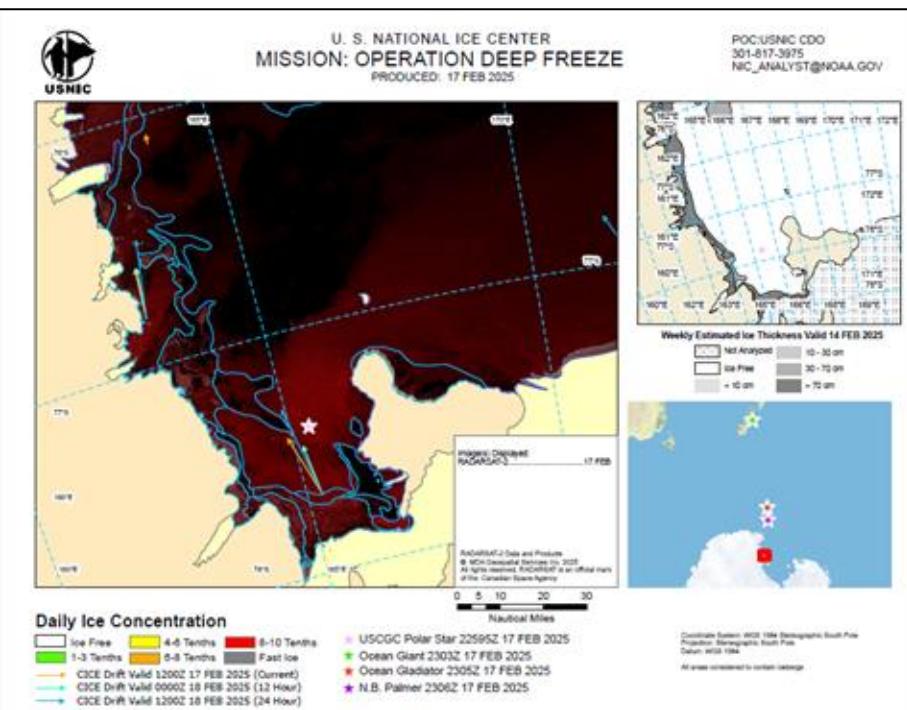
# Operation Deep Freeze Support 2024-2025



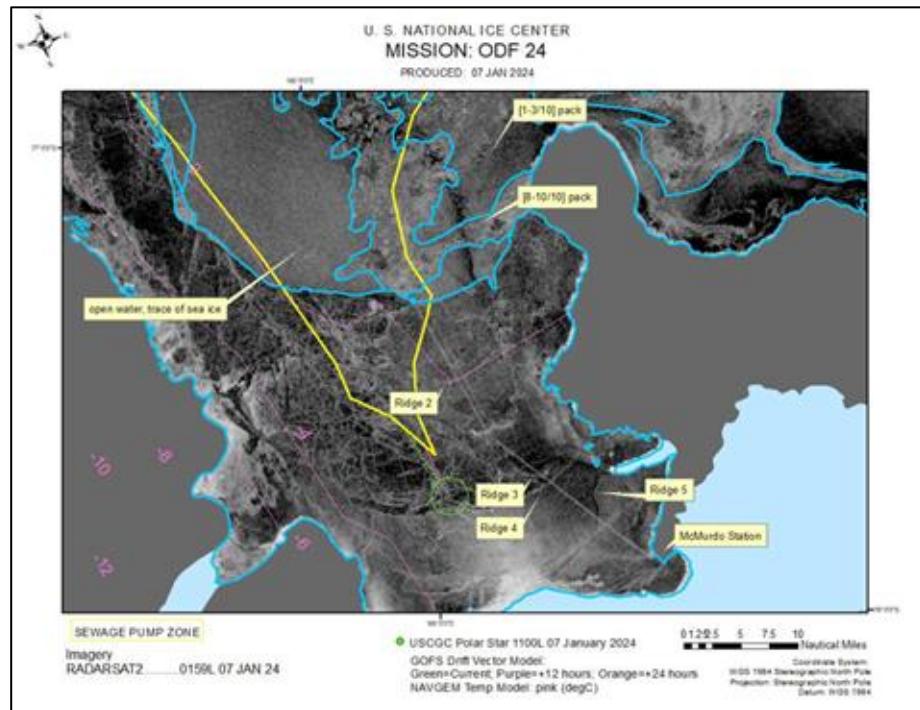
Prior to the commencement of Operation Deep Freeze 2025, USNIC provided the annual Ross Sea Outlook to the USCGC Polar Star, participating resupply vessels, and other customers with interest in the area, highlighting current sea ice conditions and the forecasted sea ice melt pattern.



