

Damian Manda

Commander, NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps · Hydrographer · Software developer

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CURRENT ASSIGNMENT

Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship *Fairweather* **2026-Present**

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

Commands a 231-foot hydrographic survey vessel and leads its officers and crew in safe mission execution, readiness, and delivery of nautical data for Alaska.

EXPERIENCE

NOAA Liaison to the Oceanographer of the Navy **2023-2026**

OPNAV N2N6E5

Served as the primary science interface between NOAA and the U.S. Navy, coordinating mutual interests and collaboration opportunities.

Executive Officer, NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette* **2021-2023**

NOAA

Managed day-to-day operations and supported a crew of up to 26 through personnel, logistics, budget, safety, and professional development work.

Chief, Hydrographic Systems and Technologies Branch **2018-2021**

NOAA Office of Coast Survey

Led technology development and field support for ocean mapping, including acquisition of NOAA's first large uncrewed surface vessel for hydrographic work.

Operations Officer, NOAA Ship *Fairweather* **2016-2018**

NOAA

Planned and directed daily hydrographic operations for the ship and as many as six survey boats, while training navigators and hydrographers.

Junior Officer, NOAA Ship *Rainier* **2010-2013**

NOAA

Began commissioned sea service in Pacific and Alaska hydrographic operations.

CAREER BEGINNING

NOAA Hollings Scholar intern, NOAA Ship *Fairweather* **Summer 2009**

NOAA

Joined Fairweather for a summer of hydrographic survey operations in Southeast Alaska and the Shumagin Islands.

EDUCATION

M.S., Ocean Engineering

2016

University of New Hampshire

Thesis: Development of Autonomous Surface Vessels for Hydrographic Survey Applications. IHO Category A hydrographer.

B.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering

2010

University of Colorado Boulder

Minor in Geography with a GIS focus.

QUALIFICATIONS

IHO Category A Certified Hydrographer · USCG 1600 Ton Mate / STCW OICNW · NOAA Senior Watch Officer and Hydrographer in Charge

SELECTED RECOGNITION

Department of Commerce Bronze Medal · NOAA Administrator's Award · ACO Engineering Award · NOAA Corps Commendation Medals