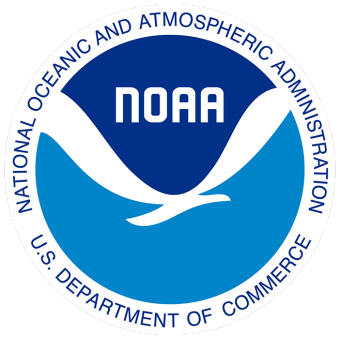
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



BUDGET ESTIMATES

FISCAL YEAR 2026

CONGRESSIONAL SUBMISSION

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026
Congressional Submission

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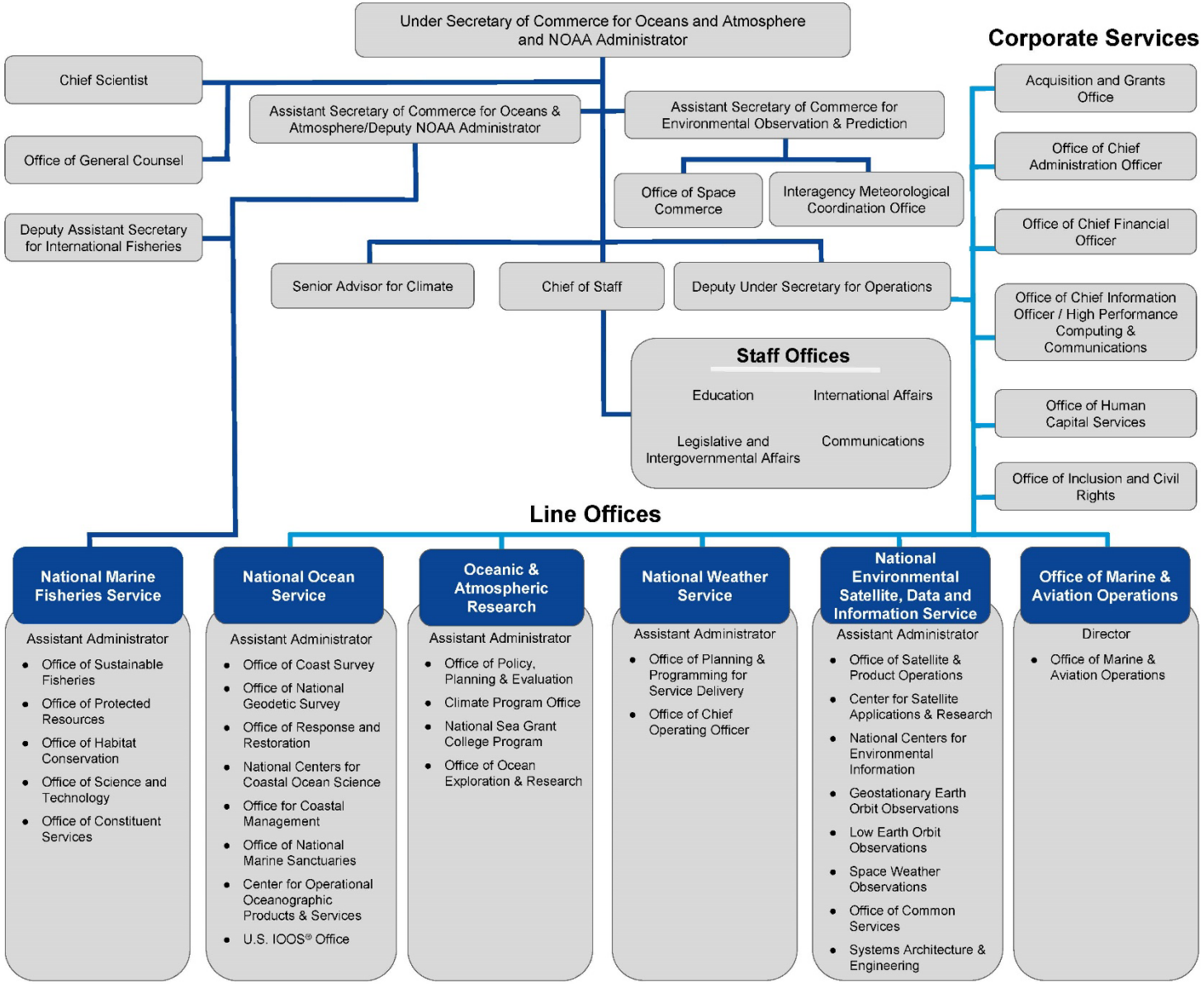
Current

NOAA Headquarters Organization

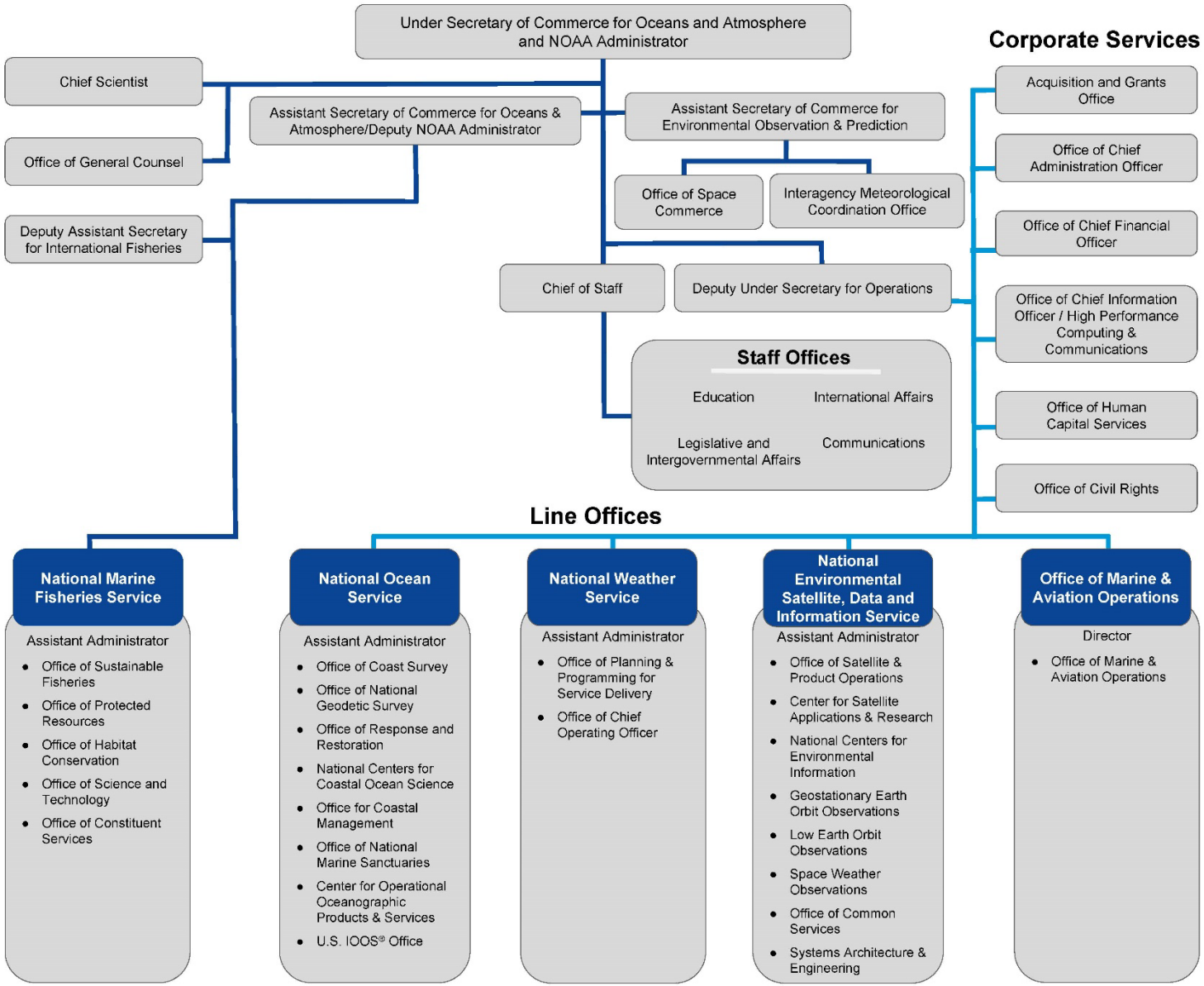
Office of the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere



Proposed

NOAA Headquarters Organization

Office of the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere



Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requests a budget of $4,515,302,000 in discretionary appropriations. In FY 2026, NOAA will continue to leverage partnerships to spur innovation in the weather and space enterprises and grow the American maritime economy. These activities will more effectively enable business enhancement and will continue to advance NOAA's mission of science, service, and stewardship.

The FY 2026 budget request refocuses the NOAA budget on core activities including collecting essential scientific observations like ocean and weather data to support navigation and forecasting. A leaner NOAA that focuses on core operational needs, eliminates unnecessary layers of bureaucracy, terminates nonessential grant programs, and ends activities that do not warrant a Federal role, will provide better value to the American public while maintaining activities that are essential to protecting lives and property.

NOAA manages the Nation's civil operational environmental satellites, which are the foundation of the environmental intelligence the agency provides. The FY 2026 budget ensures the continuity of these critical environmental data while focusing on the core weather mission. NOAA requests an increase to support multiple projects of next-generation polar orbiting capabilities, the Near Earth Orbit Network, that will ensure NOAA can maintain one primary and one secondary satellite in polar orbit to avoid any potential gaps in observation continuity and continue to provide observations that are essential to numerical weather prediction models and weather forecasting. NOAA will also continue development of the next-generation geostationary and space weather satellites, GeoXO and Space Weather Next, and is committed to leveraging the innovation and capabilities of the commercial industry to support weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, and space weather observations. In the development and operation of satellite programs, NOAA will adopt commercial best practices and technology where possible, working with industry partners. NOAA will also pursue expansion of data acquisition efforts to more fully utilize commercially available data where the data meet NOAA mission needs.

With the goal to streamline program management and focus on NOAA's operational missions, NOAA is proposing to eliminate Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) as a NOAA Line Office and transfer several activities to the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the National Weather Service (NWS). Within the funding that is proposed to be transferred from OAR to NWS, several critical initiatives will be prioritized, including broadening Weather Enterprise collaboration through the Earth Prediction Innovation Center and advancing an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled next-generation unified data assimilation framework.

The FY 2026 budget will better enable modernization of the NWS by prioritizing its core mission, restructuring the field, migrating its primary weather interactive processing system to the cloud, evolving the radar program, and operationalizing AI-based numerical weather predictions. NWS continues to produce operational forecasts, warnings, impact-based decision support services and other life-saving products and services to the emergency management community and public as they prepare for and respond to increasingly frequent severe weather and water events. To better support this increasing demand, an increase is requested for the

Radar Next program to continue efforts for the acquisition, integration, and implementation of a follow-on radar capability. Initial efforts related to Radar Next were funded by the Inflation Reduction Act and NOAA requires sustained funding to implement the weather radar network of the future. The current radar system is an important source of data used by weather forecasters and is at high risk of not being able to maintain target availability by 2030, which would significantly impact the ability of the NWS to provide lifesaving warnings and support services to core partners and emergency managers, and highlights the need for a replacement system.

NOAA manages a variety of specialized ships, aircraft, and uncrewed systems that make up the NOAA Fleet and play a critical role in the *in situ* collection of oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data in support of NOAA's mission. The FY 2026 budget will expand the Uncrewed Maritime System fleet, thereby expanding NOAA's capabilities and support for missions such as hydrographic surveys, ocean exploration, and mapping of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. These projects will enable the unleashing of American energy and have the potential to provide economic security to the American people by improving the flow of commerce, increasing U.S. ocean intelligence, and executing cost savings through the utilization of uncrewed systems within NOAA.

NOAA is responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. In support of strengthening the U.S. maritime economy, NOAA will increase the sustainable economic performance of commercial and recreational fisheries. In FY 2026, NOAA will continue to support the enforcement of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, which will support increasing NOAA's capacity to inspect fish and fish products imported into the U.S. NOAA will also continue to support and advance aquaculture and will prioritize actions to make aquaculture permitting more efficient.

The FY 2026 budget also proposes to transfer Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) functions to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service except for fishing related functions for which the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has legal responsibilities, including actions that NMFS would continue to undertake as an action agency (e.g., monitoring and reducing take in fisheries NMFS authorizes), and functions necessary to complete ESA consultations and MMPA permitting for fisheries. This change will streamline and improve implementation of these statutes and increase program efficiency.

The NOAA FY 2026 request will make critical investments to better enable NOAA to address current and emerging needs of the Nation. Through this budget, NOAA will help unleash American energy through initiatives supporting the marine mining market, leverage innovation in the weather and space enterprises, and enable and promote economic growth. Additional details are provided in the ensuing exhibits.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Budget Program, Largest to Smallest)

Increases

Page No In CJ	Appropriations	Budget Program	Title of Increase	Positions	Budget Authority
NOS-9	ORF	NOS	Transition OAR's Ocean Exploration and Research to NOS	37	$46,000
NOS-10	ORF	NOS	Transition OAR's Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring to NOS	36	$37,140
NOS-18	ORF	NOS	Transition OAR's Integrated Ocean Acidification to NOS	14	$17,000
NMFS-20	ORF	NMFS	Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	0	$1,418
NWS-22	ORF	NWS	Transition Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs from OAR	31	$61,334
NWS-37	PAC	NWS	Transition Research Supercomputing from OAR	3	$25,000
NWS-10	ORF	NWS	Central Processing Increase	2	$10,132
NWS-11	ORF	NWS	Transition High Performance Computing Initiatives from OAR	17	$10,000
NWS-6	ORF	NWS	Observations Increase	(1)	$1,500
NWS-27	PAC	NWS	Establish Radar Next Program	0	$500
NESDIS-27	PAC	NESDIS	Geostationary Extended Observations	16	$100,000
NESDIS-28	PAC	NESDIS	Near Earth Orbit Network	1	$46,500
MS-13	ORF	MS	Facilities Maintenance	(1)	$250
OMAO-14	ORF	OMAO	Expansion of UMS Fleet	6	$182
	Subtotal, Increases			161	$356,956

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Budget Program, Largest to Smallest)

Decreases

Page No In CJ	Appropriations	Budget Program	Title of Decrease	Positions	Budget Authority
NOS-7	ORF	NOS	Reduction to NOAA's Navigation, Observations, and Positioning Services	(100)	($31,288)
NOS-27	ORF	NOS	Decrease Support for National Marine Sanctuaries	(56)	($25,955)
NOS-25	ORF	NOS	Reduce Support for Coral Reef Conservation Program Grants	(4)	($7,393)
NOS-8	ORF	NOS	Reduce NOAA Support for the Hydrographic Survey Priorities / Contracts	0	($4,500)
NOS-22	ORF	NOS	Decrease Coastal Zone Management and Services	(24)	($4,194)
NMFS-6	ORF	NMFS	Marine Mammal, Sea Turtles, and Other Species Reduction	(311)	($107,455)
NMFS-14	ORF	NMFS	Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services Reduction	(168)	($39,500)
NMFS-17	ORF	NMFS	Fisheries Management Activities Reduction	(158)	($36,250)
NMFS-9	ORF	NMFS	Pacific Salmon Reduction	(152)	($33,000)
NMFS-24	ORF	NMFS	Enforcement Program Realignment	15	($10,836)
NMFS-19	ORF	NMFS	Salmon Management Activities Reduction	(1)	($10,250)
NMFS-16	ORF	NMFS	Observers and Training Reduction	(22)	($8,383)
NMFS-18	ORF	NMFS	Aquaculture Program Reduction	(1)	($4,756)
NMFS-8	ORF	NMFS	Atlantic Salmon Reduction	(2)	($3,000)
NMFS-15	ORF	NMFS	Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments Reduction	(14)	($139)
OAR-22	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's Ocean Exploration and Research to NOS	(37)	($46,000)
OAR-24	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring to NOS	(32)	($37,140)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Budget Program, Largest to Smallest)

