



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

July 1, 2017

Our employee and team member of this month come from NOS and OCFO, and exemplify the spirit of dedication, service, and scientific excellence. Their contributions to Arctic issues and NOAA's performance management have resulted in significant improvements both internally and externally.



**Amy Merten**  
**National Ocean Service**  
**(Employee of the Month)**

Dr. Amy Merten is recognized for her exceptional leadership and accomplishments as the Chair of the Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Working Group (EPPR). The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental body promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the eight Arctic countries, Arctic indigenous communities, and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues. The specific focus of the EPPR is to protect the Arctic environment from the threat or impact of an accidental release of pollutants or radionuclides. Dr. Merten successfully chaired the EPPR for the two years that the U.S. held the Arctic Council Chairmanship. Under Dr. Merten's leadership, the EPPR implemented numerous key search and rescue and oil spill preparedness and response activities. The Group also designed and implemented a major international oil spill drill in 2016, with seven U.S. agencies and all eight Arctic member countries participating. Dr. Merten exhibited grace and diplomacy as the council's Chair, and her efforts have substantially and tangibly improved international Arctic preparedness, prevention, and response.