



# NOAA Emerging Technologies Workshop

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NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP)  
College Park, Maryland

## OSC Co-Chair & Workshop Co-Chair



### Richard Edwing

**Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), National Ocean Service**

*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration*

Richard Edwing graduated from George Washington University (Washington, D.C.) in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography. Mr. Edwing has served as director of CO-OPS, the nation's authoritative source for accurate, reliable and timely water-level and current measurements, since January 2010. In this Senior Executive Service role, Mr. Edwing oversees and continues to improve this 24-hour a day operation to provide mariners, coastal managers, and many other users with real-time data on ocean conditions along America's 95,000-mile coastline.

Mr. Edwing's career with NOAA spans almost four decades with much of that time spent advancing NOAA's navigation services mission to provide the nation with up-to-date ocean, weather, mapping and positioning data and tools for safe transits to and from U.S. ports. He started with NOAA in 1976 in the Marine Boundary Program, a partnership between NOAA and coastal states to establish tidal data such as base elevations in sensitive wetland areas vulnerable to urban growth. He spent 2 years as the assistant field crew chief of federal and state employees in California installing and removing tide gauges along the coast and up estuaries. He became an expert in designing, deploying, operating and employing physical oceanographic observing systems as well as in the data management processes used to quality control and generate products from those systems. He has traveled internationally to transfer and establish NOAA ocean observing technology in other countries. He steadily advanced through various positions in the field, his office and at NOAA headquarters, including several years as division chief of the National Ocean Service's policy, planning and analysis division, where he helped shape NOAA's priorities for ocean issues, and identified budget needs to advance and modernize ocean science for the twenty-first century. Early in Mr. Edwing's career he returned to school to complete graduate level work in civil engineering at the University of

Maryland with a concentration in structural design. This served him particularly well in designing and supporting the establishment of NOAA "Sentinels of the Coast", observing platforms hardened to withstand hurricane force winds and waves to ensure real time data is available when most needed to protect safety of life and property. He is a NOAA and PADI Certified scuba diver with advanced training. He serves as the United States representative to the Global Sea-Level Observing System Group of Experts under the United Nations International Oceanographic Commission. He most notably earned the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for scientific achievement in establishing a Global Sea Level monitoring station in Esperanza, Antarctica in cooperation with Argentina which included over 75 hours of hard hat diving in the frigid waters.

Mr. Edwing is married and as a "late bloomer" has two sets of teenage twin girls as well as a menagerie of dogs, parrots and fish who keep him both young and challenged. He enjoys traveling, hiking, the beach, athletics, home projects and landscaping/gardening.