OAR-11	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's U.S. Weather Research Program to NWS	(20)	($31,334)
OAR-33	PAC	OAR	Transition Research Supercomputing to NWS	(4)	($25,000)
OAR-34	PAC	OAR	Research Supercomputing Reduction	0	($25,000)
OAR-13	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar to NWS	(6)	($20,000)
OAR-23	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's Integrated Ocean Acidification to NOS	(15)	($17,000)
OAR-25	ORF	OAR	Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring Reduction	0	($15,360)
OAR-15	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's Joint Technology Transfer Initiative to NWS	(4)	($10,000)
OAR-28	ORF	OAR	Transition OAR's High Performance Computing Initiatives to NWS	(17)	($10,000)
OAR-29	ORF	OAR	High Performance Computing Initiatives Reduction	0	($8,231)
OAR-12	ORF	OAR	U.S. Weather Research Program Reduction	0	($7,506)
OAR-16	ORF	OAR	Joint Technology Transfer Initiative Reduction	0	($2,000)
OAR-14	ORF	OAR	Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar Reduction	0	($916)
NWS-23	ORF	NWS	Science and Technology Integration Decrease	(2)	($6,600)
NWS-28	PAC	NWS	Reduce Hydrogen Generator Recapitalization	0	($500)
NESDIS-23	PAC	NESDIS	GOES-R Series	(14)	($197,400)
NESDIS-24	PAC	NESDIS	Polar Weather Satellites	(7)	($26,440)
NESDIS-26	PAC	NESDIS	Common Ground Services Decrease	4	($23,647)
NESDIS-30	PAC	NESDIS	Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	3	($18,900)
NESDIS-14	ORF	NESDIS	National Centers for Environmental Information Decrease	(16)	($18,000)
NESDIS-10	ORF	NESDIS	Product Development, Readiness and Application Decrease	(13)	($15,750)
NESDIS-29	PAC	NESDIS	Space Weather Next	(9)	($1,606)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Budget Program, Largest to Smallest)

NESDIS-9	ORF	NESDIS	Reduction to Office of Satellite and Product Operations	7	($447)
NESDIS-11	ORF	NESDIS	U.S. Group on Earth Observations	0	($250)
MS-14	ORF	MS	Terminate Federal funding for Traffic Coordination System for Space	(18)	($55,000)
MS-20	PAC	MS	NOAA Construction	(5)	($25,810)
MS-11	ORF	MS	Realign Mission Services to Evolving NOAA Mission	6	($21,611)
MS-10	ORF	MS	Realign Executive Leadership to Evolving NOAA Mission	(1)	($3,513)
MS-12	ORF	MS	IT Security	1	($955)
OMAO-6	ORF	OMAO	Prioritize Marine Operations	(129)	($25,461)
OMAO-18	ORF	OMAO	Prioritize the NOAA Corps	(8)	($2,800)
OMAO-10	ORF	OMAO	Prioritize Flight Hours	(16)	($900)
	Subtotal, Decreases			(1,350)	($1,027,976)

Terminations

Page No In CJ	Appropriations	Budget Program	Title of Decrease	Positions	Budget Authority
NOS-23	ORF	NOS	Terminate NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Grants	0	($81,500)
NOS-2	ORF	NOS	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($54,600)
NOS-16	ORF	NOS	Termination of NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science	(111)	($49,119)
NOS-11	ORF	NOS	Terminate IOOS Regional Observations	0	($42,500)
NOS-26	ORF	NOS	Terminate Federal Support for National Estuarine Research Reserve System	0	($33,300)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
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NOS-24	ORF	NOS	Terminate NOAA's National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	0	($32,000)
NOS-17	ORF	NOS	Terminate NOAA's Competitive Research Program	(4)	($20,000)
NOS-29	PAC	NOS	Terminate National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	0	($8,500)
NOS-30	PAC	NOS	Terminate Marine Sanctuaries Construction	(1)	($4,000)
NMFS-33	PCSRF	NMFS	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Termination	(2)	($65,000)
NMFS-27	ORF	NMFS	Habitat Conservation and Restoration Termination	(192)	($56,184)
NMFS-3	ORF	NMFS	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($46,052)
NMFS-7	ORF	NMFS	Species Recovery Grants Termination	(4)	($6,500)
NMFS-21	ORF	NMFS	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants Termination	(2)	($3,377)
OAR-5	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	(216)	($102,292)
OAR-10	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	(285)	($90,156)
OAR-20	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's National Sea Grant College Program	(20)	($80,000)
OAR-7	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Climate Competitive Research	(60)	($69,600)
OAR-6	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Regional Climate Data and Information	(28)	($47,932)
OAR-19	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	(131)	($39,500)
OAR-35	PAC	OAR	Termination of Phased Array Radar	0	($20,000)
OAR-2	ORF	OAR	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($19,211)
OAR-21	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	(4)	($11,500)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Budget Program, Largest to Smallest)

OAR-26	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's National Oceanographic Partnership Program	(1)	($2,500)
OAR-30	ORF	OAR	Termination of OAR's Uncrewed Systems	0	($260)
NWS-2	ORF	NWS	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($9,886)
NESDIS-25	ORF	NESDIS	Space Weather Follow On	(21)	($97,200)
NESDIS-3	ORF	NESDIS	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($7,250)
NESDIS-7	ORF	NESDIS	GOES-14 Transfer	0	($6,716)
NESDIS-8	ORF	NESDIS	SARSAT Transfer	0	($2,500)
MS-16	ORF	MS	Terminate NOAA's Office of Education	(18)	($35,450)
MS-3	ORF	MS	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($1,000)
OMAO-2	ORF	OMAO	Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	($1,500)
OMAO-22	PAC	OMAO	Reduce Funds for Aircraft Recapitalization	(6)	($7,000)
	Subtotal, Terminations			(1,106)	($1,154,085)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Navigation, Observations and Positioning									
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	630	576	181,288	(100)	(83)	(31,288)	530	493	150,000
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	24	23	31,500	0	0	(4,500)	24	23	27,000
Ocean Exploration and Research	0	0	0	37	37	46,000	37	37	46,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	0	0	0	36	36	37,140	36	36	37,140
IOOS Regional Observations	0	0	42,500	0	0	(42,500)	0	0	0
Total, Navigation, Observations and Positioning	**654**	**599**	**255,288**	**(27)**	**(10)**	**4,852**	**627**	**589**	**260,140**
Coastal Science and Assessment									
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	287	258	94,119	(111)	(90)	(49,119)	176	168	45,000
Competitive Research	4	4	20,000	(4)	(4)	(20,000)	0	0	0
Integrated Ocean Acidification	0	0	0	14	12	17,000	14	12	17,000
Total, Coastal Science and Assessment	**291**	**262**	**114,119**	**(101)**	**(82)**	**(52,119)**	**190**	**180**	**62,000**
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services									
Coastal Zone Management and Services	133	126	50,194	(24)	(22)	(4,194)	109	104	46,000
Coastal Zone Management Grants	0	0	81,500	0	0	(81,500)	0	0	0
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	0	0	32,000	0	0	(32,000)	0	0	0
Coral Reef Program	43	33	33,500	(4)	2	(7,393)	39	35	26,107
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	0	0	33,300	0	0	(33,300)	0	0	0
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	193	174	65,955	(56)	(44)	(25,955)	137	130	40,000
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	**369**	**333**	**296,449**	**(84)**	**(64)**	**(184,342)**	**285**	**269**	**112,107**
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	54,600	0	0	(54,600)	0	0	0
Total, NOS - Discretionary ORF	**1,314**	**1,194**	**720,456**	**(212)**	**(156)**	**(286,209)**	**1,102**	**1,038**	**434,247**
Total, NOS - Discretionary PAC	1	1	12,500	(1)	(1)	(12,500)	0	0	0
Discretionary Total - NOS	**1,315**	**1,195**	**732,956**	**(213)**	**(157)**	**(298,709)**	**1,102**	**1,038**	**434,247**
Total, NOS - Other Mandatory Accounts	32	32	178,162	4	15	(144,090)	36	47	34,072
GRAND TOTAL NOS	**1,347**	**1,227**	**911,118**	**(209)**	**(142)**	**(442,799)**	**1,138**	**1,085**	**468,319**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Protected Resources Science and Management									
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	551	468	175,455	(311)	(252)	(107,455)	240	216	68,000
Species Recovery Grants	4	2	6,500	(4)	(2)	(6,500)	0	0	0
Atlantic Salmon	23	19	8,000	(2)	0	(3,000)	21	19	5,000
Pacific Salmon	340	289	75,000	(152)	(121)	(33,000)	188	168	42,000
Total, Protected Resources Science and Management	**918**	**778**	**264,955**	**(469)**	**(375)**	**(149,955)**	**449**	**403**	**115,000**
Fisheries Science and Management									
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	670	587	159,500	(168)	(134)	(39,500)	502	453	120,000
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments	511	466	205,851	(14)	(24)	(139)	497	442	205,712
Observers and Training	161	149	58,383	(22)	(24)	(8,383)	139	125	50,000
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	496	454	147,250	(158)	(156)	(36,250)	338	298	111,000
Aquaculture	43	36	24,000	(1)	1	(4,756)	42	37	19,244
Salmon Management Activities	43	42	65,250	(1)	(3)	(10,250)	42	39	55,000
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	13	11	44,297	0	0	1,418	13	11	45,715
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2	1	3,377	(2)	(1)	(3,377)	0	0	0
Total, Fisheries Science and Management	**1,939**	**1,746**	**707,908**	**(366)**	**(341)**	**(101,237)**	**1,573**	**1,405**	**606,671**
Enforcement									
Enforcement	260	228	78,492	15	13	(10,836)	275	241	67,656
Total, Enforcement	**260**	**228**	**78,492**	**15**	**13**	**(10,836)**	**275**	**241**	**67,656**
Habitat Conservation and Restoration									
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	192	184	56,184	(192)	(184)	(56,184)	0	0	0
Total, Habitat Conservation & Restoration	**192**	**184**	**56,184**	**(192)**	**(184)**	**(56,184)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	46,052	0	0	(46,052)	0	0	0
Total, NMFS - Discretionary ORF	**3,309**	**2,936**	**1,153,591**	**(1,012)**	**(887)**	**(364,264)**	**2,297**	**2,049**	**789,327**
Total, NMFS - Discretionary PAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, NMFS - Other Discretionary Accounts	3	3	65,649	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	1	1	649
Discretionary Total - NMFS	**3,312**	**2,939**	**1,219,240**	**(1,014)**	**(889)**	**(429,264)**	**2,298**	**2,050**	**789,976**
Total, NMFS - Mandatory Accounts	168	155	51,975	0	(32)	6,803	168	123	58,778
GRAND TOTAL NMFS	**3,480**	**3,094**	**1,271,215**	**(1,014)**	**(921)**	**(422,461)**	**2,466**	**2,173**	**848,754**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH
Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Climate Research									
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	216	204	102,292	(216)	(204)	(102,292)	0	0	0
Regional Climate Data and Information	28	28	47,932	(28)	(28)	(47,932)	0	0	0
Climate Competitive Research	60	51	69,600	(60)	(51)	(69,600)	0	0	0
Total, Climate Research	**304**	**283**	**219,824**	**(304)**	**(283)**	**(219,824)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Weather and Air Chemistry Research									
Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	285	244	90,156	(285)	(244)	(90,156)	0	0	0
U.S. Weather Research Program	20	17	38,840	(20)	(17)	(38,840)	0	0	0
Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar	6	6	20,916	(6)	(6)	(20,916)	0	0	0
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	4	4	12,000	(4)	(4)	(12,000)	0	0	0
Total, Weather and Air Chemistry Research	**315**	**271**	**161,912**	**(315)**	**(271)**	**(161,912)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research									
Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	131	111	39,500	(131)	(111)	(39,500)	0	0	0
National Sea Grant College Program	20	20	80,000	(20)	(20)	(80,000)	0	0	0
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	4	4	11,500	(4)	(4)	(11,500)	0	0	0
Ocean Exploration and Research	37	35	46,000	(37)	(35)	(46,000)	0	0	0
Integrated Ocean Acidification	15	15	17,000	(15)	(15)	(17,000)	0	0	0
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	32	32	52,500	(32)	(32)	(52,500)	0	0	0
National Oceanographic Partnership Program	1	1	2,500	(1)	(1)	(2,500)	0	0	0
Total, Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	**240**	**218**	**249,000**	**(240)**	**(218)**	**(249,000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Innovative Research and Technology									
High Performance Computing Initiatives	17	16	18,231	(17)	(16)	(18,231)	0	0	0
Uncrewed Systems	0	0	260	0	0	(260)	0	0	0
Total, Innovative Research and Technology	**17**	**16**	**18,491**	**(17)**	**(16)**	**(18,491)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	19,211	0	0	(19,211)	0	0	0
Total, OAR - Discretionary ORF	**876**	**788**	**668,438**	**(876)**	**(788)**	**(668,438)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total, OAR - Discretionary PAC	4	4	70,000	(4)	(4)	(70,000)	0	0	0
Discretionary Total - OAR	**880**	**792**	**738,438**	**(880)**	**(792)**	**(738,438)**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Observations	712	692	249,962	(1)	0	1,500	711	692	251,462
Central Processing	230	219	110,000	19	19	20,132	249	238	130,132
Analyze, Forecast and Support	2,888	2,830	589,500	(2)	0	0	2,886	2,830	589,500
Dissemination	92	88	116,979	(1)	0	0	91	88	116,979
Science and Technology Integration	471	440	175,920	29	27	54,734	500	467	230,654
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	9,886	0	0	(9,886)	0	0	0
Total, NWS - Discretionary ORF	**4,393**	**4,269**	**1,252,247**	**44**	**46**	**66,480**	**4,437**	**4,315**	**1,318,727**
Total, NWS - Discretionary PAC	32	32	104,200	3	3	25,000	35	35	129,200
Discretionary Total - NWS	**4,425**	**4,301**	**1,356,447**	**47**	**49**	**91,480**	**4,472**	**4,350**	**1,447,927**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems									
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	344	320	249,663	7	26	(9,663)	351	346	240,000
Product Development, Readiness and Application	82	74	59,250	(13)	(7)	(15,750)	69	67	43,500
U.S. Group on Earth Observations	0	0	750	0	0	(250)	0	0	500
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	**426**	**394**	**309,663**	**(6)**	**19**	**(25,663)**	**420**	**413**	**284,000**
National Centers for Environmental Information									
National Centers for Environmental Information	202	184	70,000	(16)	(6)	(18,000)	186	178	52,000
Total, National Centers for Environmental Information	**202**	**184**	**70,000**	**(16)**	**(6)**	**(18,000)**	**186**	**178**	**52,000**
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	7,250	0	0	(7,250)	0	0	0
Total, NESDIS - Discretionary ORF	**628**	**578**	**386,913**	**(22)**	**13**	**(50,913)**	**606**	**591**	**336,000**
Total, NESDIS - Discretionary PAC	356	323	1,414,066	(27)	2	(218,693)	329	325	1,195,373
Discretionary Total - NESDIS	**984**	**901**	**1,800,979**	**(49)**	**15**	**(269,606)**	**935**	**916**	**1,531,373**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