# Operation Deep Freeze Support 2024-2025



Example of USNIC Remote Support

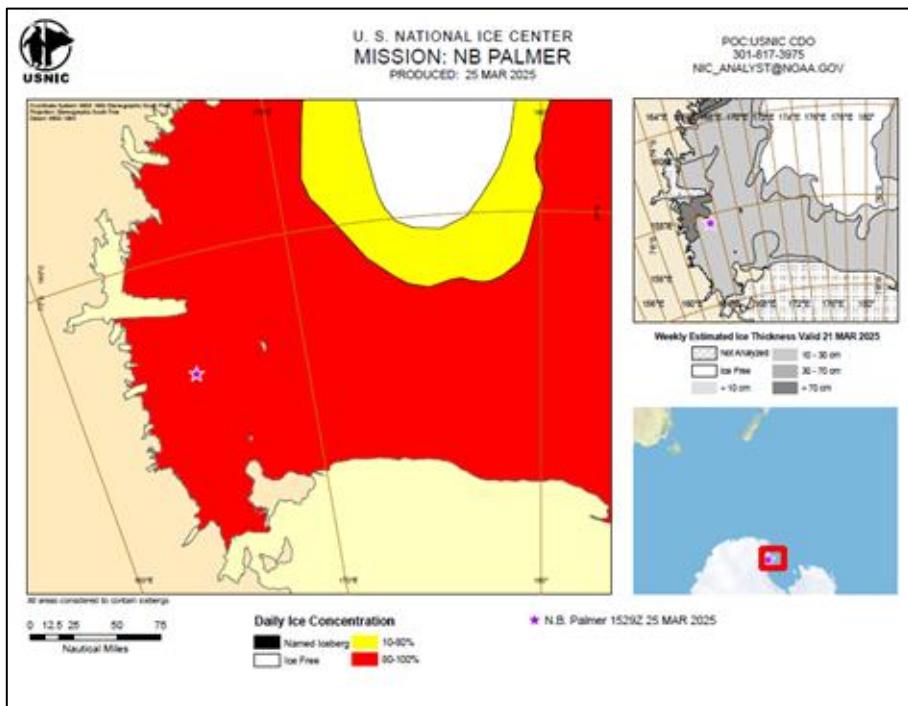
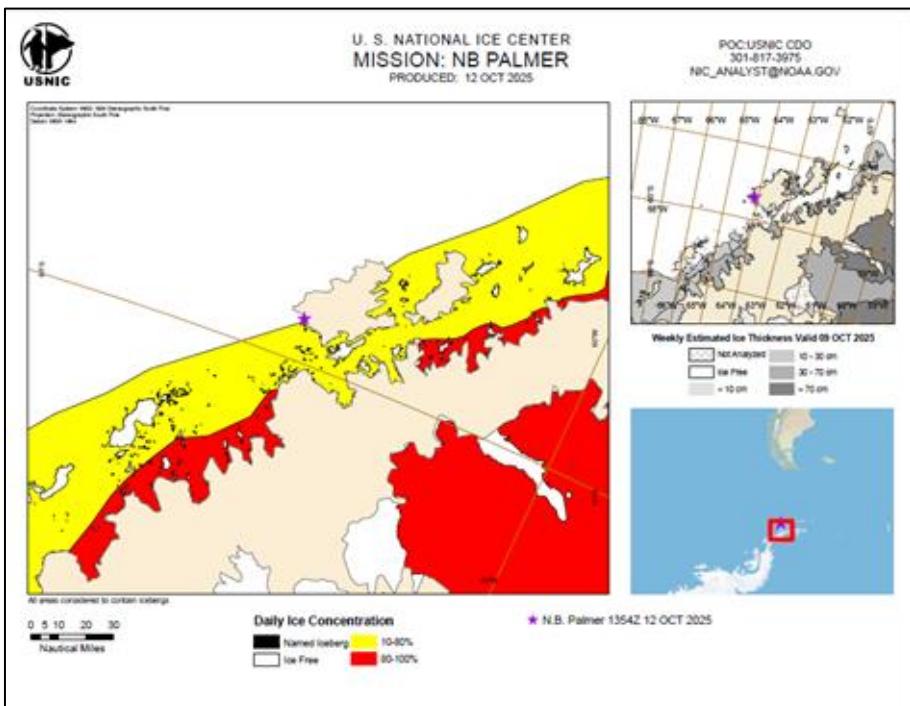


