



Back to School

Adopt a Drifter Program Alumni Newsletter

Hello Educators and Valued Members of the Adopt a Drifter Program (ADP) Alumni!

It is with great pleasure that we share this inaugural ADP Newsletter. As you prepare to return to the classroom for yet another school year, we would like to highlight some of the many new changes within the ADP, all of which are designed to enhance your experience, reduce your workload, and provide greater resources to you and your students!

REVAMPED ADP

In an effort to achieve our goals, the ADP added several key members to our team. These additions have invigorated the program with time-saving ideas, enhanced expertise, and a tremendous amount of excitement and energy.

Historically, the adoption process was too long. To expedite this process and allow your students to spend more time tracking their drifter(s) and referencing drifter data, we've overhauled the adoption process by; 1) eliminating the need for mailed stickers. We've streamlined this process to include a digital copy of the NOAA logo with student signatures that will be uploaded and included on the Track a Drifter page. 2) Foregoing the need to adhere stickers prior to shipping now allows us to identify recently deployed (or soon to be deployed) drifters within the desired ocean basin.

These changes have reduced the necessary lead time for adoptions from 3 to 6 months to ~1 week!

Newsletter Highlights

Revamped ADP and Website Additions

Updated Requirements

Teacher at Sea/ADP Collaboration

Welcome Aboard!

Meet the ADP Team

First ADP Intern

ELEVATE THE IMPACT AND REACH OF THE ADP

In an effort to positively impact more classrooms, we've addressed the feedback received and made numerous changes. We have modified the program to reduce the following restrictions that limited involvement and/or delayed the overall process:

We no longer require a match between domestic and international partners. Instead, all adoptions are conducted independently (i.e., by class).

We no longer require a lesson plan be submitted with each adoption (though we encourage all educators to share resources for future participants and to enhance the experience).

We no longer limit how many times an educator can adopt a drifter. In fact, we encourage educators to adopt a drifter each year, and we're excited to incorporate the ADP into your annual lesson plan! Please let us know how we can further support you in this endeavor.

Our team now includes communications experts to help promote the wonderful stories you share, broadcast your amazing interactions, and expand the reach of the program. By sharing your stories, we hope to highlight your tremendous efforts and encourage other educators to follow your lead.

TEACHER AT SEA/ADP COLLABORATION

In order to provide ADP educators with additional opportunities to make an impact, the ADP is partnering with the Teacher at Sea Program to make drifter adoptions part of the Teacher at Sea curriculum. 2024 is the first year of these escalated efforts, yet we've already seen two Teacher at Sea members adopt drifters.

1. **Nick Lee**, from Codman Academy Charter School in Massachusetts. Adopted two drifters and deployed them in the Bering Sea. You can see their adopted drifters [here](#).

2. **Tonya Prentice**, from Tremont Consolidated School in Maine. Adopted two drifters and deployed them in the North Atlantic. You can see their adopted drifters [here](#).

We encourage all ADP alumni to explore this wonderful opportunity! Teacher at Sea applications will be available on the Teacher at Sea website in October, with a submission deadline in November. We will happily share additional details for the upcoming field season as they emerge. Please contact us with your questions and interest at aoml.adp@noaa.gov.



WEBSITE CHANGES

With greater expertise in website design, and more personnel to create content, the team is in the process of overhauling the ADP webpage. These changes are meant to enhance the user experience by highlighting products and resources that benefit educators and students alike! A streamlined flow should now direct viewers to relevant resources that complement existing lesson plans, while simultaneously making it easier for teachers to create additional lesson plans.

The ADP now references drifter data from the “new” AOML Global Drifter Program (GDP) ERDDAP, or Environmental Research Division Data Access Program server, which hosts a variety of drifter datasets, as well as products derived from drifter data. By incorporating an ERDDAP server, the team is now able to provide drifter data and drifter tracking options in a variety of formats.

The **new Track a Drifter Pages** for all recently adopted drifters include:

- Relevant photos, signed logo, etc.
- Multiple drifter tracking links
- Drifter identification card
- Additional resources

Overall Creek Elementary, Tennessee
WMO #2801988
Adoption Date: 12/26/2023

Drifter ID Card Transmitting (Lifetime: 141 days)
 ID#: 20053492627340 Manufacturer: ODI
 ID#: 63027543 Category: SVPB
 ID#: 2801988 Buoy Type: SVPB
 Prog#: 21421 Manuf Date: 18/2021

Deployment Information
 Date: 13 Nov 2023
 Ship: IMOCA HUMAN IMPRODUCER
 Country: FRANCE
 Latitude: 31.630 N
 Longitude: 13.640 W

Trajectory and Mapping:

- Drifter Trajectory with SST (PDF)
- Drifter Trajectory with SLP (PDF)
- Drifter Trajectory only (PDF)

Data Access:

- HTMLTable (loads in browser)
- KML File for Google Earth
- CSV file for Excel
- Matlab file

ERDDAP Tutorials:

- Written ERDDAP instructions
- YouTube ERDDAP tutorial

Additional Resources:

- [Glossary](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Lesson Plans](#)

Image of Erin Nunley's classroom's Track a Drifter page, with their digitally signed logo.

Students & Teachers ▾ Products ▾ Track a Drifter Resources ▾ FAQ

Track Your Drifter

Click the school's name to track a drifter.

Choose Your Drifter		
Ocean	Schools	Deployment Date
North Atlantic	Tremont Consolidated School Tonya Prentice Maine	Expected: August 9th, 2024 Expected: August 9th, 2024
	Codman Academy Charter School Nick Lee Massachusetts	July 1st, 2024 July 5th, 2024
Tropical Atlantic	NOAA's AOML and GOMO Adopt a Drifter Program members from NOAA's	May 13th, 2024

Image of the Track a Drifter webpage, with recent adoptions at the top.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Along with all the recent changes within the ADP, we want to highlight the newest educators to join the ADP Alumni Group during the 2023–2024 school year! Please join us in welcoming the following teachers/classrooms to the ADP family:

[Joselyn Mosquete, Athens Middle School](#)

[Brittany McVey, Heath Middle School](#)

[Mike O'Connell, Chester Area School](#)

[Christy Rankin, Milan Middle School](#)

[Kimberly Williams, Smithtown High School](#)

[Erin Nunley, Overall Creek Elementary](#)

[Nick Lee, Codman Academy Charter School](#)

[Tonya Prentice, Tremont Consolidated School](#)

MEET THE ADP TEAM



Shaun
Dolk



Samantha
Ouertani



Rayne
Sabatello



Elizabeth
Swiney

FIRST ADP INTERNSHIP

A local Marylander, hailing from Elkridge, MD, Stephen Lewis joins NOAA this summer as an intern with the Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing program and Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory. Stephen attends the University of Delaware, where he is a rising senior majoring in Statistics with a minor in Math and Computer Science. Stephen is the first summer intern working under the [Adopt a Drifter Program](#).



*Image of ADP intern,
Stephen Lewis*

Currently, Stephen is developing a NOAA [SciJinks game](#) suitable for K-12 audiences that is inspired by the Global Drifter Program's contribution to ocean surface currents observations. The game incorporates real drifter data across the globe and helps younger audiences understand how ocean currents transport marine debris and how users can help keep our oceans clean.



*Logo for new ADP
SciJinks web game*