MISSION SUPPORT
Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Mission Support Services									
Executive Leadership	139	139	31,743	(1)	(14)	(3,513)	138	125	28,230
Mission Services and Management	665	654	177,611	6	(115)	(21,611)	671	539	156,000
IT Security	20	20	16,393	1	(4)	(955)	21	16	15,438
Payment to the DOC Working Capital Fund	0	0	71,299	0	0	0	0	0	71,299
Facilities Maintenance	2	2	6,000	(1)	(1)	250	1	1	6,250
Office of Space Commerce	43	31	65,000	(18)	(6)	(55,000)	25	25	10,000
Total, Mission Support Services	**869**	**846**	**368,046**	**(13)**	**(140)**	**(80,829)**	**856**	**706**	**287,217**
Office of Education									
Office of Education	18	18	35,450	(18)	(18)	(35,450)	0	0	0
Total, Office of Education	**18**	**18**	**35,450**	**(18)**	**(18)**	**(35,450)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	1,000	0	0	(1,000)	0	0	0
Total, MS - Discretionary ORF	**887**	**864**	**404,496**	**(31)**	**(158)**	**(117,279)**	**856**	**706**	**287,217**
Total, MS - Discretionary PAC	8	8	65,810	(5)	(5)	(25,810)	3	3	40,000
Discretionary Total - MS	**895**	**872**	**470,306**	**(36)**	**(163)**	**(143,089)**	**859**	**709**	**327,217**
Total, MS - Mandatory Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL MS	**895**	**872**	**470,306**	**(36)**	**(163)**	**(143,089)**	**859**	**709**	**327,217**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

Direct Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Marine Operations and Maintenance	704	688	229,461	(129)	(121)	(25,461)	575	567	204,000
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services	103	97	41,400	(16)	(13)	(900)	87	84	40,500
Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations	17	14	21,495	6	7	182	23	21	21,677
NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps	365	361	66,300	(8)	(4)	(2,800)	357	357	63,500
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	0	0	1,500	0	0	(1,500)	0	0	0
Total, OMAO - Discretionary ORF	**1,189**	**1,160**	**360,156**	**(147)**	**(131)**	**(30,479)**	**1,042**	**1,029**	**329,677**
Total, OMAO - Discretionary PAC	58	55	110,000	(25)	(23)	(7,000)	33	32	103,000
Total, OMAO - Other Discretionary Accounts	0	0	2,223	0	0	306	0	0	2,529
Discretionary Total - OMAO	**1,247**	**1,215**	**472,379**	**(172)**	**(154)**	**(37,173)**	**1,075**	**1,061**	**435,206**
Total, OMAO - Other Mandatory Accounts	0	0	36,361	0	0	387	0	0	36,748
GRAND TOTAL OMAO	**1,247**	**1,215**	**508,740**	**(172)**	**(154)**	**(36,786)**	**1,075**	**1,061**	**471,954**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

ORF SUMMARY

LINE OFFICE DIRECT DISCRETIONARY OBLIGATIONS

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
National Ocean Service	1,314	1,194	720,456	(212)	(156)	(286,209)	1,102	1,038	434,247
National Marine Fisheries Service	3,309	2,936	1,153,591	(1,012)	(887)	(364,264)	2,297	2,049	789,327
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	876	788	668,438	(876)	(788)	(668,438)	0	0	0
National Weather Service	4,393	4,269	1,252,247	44	46	66,480	4,437	4,315	1,318,727
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service	628	578	386,913	(22)	13	(50,913)	606	591	336,000
Mission Support	887	864	404,496	(31)	(158)	(117,279)	856	706	287,217
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	1,189	1,160	360,156	(147)	(131)	(30,479)	1,042	1,029	329,677
SUBTOTAL LO DIRECT DISCRETIONARY ORF OBLIGATIONS	**12,596**	**11,789**	**4,946,297**	**(2,256)**	**(2,061)**	**(1,451,102)**	**10,340**	**9,728**	**3,495,195**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

ORF ADJUSTMENTS

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
SUBTOTAL ORF DIRECT OBLIGATIONS	**12,596**	**11,789**	**4,946,297**	**(2,256)**	**(2,061)**	**(1,451,102)**	**10,340**	**9,728**	**3,495,195**
FINANCING									
Deobligations	0	0	(28,000)	0	0	0	0	0	(28,000)
Rescission	0	0	0	0	0	(46,299)	0	0	(46,299)
Total ORF Financing	**0**	**0**	**(28,000)**	**0**	**0**	**(46,299)**	**0**	**0**	**(74,299)**
SUBTOTAL ORF BUDGET AUTHORITY	**12,596**	**11,789**	**4,918,297**	**(2,256)**	**(2,061)**	**(1,497,401)**	**10,340**	**9,728**	**3,420,896**
TRANSFERS									
Transfer from ORF to PAC	0	0	1,810	0	0	(1,810)	0	0	0
Transfer from PAC to ORF	0	0	(2,100)	0	0	2,100	0	0	0
Transfer from P&D to ORF	0	0	(369,522)	0	0	(40,122)	0	0	(409,644)
Rescission	0	0	0	0	0	46,299	0	0	46,299
Total ORF Transfers	**0**	**0**	**(369,812)**	**0**	**0**	**6,467**	**0**	**0**	**(363,345)**
SUBTOTAL ORF APPROPRIATION	**12,596**	**11,789**	**4,548,485**	**(2,256)**	**(2,061)**	**(1,490,934)**	**10,340**	**9,728**	**3,057,551**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION
Direct Discretionary Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
NOS									
Acquisition/Construction									
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	0	0	8,500	0	0	(8,500)	0	0	0
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	1	1	4,000	(1)	(1)	(4,000)	0	0	0
Subtotal, NOS Construction	**1**	**1**	**12,500**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**(12,500)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total, NOS - PAC	**1**	**1**	**12,500**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**(12,500)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total, NMFS - PAC	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
OAR									
Systems Acquisition									
Research Supercomputing	4	4	50,000	(4)	(4)	(50,000)	0	0	0
Research Acquisitions and Management	0	0	20,000	0	0	(20,000)	0	0	0
Subtotal, OAR Systems Acquisition	**4**	**4**	**70,000**	**(4)**	**(4)**	**(70,000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total, OAR - PAC	**4**	**4**	**70,000**	**(4)**	**(4)**	**(70,000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
NWS									
Systems Acquisition									
Observations	4	4	16,200	0	0	0	4	4	16,200
Central Processing	26	26	68,000	0	0	0	26	26	68,000
Dissemination	1	1	10,000	0	0	0	1	1	10,000
Research Supercomputing	0	0	0	3	3	25,000	3	3	25,000
Subtotal, NWS Systems Acquisition	**31**	**31**	**94,200**	**3**	**3**	**25,000**	**34**	**34**	**119,200**
Construction									
Facilities Construction and Major Repairs	1	1	10,000	0	0	0	1	1	10,000
Subtotal, NWS Construction	**1**	**1**	**10,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**10,000**
Total, NWS - PAC	**32**	**32**	**104,200**	**3**	**3**	**25,000**	**35**	**35**	**129,200**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION
Direct Discretionary Obligations

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
NESDIS									
Systems Acquisition									
Geostationary Systems - R	54	53	276,000	(14)	(13)	(197,400)	40	40	78,600
Polar Weather Satellites	72	66	342,410	(7)	(1)	(26,440)	65	65	315,970
Space Weather Follow On	21	18	97,200	(21)	(18)	(97,200)	0	0	0
Common Ground Services	77	72	114,000	4	7	(23,647)	81	79	90,353
Geostationary Earth Orbit	32	31	285,000	16	16	100,000	48	47	385,000
Low Earth Orbit	16	13	78,500	1	3	46,500	17	16	125,000
Space Weather Next	44	36	151,606	(9)	(1)	(1,606)	35	35	150,000
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	40	34	66,900	3	9	(18,900)	43	43	48,000
Subtotal, NESDIS Systems Acquisition	**356**	**323**	**1,411,616**	**(27)**	**2**	**(218,693)**	**329**	**325**	**1,192,923**
Construction									
Satellite CDA Facility	0	0	2,450	0	0	0	0	0	2,450
Subtotal, NESDIS Construction	**0**	**0**	**2,450**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,450**
Total, NESDIS - PAC	**356**	**323**	**1,414,066**	**(27)**	**2**	**(218,693)**	**329**	**325**	**1,195,373**
Mission Support									
Construction									
NOAA Construction	8	8	65,810	(5)	(5)	(25,810)	3	3	40,000
Subtotal, Mission Support Construction	**8**	**8**	**65,810**	**(5)**	**(5)**	**(25,810)**	**3**	**3**	**40,000**
Total, Mission Support - PAC	**8**	**8**	**65,810**	**(5)**	**(5)**	**(25,810)**	**3**	**3**	**40,000**
OMAO									
Marine and Aviation Capital Investments									
Fleet Capital Improvements & Tech Infusion	17	17	28,000	(3)	(4)	0	14	13	28,000
Vessel Recapitalization and Construction	35	32	75,000	(16)	(13)	0	19	19	75,000
Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction	6	6	7,000	(6)	(6)	(7,000)	0	0	0
Subtotal, Marine and Aviation Capital Investments	**58**	**55**	**110,000**	**(25)**	**(23)**	**(7,000)**	**33**	**32**	**103,000**
Total, OMAO - PAC	**58**	**55**	**110,000**	**(25)**	**(23)**	**(7,000)**	**33**	**32**	**103,000**
GRAND TOTAL PAC DISCRETIONARY OBLIGATIONS	**459**	**423**	**1,776,576**	**(59)**	**(28)**	**(309,003)**	**400**	**395**	**1,467,573**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

PAC ADJUSTMENTS

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
SUBTOTAL PAC DIRECT OBLIGATIONS	**459**	**423**	**1,776,576**	**(59)**	**(28)**	**(309,003)**	**400**	**395**	**1,467,573**
FINANCING									
Deobligations	0	0	(13,000)	0	0	0	0	0	(13,000)
Total PAC Financing	**0**	**0**	**(13,000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(13,000)**
SUBTOTAL PAC BUDGET AUTHORITY	**459**	**423**	**1,763,576**	**(59)**	**(28)**	**(309,003)**	**400**	**395**	**1,454,573**
TRANSFERS									
Transfer from ORF to PAC	0	0	(1,810)	0	0	1,810	0	0	0
Transfer from PAC to ORF	0	0	2,100	0	0	(2,100)	0	0	0
Transfer from DOC Nonrecurring Expenses Fund	0	0	(44,000)	0	0	44,000	0	0	0
Total PAC Transfers	**0**	**0**	**(43,710)**	**0**	**0**	**43,710**	**0**	**0**	**0**
SUBTOTAL PAC APPROPRIATION	**459**	**423**	**1,719,866**	**(59)**	**(28)**	**(265,293)**	**400**	**395**	**1,454,573**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

OTHER ACCOUNTS DISCRETIONARY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
NMFS									
Fishermen's Contingency Fund Obligations	0	0	349	0	0	0	0	0	349
Fishermen's Contingency Fund Budget Authority	0	0	349	0	0	0	0	0	349
Fishermen's Contingency Fund Appropriations	0	0	349	0	0	0	0	0	349
Promote and Develop Fisheries Obligations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promote and Develop Fisheries Budget Authority	0	0	(369,522)	0	0	(40,122)	0	0	(409,644)
Promote and Develop Fisheries Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Obligations	2	2	65,000	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	0	0	0
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Budget Authority	2	2	65,000	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	0	0	0
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Appropriation	2	2	65,000	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	0	0	0
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund Obligations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund Obligations	1	1	300	0	0	0	1	1	300
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund Budget Authority	1	1	300	0	0	0	1	1	300
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund Appropriation	1	1	300	0	0	0	1	1	300
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Discretionary Direct Obligations~~	**3**	**3**	**65,649**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(65,000)**	**1**	**1**	**649**
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Discretionary Budget Authority~~	**3**	**3**	**(303,873)**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(105,122)**	**1**	**1**	**(408,995)**
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Discretionary Appropriation~~	**3**	**3**	**65,649**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(65,000)**	**1**	**1**	**649**
OMAO									
Medicare Eligible Retiree Healthcare Fund Obligations	0	0	2,223	0	0	306	0	0	2,529
Medicare Eligible Retiree Healthcare Fund Budget Authority	0	0	2,223	0	0	306	0	0	2,529
Medicare Eligible Retiree Healthcare Fund Appropriation	0	0	2,223	0	0	306	0	0	2,529
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Discretionary Direct Obligations~~	**0**	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**0**	**306**	**0**	**0**	**2,529**
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Discretionary Budget Authority~~	**0**	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**0**	**306**	**0**	**0**	**2,529**
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Discretionary Appropriation~~	**0**	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**0**	**306**	**0**	**0**	**2,529**
TOTAL, OTHER DISCRETIONARY DIRECT OBLIGATIONS	**3**	**3**	**67,872**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(64,694)**	**1**	**1**	**3,178**
TOTAL, OTHER DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY	**3**	**3**	**(301,650)**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(104,816)**	**1**	**1**	**(406,466)**
TOTAL, OTHER DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATION	**3**	**3**	**67,872**	**(2)**	**(2)**	**(64,694)**	**1**	**1**	**3,178**

Department of Commerce
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CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

GRAND TOTAL SUMMARY DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Operations, Research, and Facilities	12,596	11,789	4,548,485	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,490,934)	10,340	9,728	3,057,551
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction	459	423	1,719,866	(59)	(28)	(265,293)	400	395	1,454,573
Fisherman's Contingency Fund	0	0	349	0	0	0	0	0	349
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	2	2	65,000	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	0	0	0
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund	1	1	300	0	0	0	1	1	300
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicare Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund	0	0	2,223	0	0	306	0	0	2,529
GRAND TOTAL DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATION	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,336,223**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,820,921)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,515,302**

Department of Commerce
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CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY RESOURCES

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
Direct Discretionary Obligations									
ORF Direct Obligations	12,596	11,789	4,946,297	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,451,102)	10,340	9,728	3,495,195
PAC Direct Obligations	459	423	1,776,576	(59)	(28)	(309,003)	400	395	1,467,573
OTHER Direct Obligations	3	3	67,872	(2)	(2)	(64,694)	1	1	3,178
TOTAL Direct Discretionary Obligations	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,790,745**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,824,799)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,965,946**
Discretionary Budget Authority									
ORF Budget Authority	12,596	11,789	4,918,297	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,497,401)	10,340	9,728	3,420,896
PAC Budget Authority	459	423	1,763,576	(59)	(28)	(309,003)	400	395	1,454,573
OTHER Budget Authority	3	3	(301,650)	(2)	(2)	(104,816)	1	1	(406,466)
TOTAL Discretionary Budget Authority	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,380,223**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,911,220)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,469,003**
Discretionary Appropriations									
ORF Appropriation	12,596	11,789	4,548,485	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,490,934)	10,340	9,728	3,057,551
PAC Appropriation	459	423	1,719,866	(59)	(28)	(265,293)	400	395	1,454,573
OTHER Appropriation	3	3	67,872	(2)	(2)	(64,694)	1	1	3,178
TOTAL Discretionary Appropriation	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,336,223**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,820,921)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,515,302**
	0	0	(14,806)	0	0	2,006	0	0	(12,800)
Offsetting Receipts									
Net Budget Authority	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,365,417**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,909,214)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,456,203**
Net Appropriation	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,321,417**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,818,915)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,502,502**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