Example of Onboard Analyst Support

The USNIC analyst onboard the USCGC Polar Star provided daily products to the vessel's ice pilots. Analyst's priorities were safety of navigation through the fast ice in McMurdo Sound, ridge avoidance, and maintaining a clear ice channel for escorting the non-ice hardened vessels into Winter Quarters Bay.



# N.B. Palmer 2025



USNIC supported N.B. Palmer's final resupply mission to Palmer Station in Antarctica. This annual NSF-funded cruise conducted research in the Bellinghausen, Amundsen, and Ross Seas.



# Request for Support

## Contact Information

Agency*	<input type="text" value="Enter Agency, i.e. US Coast Guard, NOAA, ..."/>
Name*	<input type="text" value="Name"/>
Email*	<input type="text" value="Email"/>
Phone	<input type="text" value="Phone"/>
Best times to contact you	<input type="text" value="Provide the best time after 9:00 AM, before 3:PM, i.e."/>

## Request Details

Area of interest*	<input type="text" value="Enter focus area, i.e. Ross Sea, Arctic Transit, Bering Strait ..."/> <small>Liaison will be in contact for additional detail (if approved).</small>
Dates required for services*	<input type="text" value="Provide an estimated or exact time frame, i.e. Early May to June, March 5 to July 10 ..."/>
List of needed ice parameters	<input type="text"/>
Vessel Limitations	<input type="text"/>
Mission Goal*	<input type="text" value="Enter type of mission, i.e. Operational, Research, Exercise ..."/>
Additional users to be added to dissemination list	<input type="text" value="Please provide all users that you wish to receive support (please separate with comma.)"/> <small>6</small>

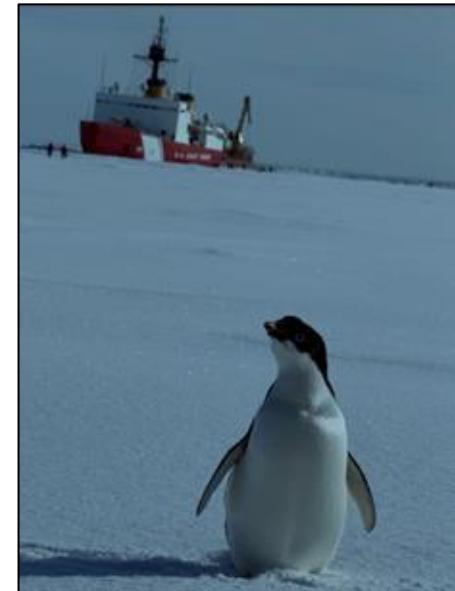
## Delivery Information

Frequency*	<input type="text" value="Please provide when you would like to receive products: i.e. Daily, Every Tuesday and Thursday ..."/>
Time Product is needed*	<input type="text" value="If there a preferred time, please note here: i.e. AM, no later than ..."/> <small>Times are in EST, USNHC working hours: 8am to 4pm</small>
Format*	<input type="text" value="Please provide desired format, i.e. PNG, PDF, Shapefile ..."/>
How do you need the data disseminated*	<input type="text" value="Please provide data disseminated, i.e. email, secured ftp, Google Drive directory ..."/> <small>Secured ftp is not guaranteed as there is an approval process for this done through NOAA.</small>
How will you be using the data	<input type="text" value="Ex. Brief product, operations, mission planning, research, etc."/> <small>6</small>

<https://usicecenter.gov/Resources/TailoredSupportForm>



# Questions and Comments



POC:

[nic\\_analyst@noaa.gov](mailto:nic_analyst@noaa.gov)  
[nic.cdo@navy.smil.mil](mailto:nic.cdo@navy.smil.mil)

Watchfloor: (301) 817-3975

Command Duty Officer (CDO): (301) 943-6977

[www.usicecenter.gov](http://www.usicecenter.gov)