

Joseph W. Swaykos
Captain United States Navy (Retired)

National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) Mission Control Center (MCC) Branch Chief

Mr. Joseph W. Swaykos is a native of Bloomfield New Jersey. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in July of 1972 and graduated with a B.S. in Oceanography in June 1976.

Mr. Swaykos served in the U.S. Navy for twenty eight years following his four years at Annapolis. He started out as an Unrestricted Line Officer sailing on USS Badger (FF-1071) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was then selected for attendance at the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned Masters Degrees in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. Mr. Swaykos continued his service as a Navy Oceanographer (Restricted Line Officer Community) and served in several sea tours and key shore assignments. His last three tours of duty included serving as Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy (Washington D.C.), Commanding Officer of Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (Monterey CA), and Chairman of the Oceanography Department at his alma mater. He also earned Masters Degrees in Systems Management and in National Security and Strategy from the University of Southern California and the Naval War College respectively. Mr. Swaykos retired from active duty in 2004 and accepted a position with the University of Southern Mississippi serving as the Director of the Center of Higher Learning at Stennis Space Center where he served until May 2012 when he accepted his current position at NDBC. He was selected as a Fellow in the American Meteorological Society in 2007 and was selected to represent the University of Southern Mississippi in the state wide Leadership Mississippi program. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) and is the past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MSET).