OTHER ACCOUNTS MANDATORY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
NOS									
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund Obligations	30	30	166,484	6	14	(148,484)	36	44	18,000
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund Budget Authority	30	30	7,884	6	14	116	36	44	8,000
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund Appropriation	30	30	0	6	14	0	36	44	0
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Obligations	0	0	1,287	0	0	(637)	0	0	650
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Budget Authority	0	0	1,277	0	0	(637)	0	0	640
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Appropriation	0	0	1,300	0	0	(700)	0	0	600
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Fund Obligations	2	2	10,391	(2)	1	5,031	0	3	15,422
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Fund Budget Authority	2	2	0	(2)	1	0	0	3	0
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Fund Appropriation	2	2	0	(2)	1	0	0	3	0
Subtotal, NOS Other Mandatory Direct Obligations	**32**	**32**	**178,162**	**4**	**15**	**(144,090)**	**36**	**47**	**34,072**
Subtotal, NOS Other Mandatory Budget Authority	**32**	**32**	**9,161**	**4**	**15**	**(521)**	**36**	**47**	**8,640**
Subtotal, NOS Other Mandatory Appropriation	**32**	**32**	**1,300**	**4**	**15**	**(700)**	**36**	**47**	**600**
NMFS									
Promote and Develop Fisheries Obligations	0	0	7,000	0	0	(7,000)	0	0	0
Promote and Develop Fisheries Budget Authority	0	0	376,522	0	0	33,122	0	0	409,644
Promote and Develop Fisheries Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fisheries Finance Program Account Obligations	0	0	202	0	0	(202)	0	0	0
Fisheries Finance Program Account Budget Authority	0	0	202	0	0	(202)	0	0	0
Fisheries Finance Program Account Appropriation	0	0	202	0	0	(202)	0	0	0
Environmental Improvement & Restoration Fund Obligations	0	0	8,448	0	0	4,000	0	0	12,448
Environmental Improvement & Restoration Fund Budget Authority	0	0	8,448	0	0	4,000	0	0	12,448
Environmental Improvement & Restoration Fund Appropriation	0	0	8,959	0	0	4,241	0	0	13,200
Limited Access System Administration Fund Obligations	40	40	14,133	0	(12)	1,116	40	28	15,249
Limited Access System Administration Fund Budget Authority	40	40	14,133	0	(12)	1,116	40	28	15,249
Limited Access System Administration Fund Appropriation	40	40	14,089	0	(12)	1,169	40	28	15,258
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund Obligations	0	0	750	0	0	(750)	0	0	0
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund Budget Authority	0	0	750	0	0	(750)	0	0	0
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund Appropriation	0	0	750	0	0	(750)	0	0	0
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Obligations	0	0	2,298	0	0	(238)	0	0	2,060
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Budget Authority	0	0	2,298	0	0	(238)	0	0	2,060
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund Appropriation	0	0	2,294	0	0	(234)	0	0	2,060

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OTHER ACCOUNTS MANDATORY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
North Pacific Observer Fund Obligations	0	0	4,674	0	0	309	0	0	4,983
North Pacific Observer Fund Budget Authority	0	0	4,674	0	0	309	0	0	4,983
North Pacific Observer Fund Appropriation	0	0	4,700	0	0	300	0	0	5,000
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Fund	128	115	14,470	0	(20)	9,568	128	95	24,038
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Fund	128	115	0	0	(20)	0	128	95	0
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Fund	128	115	0	0	(20)	0	128	95	0
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Mandatory Direct Obligations~~	**168**	**155**	**51,975**	**0**	**(32)**	**6,803**	**168**	**123**	**58,778**
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Mandatory Budget Authority~~	**168**	**155**	**407,027**	**0**	**(32)**	**37,357**	**168**	**123**	**444,384**
~~Subtotal, NMFS Other Mandatory Appropriation~~	**168**	**155**	**30,994**	**0**	**(32)**	**4,524**	**168**	**123**	**35,518**
OMAO									
NOAA Corps Commissioned Officers Retirement Obligations	0	0	36,361	0	0	387	0	0	36,748
NOAA Corps Commissioned Officers Retirement Budget Authority	0	0	36,361	0	0	387	0	0	36,748
NOAA Corps Commissioned Officers Retirement Appropriation	0	0	36,361	0	0	387	0	0	36,748
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Mandatory Direct Obligations~~	**0**	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**0**	**387**	**0**	**0**	**36,748**
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Mandatory Budget Authority~~	**0**	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**0**	**387**	**0**	**0**	**36,748**
~~Subtotal, OMAO Other Mandatory Appropriation~~	**0**	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**0**	**387**	**0**	**0**	**36,748**
TOTAL, OTHER MANDATORY DIRECT OBLIGATIONS	**200**	**187**	**266,498**	**4**	**(17)**	**(136,900)**	**204**	**170**	**129,598**
TOTAL, OTHER MANDATORY BUDGET AUTHORITY	**200**	**187**	**452,549**	**4**	**(17)**	**37,223**	**204**	**170**	**489,772**
TOTAL, OTHER MANDATORY APPROPRIATION	**200**	**187**	**68,655**	**4**	**(17)**	**4,211**	**204**	**170**	**72,866**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NOAA SUMMARY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
TOTAL Direct Obligations (Discretionary & Mandatory)	13,258	12,402	7,057,243	(2,313)	(2,108)	(1,961,699)	10,945	10,294	5,095,544
TOTAL Budget Authority (Discretionary & Mandatory)	13,258	12,402	6,832,772	(2,313)	(2,108)	(1,873,997)	10,945	10,294	4,958,775
TOTAL Appropriation (Discretionary & Mandatory)	13,258	12,402	6,404,878	(2,313)	(2,108)	(1,816,710)	10,945	10,294	4,588,168
Reimbursable Financing	362	300	496,389	(14)	21	(254,389)	348	321	242,000
TOTAL OBLIGATIONS (Direct & Reimbursable)	**13,620**	**12,702**	**7,553,632**	**(2,327)**	**(2,087)**	**(2,216,088)**	**11,293**	**10,615**	**5,337,544**
Offsetting Receipts	0	0	(14,806)	0	0	2,006	0	0	(12,800)
TOTAL OBLIGATIONS (Direct, Reimbursable & Offsetting Receipts)	**13,620**	**12,702**	**7,538,826**	**(2,327)**	**(2,087)**	**(2,214,082)**	**11,293**	**10,615**	**5,324,744**

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CONTROL TABLE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

LINE OFFICE SUMMARY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
National Ocean Service									
ORF	1,314	1,194	720,456	(212)	(156)	(286,209)	1,102	1,038	434,247
PAC	1	1	12,500	(1)	(1)	(12,500)	0	0	0
OTHER	32	32	178,162	4	15	(144,090)	36	47	34,072
TOTAL, NOS	1,347	1,227	911,118	(209)	(142)	(442,799)	1,138	1,085	468,319
National Marine Fisheries Service									
ORF	3,309	2,936	1,153,591	(1,012)	(887)	(364,264)	2,297	2,049	789,327
PAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	171	158	117,624	(2)	(34)	(58,197)	169	124	59,427
TOTAL, NMFS	3,480	3,094	1,271,215	(1,014)	(921)	(422,461)	2,466	2,173	848,754
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research									
ORF	876	788	668,438	(876)	(788)	(668,438)	0	0	0
PAC	4	4	70,000	(4)	(4)	(70,000)	0	0	0
TOTAL, OAR	880	792	738,438	(880)	(792)	(738,438)	0	0	0
National Weather Service									
ORF	4,393	4,269	1,252,247	44	46	66,480	4,437	4,315	1,318,727
PAC	32	32	104,200	3	3	25,000	35	35	129,200
TOTAL, NWS	4,425	4,301	1,356,447	47	49	91,480	4,472	4,350	1,447,927
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service									
ORF	628	578	386,913	(22)	13	(50,913)	606	591	336,000
PAC	356	323	1,414,066	(27)	2	(218,693)	329	325	1,195,373
TOTAL, NESDIS	984	901	1,800,979	(49)	15	(269,606)	935	916	1,531,373
Mission Support									
ORF	887	864	404,496	(31)	(158)	(117,279)	856	706	287,217
PAC	8	8	65,810	(5)	(5)	(25,810)	3	3	40,000
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Mission Support	895	872	470,306	(36)	(163)	(143,089)	859	709	327,217
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations									
ORF	1,189	1,160	360,156	(147)	(131)	(30,479)	1,042	1,029	329,677
PAC	58	55	110,000	(25)	(23)	(7,000)	33	32	103,000
OTHER	0	0	38,584	0	0	693	0	0	39,277
TOTAL, OMAO	1,247	1,215	508,740	(172)	(154)	(36,786)	1,075	1,061	471,954

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CONTROL TABLE
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LINE OFFICE SUMMARY

FY 2026 Proposed Operating Plan	POS	FTE	FY 2024 Enacted	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Program Changes	POS	FTE	FY 2026 Estimate
DIRECT OBLIGATIONS									
ORF	12,596	11,789	4,946,297	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,451,102)	10,340	9,728	3,495,195
PAC	459	423	1,776,576	(59)	(28)	(309,003)	400	395	1,467,573
OTHER	203	190	334,370	2	(19)	(201,594)	205	171	132,776
TOTAL, DIRECT OBLIGATIONS	**13,258**	**12,402**	**7,057,243**	**(2,313)**	**(2,108)**	**(1,961,699)**	**10,945**	**10,294**	**5,095,544**
ORF Adjustments (Deobligations/Rescissions)	0	0	(28,000)	0	0	(46,299)	0	0	(74,299)
ORF Transfers	0	0	(369,812)	0	0	6,467	0	0	(363,345)
PAC Adjustments (Deobligations/Rescissions)	0	0	(13,000)	0	0	0	0	0	(13,000)
PAC Transfers	0	0	(43,710)	0	0	43,710	0	0	0
OTHER Discretionary Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mandatory Accounts Excluded	(200)	(187)	(266,498)	(4)	17	136,900	(204)	(170)	(129,598)
TOTAL, DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS	**13,058**	**12,215**	**6,336,223**	**(2,317)**	**(2,091)**	**(1,820,921)**	**10,741**	**10,124**	**4,515,302**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Enacted, 2024	12,596	11,789	4,918,297	4,946,297
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	(2,256)	(2,061)	(1,497,401)	(1,451,102)
2026 Estimate	10,340	9,728	3,420,896	3,495,195

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
Comparison by program		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Ocean Service	Pos/BA	1,314	720,456	1,102	434,247	(212)	(286,209)
	FTE/Obl	1,194	720,456	1,038	434,247	(156)	(286,209)
National Marine Fisheries Service	Pos/BA	3,309	1,153,591	2,296	789,327	(1,012)	(364,264)
	FTE/Obl	2,936	1,153,591	2,048	789,327	(887)	(364,264)
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	Pos/BA	876	668,438	0	0	(876)	(668,438)
	FTE/Obl	788	668,438	0	0	(788)	(668,438)
National Weather Service	Pos/BA	4,393	1,252,247	4,437	1,318,727	44	66,480
	FTE/Obl	4,269	1,252,247	4,315	1,318,727	46	66,480
National Environmental Satellite, Data, & Information Service	Pos/BA	628	386,913	606	336,000	(22)	(50,913)
	FTE/Obl	578	386,913	591	336,000	13	(50,913)
Mission Support	Pos/BA	887	404,496	856	287,217	(31)	(117,279)
	FTE/Obl	864	404,496	706	287,217	(158)	(117,279)
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	Pos/BA	1,189	360,156	1,042	329,677	(147)	(30,479)
	FTE/Obl	1,160	360,156	1,029	329,677	(131)	(30,479)
ORF Financing	Pos/BA	0	(28,000)	0	(74,299)	0	(46,299)
	FTE/Obl	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Pos/BA	12,596	4,918,297	10,339	3,420,896	(2,256)	(1,497,401)
	FTE/Obl	11,789	4,946,297	9,727	3,495,195	(2,061)	(1,451,102)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	11,789	4,946,297	9,728	3,495,195	(2,061)	(1,451,102)
Total Obligations	**11,789**	**4,946,297**	**9,728**	**3,495,195**	**(2,061)**	**(1,451,102)**
Adjustments to Obligations:						
Deobligations	0	(28,000)	0	(28,000)	0	0
Unobligated Balance, SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, Expiring	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, Transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescission	0	0	0	(46,299)	0	(46,299)
Total Budget Authority	**11,789**	**4,918,297**	**9,728**	**3,420,896**	**(2,061)**	**(1,497,401)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Transfer from ORF to PAC	0	1,810	0	0	0	(1,810)
Transfer from PAC to ORF	0	(2,100)	0	0	0	2,100
Transfer from P&D to ORF	0	(369,522)	0	(409,644)	0	(40,122)
Rescission	0	0	0	46,299	0	46,299
Net Appropriation	**11,789**	**4,548,485**	**9,728**	**3,057,551**	**(2,061)**	**(1,490,934)**

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Enacted, 2024	459	423	1,763,576	1,776,576
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	(59)	(28)	(309,003)	(309,003)
2026 Estimate	400	395	1,454,573	1,467,573

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison by activity/subactivity		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Ocean Service	Pos/BA	1	12,500	0	0	(1)	(12,500)
	FTE/OBL	1	12,500	0	0	(1)	(12,500)
National Marine Fisheries Service	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	Pos/BA	4	70,000	0	0	(4)	(70,000)
	FTE/OBL	4	70,000	0	0	(4)	(70,000)
National Weather Service	Pos/BA	32	104,200	35	129,200	3	25,000
	FTE/OBL	32	104,200	35	129,200	3	25,000
National Environmental Satellite, Data, & Information Service	Pos/BA	356	1,414,066	329	1,195,373	(27)	(218,693)
	FTE/OBL	323	1,414,066	325	1,195,373	2	(218,693)
Mission Support	Pos/BA	8	65,810	3	40,000	(5)	(25,810)
	FTE/OBL	8	65,810	3	40,000	(5)	(25,810)
Office of Marine Aviation & Operations	Pos/BA	58	110,000	33	103,000	(25)	(7,000)
	FTE/OBL	55	110,000	32	103,000	(23)	(7,000)
Other	Pos/BA	0	(13,000)	0	(13,000)	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Pos/BA	459	1,763,576	400	1,454,573	(59)	(309,003)
	FTE/OBL	423	1,776,576	395	1,467,573	(28)	(309,003)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	423	1,776,576	388	1,467,573	(35)	(309,003)
Total Obligations	423	1,776,576	388	1,467,573	(35)	(309,003)
Adjustments to Obligations:						
Deobligations	0	(13,000)	0	(13,000)	0	0
Unobligated balance, Expiring end of year	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance Adj. SOY (start of year)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	423	1,763,576	388	1,454,573	(35)	(309,003)
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Transfer from ORF to PAC	0	(1,810)	0	0	0	1,810
Transfer from PAC to ORF	0	2,100	0	0	0	(2,100)
Transfer from DOC Nonrecurring Expenses Fund	0	(44,000)	0	0	0	44,000
Net Appropriation	423	1,719,866	388	1,454,573	(35)	(265,293)

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
SUMMARY OF OUTYEAR FUNDING ESTIMATES
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity/Subactivity	2026 Amount	2027 Amount	2028 Amount	2029 Amount	2030 Amount
National Ocean Service					
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	0	0	0	0	0
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research					
Research Acquisition and Management	0	0	0	0	0
National Weather Service					
Observations	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200
Central Processing	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
Dissemination	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Research Supercomputing	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Facilities Construction and Major Repairs	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service					
Geostationary Systems - R	78,600	78,600	78,600	78,600	78,600
Polar Weather Satellites	315,970	315,970	315,970	255,552	255,552
Space Weather Follow On	0	0	0	0	0
Common Ground Services	90,353	90,353	90,353	90,353	90,353
Geostationary Earth Orbit	385,000	385,000	385,000	385,000	385,000
Low Earth Orbit	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Space Weather Next	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Satellite CDA Facility	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,450
Mission Support					
NOAA Construction	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations					
Fleet Capital Improvements and Tech Infusion	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
Vessel Recapitalization and Construction	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction	0	0	0	0	0

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $468,319,000 and 1,085 FTE/ 1,138 positions for the National Ocean Service (NOS).

NOS secures the Nation by enabling the safe and efficient use of marine and coastal resources across the range of significant U.S. economic sectors. NOS supports maritime commerce and marine transportation, Arctic and deep ocean explorations, fishing and aquaculture, energy development, coastal recreation, and inland export and import industries. NOS's products and services save lives, create jobs, maximize economic returns, reduce risk, and protect coastal communities from the impacts of extreme weather. Our earth observations and navigation products are used daily by ship pilots, port managers, surveyors, resource managers, military branches, and airports. NOS products and services are also essential to emergency response and recovery from oil spills, hurricanes, damage to critical infrastructure, and more. NOS supports industry by providing critical environmental information and oceanographic conditions that support the economy and national security interests.

While coastal and Great Lakes counties represent less than 10 percent of the land area of the U.S., they are home to over 40 percent of our country's population, with a coastal economy that contributes to over 10 trillion U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually, employing over 54 million people[1].

Significant economic benefits are generated by these communities, but they also face unique threats: storms and hurricanes threaten lives and destroy property; tidal flooding damages infrastructure and forces costly adaptations; harmful algal blooms disrupt fishing industries and impact human health, water quality, and tourism; and high port congestion and navigation hazards can damage the supply chain. NOS products and services help eliminate or alleviate these threats to the Nation's economy through observations, modeling, monitoring, and forecasting capabilities that are transformed into tools and trainings for use by the private sector and other partners. NOS provides regional-specific resource management through technical assistance, applied research, and partnership building. NOS also plays a leading role in protecting the Nation's special marine places, including the National Marine Sanctuaries System, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and continues to explore the ocean to learn more about the critical resources it provides.

[1] https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/economics-and-demographics.html

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	54,600	0	0	0	(54,600)
	FTE/OBL	0	54,600	0	0	0	(54,600)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$54,600, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Navigation, Observations and Positioning

Goal Statement

Unleash American prosperity by providing foundational navigational, geodetic, and oceanographic data and ocean exploration missions to the public and private sectors to inform decisions that protect life and property and ensure the flow of commerce to support the economic development of Arctic, America's ocean, great lake and coastal resources.

Program Description

The data and services provided by the programs and offices within Navigation, Observations and Positioning activity support applications across many NOAA mission areas, including safe and efficient navigation and transportation, mapping for deep sea mineral exploration, protecting communities from the impacts of extreme weather, infrastructure, emergency planning and response, local ecosystem management, recreation and tourism, and living marine resource management, among others. Six core offices are responsible for conducting the activities and programs. These include the Office of Coast Survey (OCS), National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), and Ocean Exploration and Research (OER).

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

- **OCS:** Conduct 120 hydrographic surveys annually; builds out bathymetric data for the remaining portions of Alaska and Pacific islands (FY 2026); complete 1,650 electronic navigational chart cells (FY2026); and improve weather forecasting, high resolution bathymetry, and water level forecast guidance for Precision Marine Navigation (FY 2026-FY 2030).
- **NGS:** Support Precision Marine navigation by updating high priority shoreline and ports mapping needs (FY 2026-FY 2030); maintain high accuracy positioning and navigation infrastructure using the Continuous GPS Stations (CORS) for defining and modernizing the national coordinate system (NSRS) (FY 2026); provide tools and technical assistance to stakeholders.
- **CO-OPS:** Conduct comprehensive annual National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) maintenance including precise leveling to ensure station accuracy and stability at 110 of 185 NWLON stations (FY 2026).
- **IOOS:** Maintain national IOOS Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure (DMAC) subsystem to integrate available Federal, academic, private sector and non-profit ocean data, and will continue to make that data available (ongoing).

- **OER:** Map thousands of square kilometers in priority U.S. and international areas for critical minerals and the EEZ, reducing exploration risk and guiding site selection (FY 2026 - FY 2030); Transition deep-sea uncrewed systems and other innovative technologies from research to operations (FY 2026 – FY 2030); Discover mineral-rich areas, such as those containing polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulfides, and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (FY 2026 - FY 2030); Expand AI/ML capabilities to better process and analyze vast amounts of oceanographic data, including high-resolution imagery and sensor outputs (FY 2026 - FY 2030); Conduct annual competitions and telepresence expeditions to respond to National Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization (NOMEC) Council's mapping protocols (FY 2026 - FY 2030).
- **SOOM:** Maintain support for highest priority activities within available Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring funding.

Deliverables:

- 85,000 linear nautical miles of hydrographic data collected annually
- 2,000 new source data applications added to the authoritative suite of electronic navigational charts for public use
- High quality real-time oceanographic and meteorological observations for 40 existing NOAA PORTS® systems to support safe and efficient maritime commerce
- Begin applying updated National Bathymetric Source data for top 10 U.S. ports
- 3D coastal models in the west coast and Great Lakes regions developed and implemented to support marine transportation
- Over 95 percent of water level data from NWLON stations made available to the public annually
- Official U.S. Tidal Current Predictions maintained and provided to the public
- 1,750 square nautical miles of nearshore topographic-bathymetric (topobathy) lidar data collected
- Foundation CORS network of continuously operating GNSS stations expanded to support engineering, commercial, scientific and governance needs
- 8 National Geodetic Survey (NGS) webinars with a cumulative total of 3,500 attendees to inform stakeholders of our products and services and prepare them for upcoming NSRS Modernization
- Explored and characterized resources in key areas within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, such as the Arctic
- Improved sea ice forecasts for navigation, shipping, and local community activities

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

Navigation, Observations and Positioning: The Navigation, Observations and Positioning subactivity directly supports U.S. economic development by enabling safe commercial navigation, precision mapping and positioning, and ocean exploration. Over $2.3 trillion worth of products moving through U.S. ports each year, and every ship moving in and out of U.S. ports relies on navigational charts and water level information that NOS alone provides. The potential cost avoidance of electronic navigational charts (ENCs) to the Nation is estimated to be between $2.0 - 3.5 billion annually. All mapping, charting, and transportation activities and infrastructure are founded on a reliable, accurate national coordinate system called the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). NOS is solely responsible for maintaining that system, which provides more than $2.4 billion in potential annual benefits to the U.S. economy. Deep ocean investigations and exploration using sensors, satellites, autonomous vehicles, ships, and numerical models, help the U.S. characterize natural resources and understand the role of ocean currents and water properties in extreme events. Businesses and the maritime community rely on NOS data and tools for critical decisions, from maximizing cargo to planning safe and efficient routes and ship schedules that enable efficient global trade and support of our Nation's security. The following Offices are responsible for conducting the activities held within this subactivity:

- **Office of Coast Survey (OCS)** – is responsible for surveying U.S. waters, establishing maritime boundaries for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and delivering navigation products, services, and marine geospatial data to the Nation. The OCS Director serves as the U.S. National Hydrographer representing the U.S. interests in international fora.
- **National Geodetic Survey (NGS)** – manages the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), delineates the National Shoreline for nautical charts, and sets guidelines for all foundational positioning, geodesy, and coastal mapping activities.
- **Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS)** – is the authoritative source for accurate, reliable, and timely information on tides, water levels and currents. CO-OPS provides the framework for vertical tidal datums across the U.S. and maintains long-term sea level trends via its National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON).
- **Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)** – provides ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data via a network of national observing systems. Data and information from U.S. IOOS inform weather forecasting, marine navigation, and commerce.

Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts: Knowledge of the depth, shape, and composition of the seafloor has far-reaching benefits, including safer navigation, hazard mitigation for identification of areas with critical minerals, preservation of marine habitats and heritage, and a deeper understanding of resources for sustainable ocean economies. NOAA currently has four hydrographic ships, and also relies on hydrographic survey contractors to complement NOAA’s surveys on its four hydrographic ships. In FY 2025, NOAA increased its award of contracts for surveying in Alaskan and Arctic waters. OCS has set aside a small amount of funds for

matching with states and non-federal partners to increase collaboration and mapping coverage. Much of the momentum behind these efforts is being driven by new and emerging technologies in areas such as uncrewed systems, artificial intelligence, machine learning, geographic information systems and cloud computing. Mapping America's waters is vital for strengthening the maritime economy, safe navigation and national security.

Ocean Exploration and Research (OER): OER leads efforts to explore and characterize deep-water areas of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, Extended Continental Shelf, and other poorly known ocean areas and phenomena to contribute to a better understanding of mineral-rich areas, such as those containing polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulfides, and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts which are important for deep sea mining. Since its commissioning in 2008, the *Okeanos Explorer*, NOAA's ship assigned to exploration, has mapped over a million square kilometers of the seafloor at high resolution. Data collected from ocean exploration expeditions have been critical for science-based decisions on issues like deepwater fisheries management, potential oil and gas development or deep-sea mining, marine protected area establishment and management, determination of the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf, and nautical charting. OER will continue this tradition of excellence by mapping thousands of square kilometers in priority U.S. and international claim areas (e.g., the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and Mid-Pacific seamount provinces), data that directly reduces exploration risk and guides site-selection for U.S. applicants in support of E.O.14285 "Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources."

Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring (SOOM): SOOM supports NOAA's contribution to the GOOS by maintaining over 3,950 platforms that report environmental weather/climate information to global prediction centers and researchers. GOOS is a permanent global system for observations, modeling, and analysis of marine and ocean variables to support operational ocean services worldwide. SOOM's contribution helps describe the present state of the oceans, monitors long-term changes, supports operational services worldwide and is the basis for forecasting climate variability and change. SOOM also supports research to develop new data products from these observations to address a broad range of stakeholder needs.

IOOS Regional Observations: U.S. IOOS is a national-regional partnership working to integrate critical data, models, and new tools and forecasts to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect our oceans and Great Lakes. The 11 NOAA-certified IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) are regional observing systems that serve as integration hubs for data that support the needs of local communities and complement Federal models. NOAA has supported IOOS RAs through cooperative agreements for maintaining regional data integration systems and online portals to improve understanding and prediction of storms, wave heights, and their impacts. Integrated ocean information is available to stakeholders in coastal communities in near real time, as well as retrospectively, in order to support local decision-making and management activities. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Navigation, Observation and Positioning	Pos./BA	630	181,288	530	150,000	(100)	(31,288)
	FTE/OBL	576	181,288	493	150,000	(83)	(31,288)

Reduction to NOAA's Navigation, Observations, and Positioning Services (-$31,288, -83 FTE/ -100 Positions) – With this request, NOAA will provide core support for maritime commerce, navigation and positioning services, and will use innovative technology for ocean and coastal forecasting and prediction. Specifically, NOAA will maintain support for its navigation response teams to ensure the re-opening of ports and the resumption of shipping after storms, maintain the U.S. suite of more than 1,650 newly regridded electronic navigational chart cells, and provide access to over 1 million survey control marks to align geographic information and provide precise positioning data. NOAA will also operate the 2,500 stations within the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) Network to support accurate GPS positioning, the cost-share for Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) program which has reduced maritime accidents by 33 percent and groundings by 59 percent since its inception in 1991, as well as the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) which is crucial for promoting safe and efficient marine navigation, informing coastal development, supporting warnings for tsunamis and extreme weather events, and informing regulatory agencies in the Great Lakes region.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	Pos./BA	24	31,500	24	27,000	0	(4,500)
	FTE/OBL	23	31,500	23	27,000	0	(4,500)

Reduce NOAA Support for Hydrographic Survey Priorities / Contracts: (-$4,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – With this request, NOAA will continue to leverage qualified contractors to conduct hydrographic surveys for safer ship navigation along the coast and throughout the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but at a reduced rate. In support of the Administration's goals of accelerating energy development, national security, and maritime dominance, NOAA's hydrographic surveys map water depth, the location of obstructions, and other physical features of U.S. ports, waterways, Great Lakes, and offshore waters. This mapping data is the foundation of the NOAA nautical charts used by commercial, military, and recreational mariners to ensure safe navigation and efficient marine transportation, and provides the geospatial foundation for all other uses of U.S. waters including natural resource exploration, fisheries, coastal inundation, and more.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Ocean Exploration and Research	Pos./BA	0	0	37	46,000	37	46,000
	FTE/OBL	0	0	37	46,000	37	46,000

Transition OAR's Ocean Exploration and Research to NOS (+$46,000, 37 FTE/ 37 Positions) - This request will support the Administration's priority to grow the maritime economy through enhancement of ocean and coastal recreation and deep sea exploration. NOAA's Ocean Exploration will unleash America's offshore critical mineral access through initiatives to map, explore, and characterize the deep sea to locate and quantify our Nation's submerged mineral resources, including polymetallic nodules, cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, polymetallic sulfides, and heavy mineral sands. These initiatives include utilizing the NOAA fleet, leveraging industry partnerships, and maximizing scientific discovery to expand deep sea mining commercialization potential. During these explorations, NOAA will deploy cutting-edge tools like remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), and advanced sensors.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	Pos./BA	0	0	36	37,140	36	37,140
	FTE/OBL	0	0	36	37,140	36	37,140

Transition OAR's Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring to NOS (+$37,140, 36 FTE/ 36 Positions) –This request transitions the Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring program from OAR to NOS and maintains the highest priority of the most critical ocean observation systems, including the global drifter program, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation observations, and Argo observations, while reducing grant funding for ocean observations.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
IOOS Regional Observations	Pos./BA	0	42,500	0	0	0	(42,500)
	FTE/OBL	0	42,500	0	0	0	(42,500)

Terminate IOOS Regional Observations (-$42,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request will terminate funding for IOOS Regional Observations. NOAA will prioritize national Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure (DMAC) capacity to integrate remaining available Federal, academic, private sector and non-profit ocean data, and will continue to make that data available.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Coastal Science and Assessment

Goal Statement

Conduct applied research and deliver scientific information for the efficient management of ocean and coastal resources and disaster mitigation. Develop technology to improve our understanding of the changes to the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Provide coastal managers with data and tools to better manage ocean resources, and anticipate and respond to hazards like extreme weather, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms (HABs) and other contaminants. Protect people and restore fisheries and drinking water.

Program Description

The Coastal Science and Assessment activity helps understand, forecast, and mitigate the impacts of oil and chemical spills, marine debris, HABs, contaminants, and extreme weather on coastal resources. NOS provides coordination and support for coastal disasters and pollution incidents via data-driven tools and services. The Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) integrates spatial data with real-time data feeds to coordinate emergency response to coastal disasters. NOS ecological forecasts enable communities and businesses to plan for and mitigate the impacts of HABs, hypoxia, pathogens, and other ecological threats. NOS advances economic development and resilience by collaborating with communities to maximize coastal infrastructure investments by implementing best practices for restoring polluted areas and integrating value-enhancing nature-based features.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

- Host workshops and finalize three Marine Debris Action Plans for Florida, the Southeast, and the Gulf of Maine (FY 2026)
- Support the Marine Debris Foundation to address the adverse impacts of marine debris (FY 2026 - FY 2030)
- Release updates to three publicly available emergency response tools annually (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Train 750 emergency responders annually (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Resolve liability for priority natural resource damage assessment cases (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Timely response to 100 coastal pollution incidents annually, or all incidents in U.S. if less than 100 (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Conduct one preparedness exercise annually to enhance disaster response and recovery readiness (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Provide HAB, pathogen, and hypoxia forecasts that protect drinking water and support recreation and seafood industries in the priority regions throughout the U.S. (FY 2026 – FY 2030)

- Validate HAB detection and monitoring products to provide identification and toxicity measurements (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Conduct ocean acidification coastal observing and deploy sensors on NOAA research and volunteer observing ships
- Engage in regional ocean acidification vulnerability assessments, including improved understanding of economic impacts
- Research and model how ocean acidification may affect coastal and marine ecosystems and resources in U.S.

Deliverables:

- Three Marine Debris Action Plans for Florida, Southeast, Gulf of Maine completed
- At least two Genius Prizes awarded for Save Our Seas Innovation
- Removal of at least 100,000 pounds of marine debris
- Restored habitats, resources and the services they provide to compensate the public from pollution events
- Support requests for pollution scientific support, delivering decision support products for at least 80 percent of incidents
- Annual operational forecasts for HABs in priority U.S. regions
- Sustained observations of ocean acidification levels and impacts
- Enhanced understanding of the vulnerability of living marine resources and human communities to ocean acidification
- Optimized observing systems in each of the eight large marine ecosystem regions
- Completed hydrographic surveys and ship-based observations to understand the long-term changes in carbonate chemistry
- Data archived and accessible for ocean carbon and ocean acidification analyses, forecasting capabilities, and better assessments of marine resource vulnerability

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

Coastal Science Assessment, Response and Restoration

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) –NCCOS conducts applied research, ecological assessments, and tool development through four key focus areas: Marine Spatial Ecology, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), Contaminants, and Resiliency & Restoration. The Budget terminates NCCOS, but retains funding for critical HAB activities which will be carried out by other NOS programs.

Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) – prepares for, evaluates, and responds to threats to coastal environments including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, marine debris, and natural disasters. When coastal and marine resources are impacted, OR&R assesses the impacts and ensures that response, recovery, and restoration actions maximize recovery of those resources. OR&R operates through core programs or focus areas:

- **Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP):** OR&R's DPP strengthens operational capabilities for NOS and partners, supporting recovery of commerce, communities, and natural resources after disasters. This involves reviewing and testing response plans, simulating emergency response drills, maintaining equipment, training staff, and coordinating NOS mission readiness and situational awareness during emergencies.
- **Emergency Response, Assessment and Restoration / Oil & Chemical Natural Resource Restoration:** OR&R provides 24/7/365 scientific advice and training for responders to minimize harm from oil and chemical spills, vessel groundings, hazardous waste releases, hurricanes, and other disasters. It delivers critical services like spill trajectory modeling, shoreline cleanup assessment, and incident coordination, supporting national emergency response frameworks like ESF-10. OR&R holds responsible parties accountable to recover funds for restoration. This includes assessing environmental injury, ensuring cleanup actions protect resources, compensating the public for lost recreational opportunities, and restoring damaged habitats and fisheries through programs like the Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP).
- **Marine Debris Program (MDP):** Marine debris impacts the marine environment and navigation safety. Authorized by the Marine Debris Act, the Marine Debris Program leads national efforts to identify, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris. It spearheads community-based removal, prevention, and assessment efforts, provides funding, conducts outreach and research, coordinates with partners, and responds to debris from extreme weather events, augmented by authorities provided by the bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Competitive Research
The Competitive Research Program (CRP) funds regional-scale and targeted research and assessment activities through a competitive external grant process. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Integrated Ocean Acidification
The Ocean Acidification Program is authorized under the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act to better understand ocean acidification and its consequences on marine resources to enable communities to mitigate, prepare, and adapt to changes. Research through Coastal Acidification Networks (CANs) improves understanding of chemical changes, regional impacts, and effects on marine life and economies. OAP conducts long-term monitoring, enhances marine ecosystem management, promotes awareness and prepares communities for ocean acidification impacts.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	Pos./BA	287	94,119	176	45,000	(111)	(49,119)
	FTE/OBL	258	94,119	168	45,000	(90)	(49,119)

Termination of NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (-$49,119, -90 FTE/ -111 Positions) – This request will terminate the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). NOAA will continue to provide $4.3 million to support critical operational Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) forecasts that will be carried out by other NOS programs. Resources will be focused on priority areas such as observations, satellite data processing, and efforts to support the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Competitive Research	Pos./BA	4	20,000	0	0	(4)	(20,000)
	FTE/OBL	4	20,000	0	0	(4)	(20,000)

Terminate NOAA's Competitive Research Program (-$20,000, -4 FTE/ -4 Positions) – This request will eliminate competitive grants to academic research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other partners.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Integrated Ocean Acidification	Pos./BA	0	0	14	17,000	14	17,000
	FTE/OBL	0	0	12	17,000	12	17,000

Transition OAR's Integrated Ocean Acidification to NOS (+$17,000, 12 FTE/ 14 Positions) - This request transitions the Ocean Acidification Program from OAR to NOS and maintains support to better understand ocean acidification and the consequences of OA on marine resources to enable communities to mitigate, prepare, and adapt to changes.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Ocean and Coastal Management and Services

Goal Statement

Efficiently manage coastal and marine resources to ensure public safety and thriving economies. Leverage the Nation's ocean and coastal resources and enhance state and local preparedness by providing actionable information and resources needed to understand risk and opportunity. Emphasize collaboration and partnerships across multiple levels of public and private organizations.

Program Description

NOS manages programs and activities that ensure the efficient and best use of the Nation's valuable ocean and coastal resources. These include a national marine sanctuaries system that facilitate tourism and recreation activities. NOS also equips coastal planners with the scientific tools and skills they need to better manage their coastal resources and communities. This includes the interactive Digital Coast web platform, which provides data, tools, and training to inform coastal decisions by both state resource managers and local officials. NOS also works in partnership with local governments, states, and other partners to advance their coastal management objectives through the national Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), and the National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs).

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

- Expedite NOAA review and support for the advancement of deep seabed mining in the U.S. (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Collect and deliver additional economic data in U.S. coastal states and territories (FY 2026)
- Provide technical services, such as economic analysis, foundational data, mapping, and expertise, to enable coastal communities to sustain coastal and ocean resources and grow economies (FY 2026 – FY 2030)
- Complete valuation studies for economic benefits and services provided by U.S. coral reefs (FY 2026)
- Continue priority efforts in coral reef restoration, mitigating land-based sources of pollution, and monitoring (FY 2026)
- Maintain ecological forecasting for coral bleaching via the coral reef watch program (FY 2026 - FY 2030)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Deliverables:

- Priority data and mapping gaps filled, and tools and training resources provided through Digital Coast to help state and local communities plan for the effects of coastal flooding and extreme weather
- Training or job aids that advance approaches and best practices to understand and make decisions that address current and future risks from extreme weather
- Improved coral bleaching forecasts and ocean acidification models
- Reauthorized Coral Reef Conservation Act requirements met
- Highest priority needs of Coral Reef Monitoring Program, and efforts to mitigate Story Coral Tissue Loss Disease advanced
- Developed priority management strategies for coral reef protection to minimize the impacts of stressors to coral reefs
- Maintain critical infrastructure of sanctuaries
- Maintain activities to ensure safe operations at Federal worksites within sanctuaries
- Continue implementation of management plans across the National Marine Sanctuary System

Explanation and Justification

The following subactivities are funded through the Ocean and Coastal Management and Services activity, and supported by the Office for Coastal Management (OCM) and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS):

Coastal Zone Management and Services: U.S. coastal communities are home to over 128 million people, support 58.3 million jobs, and contribute more than $9.5 trillion to the U.S. economy. NOAA, in coordination with other agencies, provides science and data to support state and local coastal resource management. Products and services are provided via NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (OCM), which enables and guides implementation of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and the NERRs System authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. The CZM Program provides the basis for strengthening coastal economies by balancing diverse interests across the Nation's 62,000 miles of coastline along 34 states. OCM delivers easy-to-use tools, training, and technical assistance through NOAA's Digital Coast, as required in the Digital Coast Act. OCM supports a risk-informed approach to prioritize actions that protect coastal property and infrastructure. Digital Coast provides easy access to data, information, tools, and training to help communities address coastal issues, including 30 trillion points of lidar, 196 terabytes of imagery, 800,000 square miles of land cover, over 80 tools with nearly 160 use examples, and over 170 trainings. OCM provides easily accessible coastal data, mapping and visualization, and practitioner training to achieve efficiency through state and local preparedness. OCM also supports activities under the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act and the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act including issuing licenses to U.S. companies for exploration and permits for commercial recovery.

Coastal Zone Management Grants: CZM Grants assist states with planning and managing uses in coastal areas, including preparing for and responding to coastal hazards. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund: This fund provides grants that increase natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Coral Reef Program: Coral reefs provide a range of economic benefits and vital ecosystem services such as food, recreation, marine habitat, medicines, and coastal protection. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and reauthorized as part of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act, brings together multidisciplinary expertise from across NOAA and partners to conserve and restore coral reefs. In accordance with the reauthorization, investments will be made to continue to manage watersheds and land-based sources of pollution, address overfishing and promote sustainable American fisheries, manage changing ocean conditions like rising temperatures and acidification, and restore coral reefs including efforts to respond to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS): NERRS is a network of 30 state-managed protected estuarine areas, covering over 1.4 million acres across 24 states and territories, established under the CZMA. NOAA provides 70 percent of funding while states manage daily operations. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas: The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) manages a network of America's underwater parks. Authorized by the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA), the system has grown into a network of 18 National Marine Sanctuaries encompassing more than 629,000 square miles. With over 16 million annual visitors, these national treasures generate billions in economic benefits from tourism, recreation, and fisheries. The system safeguards America's iconic marine gems from illegal resource extraction and habitat degradation while allowing for their sustainable use, thereby bolstering commerce and tourism.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Coastal Zone Management and Services	Pos./BA	133	50,194	109	46,000	(24)	(4,194)
	FTE/OBL	126	50,194	104	46,000	(22)	(4,194)

Decrease Coastal Zone Management and Services (-$4,194, -22 FTE/ -24 Positions) – This request will streamline coastal management products and services, prioritizing those that advance economic development, and reduce economic losses by enabling state and local decision-making that protects coastal businesses and infrastructure, such as ports, roads, hospitals and utilities. NOAA will also continue its strong partnerships with the private sector, including in the areas of mapping and data acquisition, and support the development of emerging coastal industries.

NOAA will eliminate external funding for Regional Ocean Partnerships. NOAA will reduce its training development and delivery and will streamline web-based geospatial or other products as described above, while continuing to implement the Digital Coast Act. This includes efforts to fill data gaps, support private sector partnerships and emerging ocean industries, and deliver user-friendly foundational data, as well as mapping, economic, and other products and services that enable state and local communities to make risk-informed decisions regarding public safety, critical infrastructure, and coastal investments

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Coastal Zone Management Grants	Pos./BA	0	81,500	0	0	0	(81,500)
	FTE/OBL	0	81,500	0	0	0	(81,500)

Terminate NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Grants (-$81,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) –This request will terminate grant funding for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs. NOAA will continue to administer existing cooperative agreements, while also providing national coordination and in-kind support to state coastal zone management agencies that are able operate programs using state funds.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	Pos./BA	0	32,000	0	0	0	(32,000)
	FTE/OBL	0	32,000	0	0	0	(32,000)

Terminate NOAA's National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund (-$32,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request terminates funding for the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Coral Reef Program	Pos./BA	43	33,500	39	26,107	(4)	(7,393)
	FTE/OBL	33	33,500	35	26,107	2	(7,393)

Reduce Support for Coral Reef Conservation Program Grants (-$7,393, +2 FTE/ -4 Positions) –NOAA will continue to prioritize monitoring of the Nation's coral reefs, including NOAA-led coral research projects on resilience and coral disease. NOAA will continue to support the basic operation of Mission Iconic Reefs and continue working on the highest priority new provisions of the Reauthorized Coral Reef Conservation Act. NOAA will reduce or eliminate external grant funding for coral reefs, including eliminating the Ruth D. Gates awards.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	Pos./BA	0	33,300	0	0	0	(33,300)
	FTE/OBL	0	33,300	0	0	0	(33,300)

Terminate Federal Support for National Estuarine Research Reserve System (-$33,300, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request will eliminate NOAA's portion of funding support to states for the operations and management of the NERRS authorized under the CZMA. NOAA will continue to administer existing cooperative agreements and provide national-level system coordination and in-kind support to state agencies and academic institutions that choose to continue operating the reserves using state funds.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	Pos./BA	193	65,955	137	40,000	(56)	(25,955)
	FTE/OBL	174	65,955	130	40,000	(44)	(25,955)

Decrease Support for National Marine Sanctuaries (-$25,955, -44 FTE/ -56 Positions) – With this request, NOAA will continue to support and protect all 18 of its National Marine Sanctuaries, and will focus on ensuring critical Federal oversight of the existing system in accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act statutory mandates and requirements. NOAA will prioritize the maintenance and installation of mooring buoys and will continue to support contracts for mission critical services to ensure safety requirements are met. NOAA's Federal workforce will continue efforts to enhance public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

NOAA will eliminate many of its services, agreements and contracts with external partners, and will reduce on water operations. NOAA will prioritize existing sanctuaries and will not advance the designation of new national marine sanctuaries.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Acquisition/Construction

Goal Statement

The NOS Construction activity provides construction and acquisition in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) and the National Marine Sanctuaries System.

Program Description

The NERRS is a Federal-state partnership established under the Coastal Zone Management Act, designed to protect valuable estuarine resources. NERRS are state-owned lands and onsite facilities operated and managed by the states. NOAA competitively funds NERRS construction and land acquisition projects. NERRS PAC funds require a 70:30 (Federal: state) match for facilities construction, and 1:1 match for land acquisition.

NOS also administers the Nation's system of 18 Marine Sanctuaries through NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The office serves as the trustee for this network of underwater parks encompassing more than 629,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. PAC funding supports capital costs of maintaining the Sanctuary System's facilities and small boat fleet.

Whenever possible NOAA develops facilities partnerships with existing aquaria, museums and other entities to engage the public and environmental decision-makers.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this activity.

Explanation and Justification

The budget does not request funding for the National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction or Marine Sanctuaries Construction programs.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	Pos./BA	0	8,500	0	0	0	(8,500)
	FTE/OBL	0	8,500	0	0	0	(8,500)

Terminate National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction (-$8,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request will eliminate Federal funding support to states for NERRS land acquisition, construction, and facility repairs or upgrades. NOAA will continue to provide national-level system coordination and in-kind support to state governments that choose to continue operating the reserves using state funds.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	Pos./BA	1	4,000	0	0	(1)	(4,000)
	FTE/OBL	1	4,000	0	0	(1)	(4,000)

Terminate Marine Sanctuaries Construction (-$4,000, -1 FTE/ -1 Positions) – This request will eliminate funding for the Marine Sanctuaries Construction program.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	30	30	7,884	129,112
Less: Adjustments	6	14	116	1,959
2026 Estimate	36	44	8,000	131,071

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund	Pos/BA	30	7,884	36	8,000	6	116
	FTE/OBL	30	129,112	44	131,071	14	1,959
Total: Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund	Pos/BA	30	7,884	36	8,000	6	116
	FTE/OBL	30	129,112	44	131,071	14	1,959

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	30	129,112	44	131,071	14	1,959
Total Obligations	30	129,112	44	131,071	14	1,959
Adjustments to Obligations:						
New offsetting collections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries	0	(20,000)	0	(20,000)	0	0
Unobligated balance, SOY	0	(213,661)	0	(327,766)	0	(114,105)
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	(60,000)	0	(60,000)	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	331,032	0	294,695	0	(36,337)
Collections	0	(158,000)	0	(10,000)	0	148,000
Total Budget Authority	30	7,884	44	8,000	14	116
Financing from Transfers:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	(340)	0	(456)	0	(116)0
Appropriation temporarily reduced	0	456	0	456	0	0
Transfer from DOI	0	(8,000)	0	(8,000)	0	0
Net Appropriation	30	0	44	0	14	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund

Goal Statement

The Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund facilitates the spill response, damage assessment, and natural resource restoration activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Base Program

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund was established under Section 1012(a) of the Oil Pollution Act for the deposit of sums provided by any party or governmental entity for response to discharges of oil or releases of hazardous substances, for assessment of damages to NOAA trust resources resulting from those discharges and releases, and for the restoration of the injured natural resources.

Through the Revolving Fund, NOAA does the following:

- Retains funds that are recovered through settlement or awarded by a court for restoration of injured natural resources and retains reasonable costs of conducting spill response and damage assessments that are recovered by NOAA through negotiated settlement, court award, or other reimbursement
- Ensures funds deposited shall remain available to the trustee, without further appropriation, until expended to pay costs associated with response, damage assessment, and restoration of natural resources

The NOAA Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund facilitates and sustains: (1) natural resource damage assessment while the Departments of Commerce and Justice seek full reimbursement from potentially responsible parties; and (2) restoration, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of injured or lost natural resources, including resources of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves, tidal wetlands and other habitats, for which NOAA is trustee. These program functions are conducted jointly within NOAA by the Office of General Counsel, NOS, and NMFS.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	1,277	1,287
Less: Adjustments	0	0	(637)	(637)
2026 Estimate	0	0	640	650

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund	Pos/BA	0	1,277	0	640	0	(637)
	FTE/OBL	0	1,287	0	650	0	(637)
Total: Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund	Pos/BA	0	1,277	0	640	0	(637)
	FTE/OBL	0	1,287	0	650	0	(637)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	0	1,287	0	650	0	(637)
Total Obligations	0	1,287	0	650	0	0
Adjustments to Obligations:						
New offsetting collections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collections	0	(10)	0	(10)	0	0
Total Budget Authority	0	1,277	0	640	0	(637)
Financing from Transfers:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	(51)	0	(74)	0	0
Appropriation temporarily reduced	0	74	0	34	0	0
Net Appropriation	0	1,300	0	600	0	(637)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund

Goal Statement

The Sanctuaries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund receives proceeds from civil penalties and forfeiture claims against responsible parties, as determined through court settlements or agreements, for violations of NOAA sanctuary regulations.

Base Program

Penalties received are held in sanctuary site-specific accounts from year to year, as the funds are spent on resource protection within the sanctuary site where the penalty or forfeiture occurred. Funds are expended for resource protection purposes which may include all aspects of law enforcement (from equipment to labor), community-oriented policing programs, and other resource protection and management measures such as the installation of mooring buoys or restoration of injured resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	2	2	0	10,391
Less: Adjustments	(2)	1	0	5,031
2026 Estimate	0	3	0	15,422

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Gulf Coast Restoration Fund	Pos/BA	2	0	0	0	(2)	0
	FTE/OBL	2	10,391	3	15,422	1	5,031
Total: Gulf Coast Restoration Fund	Pos/BA	2	0	0	0	(2)	0
	FTE/OBL	2	10,391	3	15,422	1	5,031

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	2	10,391	3	15,422	1	5,031
Total Obligations	0	10,391	3	15,422	1	0
Adjustments to Obligations:						
New offsetting collections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collections	0	(10,391)	0	(15,422)	0	(5,031)
Total Budget Authority	2	0	3	0	1	0
Financing from Transfers:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appropriation temporarily reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	2	0	3	0	1	0

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Fund

Goal Statement

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Fund provides funding for the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program. The purpose of this program is to initiate and sustain an integrative, holistic understanding of the Gulf of America ecosystem and support, to the maximum extent practicable, restoration efforts and the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, including its fish stocks, fishing industries, habitat, and wildlife through ecosystem research, observation, monitoring, and technology development.

Base Program

To ensure the best use of resources the Program will coordinate with existing Federal and state science and technology programs, including other activities funded under the RESTORE Act. Section 1604 of the RESTORE Act authorized funding for the Program using 2.5 percent of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $848,754,000 and 2,173 FTE/ 2,466 positions for National Marine Fisheries Service.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – the area extending from three to 200 nautical miles offshore. NMFS provides critical support to commercial and recreational marine fisheries, which generate $321 billion in sales impact, and support 2.3 million jobs economy-wide[1], and aquaculture industries, which contribute $1.7 billion worth of seafood or 23 percent of total U.S. seafood production by value.[2] NMFS also provides scientific and policy leadership in the international arena, and plays a key role in the management of living marine resources in coastal areas under state jurisdiction. The U.S. aquaculture industry produced $1.7 billion worth of seafood in 2022, which equals about 23 percent of the total U.S. seafood production by value.

NMFS implements science-based conservation and management actions aimed at sustaining long-term use and promoting the health of coastal and marine ecosystems for the Nation's benefit. Programmatic authority for fisheries management, species protection, and habitat conservation activities is derived primarily from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). Other acts provide additional authority for enforcement, seafood safety, habitat restoration, and cooperative efforts with states, Tribes, interstate fishery commissions, and other countries. All of these activities rely on strong scientific and research capabilities to support the challenging public policy decision process associated with NMFS' stewardship responsibilities.

NOAA's FY 2026 President's Budget request proposes to transfer ESA and MMPA functions in the NMFS Office of Protected Resources to the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), which would improve coordination and efficiency and streamline implementation of these statutes, reducing regulatory burden on American citizens and industry.

NMFS would transfer ESA listing and recovery functions, Section 6 grants to states, and Section 7 consultation requirements. Similarly, NMFS also would transfer MMPA waivers for take, and permits for scientific research, photography and public display. Housing these ESA and MMPA activities at one agency would support infrastructure, energy, and natural resource development by significantly streamlining the permitting process. For example, under this proposal, the oil and gas industry would be able to get all MMPA incidental take authorizations from FWS only, rather than separate authorizations from FWS and NMFS.

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[1] National Marine Fisheries Service. 2024. Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2022. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-248, p.3 Available at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states

[2] National Marine Fisheries Service (2022) Fisheries of the United States, 2024. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Current Fishery Statistics No. 2022 p 13. Available at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-united-states

NMFS would retain staff and functions related to fishing for which it has legal responsibilities, including actions that NMFS undertakes as an action agency and functions necessary to complete ESA consultations and MMPA permitting for fisheries. These activities support the important ongoing work of the regional fishery management councils who develop the fishery management plans that regulate commercial and recreational fishing. NMFS and FWS will ensure this proposal supports the fishing industry and is consistent with Executive Order 14726 (Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/ NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	46,052	0	0	0	(46,052)
	FTE/OBL	0	46,052	0	0	0	(46,052)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$46,052, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Protected Resources Science and Management

Goal Statement

The mission of the Protected Resources Science and Management activity is to assess, understand, and conserve the health of protected species, the ecosystems that sustain them, and the communities that value and depend on them.

Program Description

NMFS, in partnership with internal and external stakeholders, uses best available science to develop and implement best practices and conservation actions to reduce threats to protected species and their marine and coastal ecosystems. NMFS Programs funded within this activity operate under the legislative authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which NMFS implements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- Conduct ESA Section 7 consultations for fisheries-related actions as well as functions that are connected to supporting and optimizing fisheries
- Designate critical habitat
- Work with Take Reduction Teams (TRTs) to achieve MMPA goals through increased compliance monitoring and bycatch assessments
- Evaluate effectiveness and recommend enforcement measures, modify existing regulations, and add protective measures to reduce marine mammal bycatch in fisheries
- Research the effects of fisheries on protected species
- Analyze protected species survey data to determine population trends

Deliverables:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- ESA proposed and final listing regulations, Section 4(d) rules, and critical habitat regulations

- ESA and MMPA environmental reviews completed for fisheries-related actions
- Improved or newly developed abundance and fishery mortality estimates for stocks
- MMPA List of Fisheries classifying U.S. commercial fisheries into one of three Categories according to the level of incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals
- Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports

Explanation and Justification

Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species
Under the legislative authority of the ESA and MMPA, this budget line supports activities that conserve and recover species threatened or endangered with extinction, as well as most marine mammals.

Species Recovery Grants (ESA Section 6, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
Recovery and conservation actions for listed species under NMFS jurisdiction are implemented through Species Recovery Grants, which are awarded to states and Tribes. Funding may also support monitoring of candidate species and recently delisted species. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Atlantic Salmon (ESA Sections 4, 7, 10)
These programs provide funding for the conservation and recovery of ESA-listed Atlantic salmon in the Northeast. Gulf of Maine Atlantic salmon are co-managed by NMFS, USFWS, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and the Penobscot Indian Nation. Under the ESA, the Essential Fish Habitat provisions under Magnuson-Stevens Act, and a joint Statement of Cooperation with the co-managers, NMFS is responsible for marine stock assessments, designating critical habitat, estuary and marine interagency Section 7 consultations and habitat conservation planning, and minimizing dam impacts.

Pacific Salmon (ESA, All Sections)
Under the legislative authority of the ESA, NMFS conducts interagency Section 7 consultations, habitat conservation planning, and listing and recovery actions to recover threatened and endangered Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	Pos./BA	551	175,455	240	68,000	(311)	(107,455)
	FTE/OBL	468	175,455	216	68,000	(252)	(107,455)

Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species Reduction (-$107,455, -252 FTE/ -311 Positions) – NOAA will continue funding its highest priority activities, including Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species at $52.0 million, Marine Mammal Protection at $8.0 million, and Right Whale Recovery at $8.0 million, for a total of $68.0 million. NMFS will prioritize funding for fisheries-related permitting and consultation activities to support the Administration's priorities including, in particular, Executive Order 14276 "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness." For programmatic statutory responsibilities, NOAA may receive and expend funds from a Federal agency, state, tribe, or territory to support permitting and related regulatory activities.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Species Recovery Grants	Pos./BA	4	6,500	0	0	(4)	(6,500)
	FTE/OBL	2	6,500	0	0	(2)	(6,500)

Species Recovery Grants Program Termination -$6,500, -2 FTE/ -4 Positions) – This request terminates the Species Recovery Grants program. NOAA will continue to provide technical assistance to states and tribes on ESA issues.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Atlantic Salmon	Pos./BA	23	8,000	21	5,000	(2)	(3,000)
	FTE/OBL	19	8,000	19	5,000	0	(3,000)

Atlantic Salmon Reduction (-$3,000, 0 FTE/ -2 Positions) – NOAA will continue high priority activities to support the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Atlantic salmon in the Northeast U.S., including Gulf of Maine Atlantic salmon that are co-managed by NMFS, USFWS, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and the Penobscot Indian Nation. At the FY 2026 request level, NMFS will prioritize permitting and consultation activities in order to support Administration priorities, in alignment with Executive Order 14154 “Unleashing American Energy.” NMFS will continue to implement Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which require the identification and designation of EFH for Atlantic salmon, as well as additional consultation requirements. Work to remove or modify migration barriers to improve the population status of Atlantic salmon will continue. NMFS will also continue to implement the Federal Power Act to prescribe fishways for Atlantic salmon and other anadromous species as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s hydropower dam licensing process. For programmatic statutory responsibilities, NOAA may receive and expend funds from a Federal agency, state, tribe, or territory to support permitting and related regulatory activities.

NMFS will eliminate habitat restoration grants for the recovery of Atlantic salmon.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Pacific Salmon	Pos./BA	340	75,000	188	42,000	(152)	(33,000)
	FTE/OBL	289	75,000	168	42,000	(121)	(33,000)

Pacific Salmon Reduction (-$33,000, -121 FTE/ -152 Positions) – NMFS will prioritize permitting and consultation activities, as well as research and monitoring activities, for Pacific Salmon in order to support Administration priorities, including Executive Order 14154 “Unleashing American Energy” and Executive Order 14225 “Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production.” Under the legislative authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NMFS conducts interagency Section 7 consultations, habitat conservation planning, and listing and recovery actions to protect and recover threatened and endangered Pacific salmon and steelhead. For programmatic statutory responsibilities, NOAA may receive and expend funds from a Federal agency, state, tribe, or territory to support permitting and related regulatory activities.

NMFS also conducts research, monitoring, and analysis to provide managers and regional stakeholders the tools and information necessary to advance salmonid recovery to ensure biological sustainability of Pacific salmonids and the ecosystems on which they depend. At this funding level, NMFS will reduce ESA Section 10 activities and partnerships with Federal, state, local, and Tribal entities, non-governmental and private organizations.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Fisheries Science and Management

Goal Statement

The Fisheries Science and Management activity encompasses scientific and management activities to ensure sustainability of the Nation's marine fishery resources.

Program Description

NMFS manages marine fisheries, including aquaculture, using the best available science and in partnership with the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, state and Federal partners, and regional fishery management organizations for international fisheries. NMFS actions supported by the Fisheries Science and Management activity result in sustainable fisheries harvest and production, rebuilding of depleted fish stocks, conservation of essential fish habitats, and other support for fishing businesses and communities.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- Assess the economic performance of commercial and recreational fisheries; provide information and analysis of seafood markets and trade; assess costs, benefits, and impacts of fishery management actions; assess social and economic conditions in fishing communities
- Work with resource managers to provide science products that deliver ecosystem-based science information and trade-off analyses to inform management decisions in Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) regions, and utilize ecosystem-based science to inform fishery-independent data collection designs and plans (e.g., surveys)
- Conduct and expand fishery-independent surveys and develop advanced sampling technologies to enhance data collection for stock assessments
- Retain key cooperative fishery-independent surveys across the country by leveraging recreational and commercial fishing vessels as survey platforms, in consultation with regional stakeholders, Fishery Management Councils, and Commissions.
- Conduct Fishery-independent assessments of reef fish abundance and life history characteristics of economically and ecologically important reef fish species in shelf and upper slope waters from Cape Lookout to Cape Canaveral
- Provide safe and high-quality monitoring in fisheries nationwide to maintain high-priority observer programs and expand observer coverage for fisheries identified with monitoring needs related to bycatch and protected species interactions

- Develop new standards, policies, and procedures at the National level to improve regional observer programs
- Develop fishery management measures, using public input and the best available science and tools such as annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) and vulnerability assessment tools
- Implement Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Reporting (ER) options in key fisheries
- Address Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) mandates to implement Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing/bycatch identification, monitoring, and certification procedures
- Provide National Seafood Inspection Laboratory analysis, data management, and regulatory compliance risk analysis to help ensure the Nation's seafood industry is economically sustainable and complies with food regulations
- Collaborate with the USDA to develop and implement aquaculture components of an America First Seafood Strategy
- Encourage industry permit applications in two Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) - one each in Southern California and the Gulf of America - through regulatory efficiency, industry engagement, and other outreach measures
- Continue spatial planning and regulatory efficiency initiatives culminating in the identification of an AOA in Alaska state waters, and initiate the process to identify a fourth AOA
- Collaborate with interagency partners on regulatory efficiency and streamlining and economic development efforts
- Support the operations and maintenance of Columbia River hatcheries to mitigate the loss of fish production due to hydropower dams, and conduct a broad range of salmon stock assessment and fishery monitoring programs in the Snake and Columbia Rivers
- Continue to revise Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished fisheries, and promote sustainability of commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries and support an America First Seafood Strategy
- Complete socioeconomic analyses for fishery management actions
- Work with Councils to implement electronic technologies for fishery monitoring

Deliverables:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- Information and analysis provided for seafood markets and trade; costs, benefits, and impacts of fishery management actions assessed; socioeconomic conditions of fishing communities incorporated into management and science products
- Technical expertise provided for data collection, processing, sharing, and archiving
- Stock assessment reports for key stocks delivered to fishery managers in a timely manner, and more precise estimates provided through improved surveys for recreational catch

- Fishery, habitat, biological, and environmental data collected from inshore and offshore surveys provided to Regional Councils and incorporated into regional species stock assessments
- Catch, bycatch, discards, biological data, and information on fishing gear/techniques that minimizes bycatch collected for in-season monitoring and stock assessments
- National Observer Program (NOP) reports and biennial updates developed for the U.S. National Bycatch Report (NBR)
- Fisheries regulations, FMPs, and amendments produced that maintain and restore productive stocks
- Nations identified whose vessels engage in IUU fishing, bycatch of Protected Living Marine Resources (PLMR) and certain shark catches on the high seas
- Data sourced and utilized to trace fishery product harvest area and shipment documentation, which will be used to verify accuracy and identify trends in import of IUU fishery products and fraudulently labeled seafood
- Cost-effective electronic technology applications that complement observer coverage, improve data collection and analysis, and ensure compliance with recordkeeping and reporting regulations implemented for priority fisheries
- Increased domestic aquaculture production and associated jobs
- Science-based tools/products applied to ensure efficient review of aquaculture permit applications in state and Federal waters
- Mitchell Act requirements met for maintenance of salmon smolt production under Mitchell Act hatchery programs, and broad range of salmon stock assessment and fishery monitoring programs conducted in the Snake and Columbia Rivers
- Amendments to FMPs drafted and regulatory burden on commercial and recreational fishermen reduced through the determination and removal of outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective regulations, leading to increased economic fisheries value and/or improved recreational activities

Explanation and Justification

Sustainable fisheries play an important role in the Nation's economy by providing opportunities for commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing, and marine aquaculture, to increase our Nation's supply of seafood. These budget lines include:

Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services: NMFS supports science to prevent and eliminate overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, support sustainable aquaculture, conserve and restore habitats, and support fishing communities.

Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments: Funding supports data collection, data management, and fisheries stock assessment production.

Observers and Training: Funding supports fisheries observer programs. Observers collect fishery-dependent scientific data to provide critical inputs for population assessments of threatened and endangered species such as sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, and for effective management of the Nation's fish stocks.

Fisheries Management Programs and Services: Funding supports management actions to effectively prevent and eliminate overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, support sustainable aquaculture, develop and implement catch share programs, and implement ecosystem-based management to support sustainable and economically resilient fisheries, fishing businesses, and communities.

Aquaculture: The NOAA Aquaculture Program provides the science, services, and policies that create conditions for opportunity and growth of sustainable U.S. aquaculture, which supports efforts to unleash America's aquaculture potential to advance seafood competitiveness as part of NOAA's National Seafood Strategy[3] and support Executive Order 14276 "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness".

Salmon Management Activities: Funding supports NMFS' research and management activities associated with salmon not listed under the ESA, which includes a Mitchell Act component to support Columbia River hatcheries and a Pacific Salmon Treaty component to conduct salmon stock assessment and fishery monitoring programs required to implement the treaty provisions.

Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions: NOAA is the sole source of funding for the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. The Councils were established by the MSA to prepare Fishery Management Plans aimed at preventing and eliminating overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks for the Nation's fisheries.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants: The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (IFA) is a formula-based financial assistance program to support states' management of interjurisdictional fisheries resources. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

[3] National Marine Fisheries Service. 2023. NOAA's National Seafood Strategy. U.S. Department of Commerce. Available at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-08/2023-07-NOAAFisheries-Natl-Seafood-Strategy-final.pdf

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	Pos./BA	670	159,500	502	120,000	(168)	(39,500)
	FTE/OBL	587	159,500	453	120,000	(134)	(39,500)

Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services Reduction (-$39,500, -134 FTE/ -168 Positions) – With this request, NMFS will concentrate on its core functions: fisheries surveys, stock assessments, ecosystem research, and socioeconomic analyses focused on species and regions of greatest economic and ecological significance. NMFS will enhance collaboration with partners and adopt innovative, cost-effective methods to optimize critical data collection and research continuity. While meeting core statutory mandates, NMFS will preserve high-priority field surveys and cooperative research, and essential laboratory studies, including life history, age, and growth, and genetic research. Stock assessments and ecosystem status reports that directly inform management decisions will remain a top priority. Socioeconomic analyses will continue to support key regulatory actions, and targeted ecosystem science will provide essential insights into ocean fluctuations and fishery sustainability. At this funding level, NMFS will phase out, or end, lower-priority programs and scale back others. Programs to be phased out include offshore wind development science, fish diet studies, and the Applied Marine Instruments Lab in the Pacific Islands, and funding for the Center for Independent Experts and Antarctic field work will be reduced.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments	Pos./BA	511	205,851	497	205,712	(14)	(139)
	FTE/OBL	466	205,851	442	205,712	(24)	(139)

Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments Reduction (-$139, -24 FTE/ -14 Positions) – This request provides $205.7 million in FY 2026 to continue fisheries data collections, surveys, and assessment. This sustained funding will ensure the highest priority work continues to provide the necessary information to support fisheries management and American fishing communities consistent with the Executive Order 14276, "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness."

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Observers and Training	Pos./BA	161	58,383	139	50,000	(22)	(8,383)
	FTE/OBL	149	58,383	125	50,000	(24)	(8,383)

Observers and Training Reduction (-$8,383, -24 FTE/ -22 Positions) – At this funding level, NMFS will focus on meeting statutory requirements as set forth by the MSA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) through direct catch/bycatch quota monitoring and providing catch and bycatch data to fish and marine mammal assessments. NMFS will reduce the Northeast Fisheries Observers, National Observer Program, and funding for staff.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	Pos./BA	496	147,250	338	111,000	(158)	(36,250)
	FTE/OBL	454	147,250	298	111,000	(156)	(36,250)

Fisheries Management Activities Reduction (-$36,250, -156 FTE/ -158 Positions) – This request will provide $111.0 million to support management actions, including prevent and eliminate overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, support sustainable aquaculture, develop and implement catch share programs, and implement ecosystem-based. This includes $17.8 million to support catch share programs. This request will also provide $10.5 million to continue support for international programs including support for implementing international requirements of regional fishery management organizations consistent with the MSA and other applicable laws, and continued support for combatting IUU fishing. NMFS will continue support for implementation of IUU fishing/bycatch identification, monitoring, and certification procedures, but will eliminate work with other countries to address IUU fishing or address trade imbalances, eliminate support to international organizations, and eliminate foreign nation capacity building. This request will maintain current support for trade and commerce division programs, including the Seafood Import Monitoring Program and other work related to Executive Order 14276, "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness." It will also maintain the current level of support for the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory. This request terminates the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, Infrastructure for Sustainable Fisheries, and investments in technological advancements. NMFS will continue to work with its partners and others to better understand bycatch and to implement management measures.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Aquaculture	Pos./BA	43	24,000	42	19,244	(1)	(4,756)
	FTE/OBL	36	24,000	37	19,244	1	(4,756)

Aquaculture Program Reduction (-$4,756, +1 FTE/ -1 Positions) – This request will reduce lower priority aquaculture activities to prioritize actions to make aquaculture permitting more efficient and predictable. In alignment with Executive Order 14276 “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness,” NOAA will prioritize regulatory efficiency measures to streamline permitting and boost domestic aquaculture production. This request reduces funding in two areas, allowing NOAA to focus on the highest Administration priorities, including establishing Aquaculture Opportunity Areas which will expand economic opportunities in coastal and rural areas, and increase seafood security. NOAA will eliminate funding for the integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) project. In addition, NOAA will reduce funding for the Cooperative Institute (CI) Fostering Aquaculture Research and Markets and fund at $2.1 million in FY 2026.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Salmon Management Activities	Pos./BA	43	65,250	42	55,000	(1)	(10,250)
	FTE/OBL	42	65,250	39	55,000	(3)	(10,250)

Salmon Management Activities Reduction (-$10,250, -3 FTE/ -1 Positions) – This request reduces funding for projects conducted for the conservation, development, and enhancement of salmon not listed under the ESA, providing a total funding level of $55.0 million in FY 2026. At this level of funding, NMFS will provide $18.4 million to continue meeting obligations under the Mitchell Act to mitigate the loss of salmon production associated with hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. NMFS will continue to support the operations and maintenance of Columbia River hatcheries through grants and contracts to the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. NMFS will provide $36.0 million to continue meeting responsibilities under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). NMFS will continue to fulfill its PST obligations by providing personnel support to the Pacific Salmon Commission's technical committees and conducting a broad range of salmon stock assessment and fishery monitoring programs required to implement the treaty provisions. Activities include collaborative spend plan development with PSC representatives to implement recommended U.S. and Canadian Chinook salmon harvest reductions; and genetic stock identification research that supports improved salmon management. This request maintains funding for chinook salmon activities at $0.6 million. Activities include support for chinook salmon harvest management along the West Coast through the Pacific Fishery Management Council process and in the Columbia River through the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement process, as well as support for research (e.g. studies on hatchery and wild stock chinook salmon interactions).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	Pos./BA	13	44,297	13	45,715	0	1,418
	FTE/OBL	11	44,297	11	45,715	0	1,418

Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions (+$1,418, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request will provide $45.7 million in FY 2026 for Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, and will fund 13 positions that support this work. This sustained funding will ensure local fishing communities, industry, and other fishing experts continue to provide expertise and information needed to support smart and competitive fisheries management in the U.S.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Interjurisdictional	Pos./BA	2	3,377	0	0	(2)	(3,377)
Fisheries Grants	FTE/OBL	1	3,377	0	0	(1)	(3,377)

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants Termination (-$3,377, -1 FTE/ -2 Positions) – This request terminates the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants Program. NOAA will continue to work with states and territories to provide technical and other assistance for fisheries management, such as working with the Interstate Fishery Commissions on cross-state issues related to shared fishery resources.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Enforcement

Goal Statement

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) strengthens domestic commerce by enforcing NOAA's natural resource protection laws and promoting compliance with Federal regulations to conserve and protect our Nation's living marine resources and their natural habitat. OLE ensures the competitiveness of U.S. seafood by protecting the integrity of global seafood supply chains and preventing and deterring Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing from unfairly competing with lawful U.S. producers in global markets.

Program Description

OLE protects and monitors the world's largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including 16 National Marine Sanctuaries and five Marine National Monuments, and is the only enforcement program (Federal or state) exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. OLE provides enforcement support for conservation and management activities in the NMFS Offices of Sustainable Fisheries and Protected Resources, NMFS Regional Offices, and the NOS Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. OLE refers enforcement cases that document violations to NOAA's Office of General Counsel or the U.S. Department of Justice for review and potential prosecution. OLE works with interagency partners, such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Coast Guard, to enforce relevant fisheries regulations and prevent IUU fish and fish products from entering U.S. markets. This includes targeted operations of suspected IUU fishing, at sea and aerial patrols, and physical inspections of seafood products at ports looking for falsely labeled seafood and other illegal products that adversely affect U.S. domestic fishers and consumers.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- Continue to advance enforcement and compliance assistance efforts in support of NOAA's OLE Operational Priorities
- Continue to hire, train and deploy enforcement personnel at strategic seafood import Ports of Entry
- Ensure consistent international IUU fishing enforcement training and technical assistance
- Review progress toward current set of strategic five-year national and regional Operational Enforcement Priorities (2023-2027)

Deliverables:
FY 2026 – FY 2030:

- Monitoring of and compliance assistance provided to approximately 4,450 vessels under the Vessel Monitoring System requirements of 23 Fishery Management Plans, two international convention areas, and the Papahanaumokuakea National Monument
- Five-year national and regional Operational Enforcement Priorities

Explanation and Justification

NOAA special agents and enforcement officers work to deter, detect, investigate, and document any violations of Federal marine natural resource laws and regulations. NOAA's approach to domestic fisheries enforcement emphasizes compliance assistance. OLE assists regulated parties in understanding and complying with fishery regulations through contact during monitoring and inspections, and increases public awareness and understanding of enforcement goals and objectives through participation in community meetings, trade shows, and on-the-dock informational visits. This program responds to inquiries and requests for assistance from a variety of industry and public stakeholders, covering a broad range of issues related to fisheries, marine mammals, and endangered and other protected marine species. In addition, OLE's Enforcement Program takes action, in collaboration with other Federal agencies and foreign nations, to prevent IUU fish and fish products from entering U.S. markets through enforcement of trade monitoring programs. These efforts align with the Administration's priorities to restore American seafood competitiveness. OLE utilizes current technologies (e.g. Vessel Monitoring System) and emerging technologies (e.g. genetic testing tools) to enhance and maximize operational capabilities and effectiveness.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Enforcement	Pos./BA	260	78,492	275	67,656	15	(10,836)
	FTE/OBL	228	78,492	241	67,656	13	(10,836)

Enforcement Program Realignment (-$10,836, +13 FTE/ +15 Positions) – This request will realign funds within the Enforcement program, increasing internal capacity to support Administration priorities related to IUU enforcement to promote and enhance seafood competitiveness. With the savings from these terminations, NOAA will direct $9.6 million to increase NMFS OLE capacity to inspect fish and fish products imported into the United States, which will ensure that the high demand for imported seafood does not create incentives for IUU fishing activity by foreign fleets or compete with law-abiding U.S. producers. Specifically, this request will provide funding to hire 24 special agents, enforcement officers, and support staff in the top U.S. ports of entry to prevent IUU fishing derived seafood from entering U.S. markets. NMFS OLE will add additional capacity at major seafood import ports of entry, and continue to develop, test, and employ forensic testing and analytical capabilities that identify illegal and mislabeled seafood products prior to entry into the United States. This request directly supports the Executive Order 14276 “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness” by combatting IUU fishing and protecting our seafood markets from the unfair trade practices of foreign nations.

NOAA will terminate the Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP), including Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEAs). These JEAs provided funds to state and U.S. territorial law enforcement agencies to perform enforcement services in support of Federal regulations. NOAA will also discontinue the Northeast Lobster pilot program as planned and commercial space-based radio frequency data collection.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Habitat Conservation and Restoration

Goal Statement

The Office of Habitat Conservation protects and restores habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities.

Program Description

The Habitat Conservation and Restoration activity focuses on three program areas including Sustainable Habitat Management, Fisheries Habitat Restoration, and Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA); Federal Power Act; Energy Policy Act of 2005; Endangered Species Act; Oil Pollution Act; and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act provide legislative authority for NOAA's work within this activity.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this activity.

Explanation and Justification

NOAA has worked to decrease the loss of priority coastal habitat through its habitat conservation programs.

When a Federal agency authorizes, funds, or undertakes an action that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), they must consult with NMFS on that action, as required by Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NOAA works with Federal partners to guide coastal development in a manner that protects vital fish habitat without hindering economic development opportunities, including critical transportation and infrastructure improvements. Our unique role and responsibility under the Federal Power Act to ensure fish passage at hydropower dams licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has resulted in opening passage of more than 2,100 miles of streams and rivers for species that include Atlantic and Pacific salmon, and river herring that serve as important food sources for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fish stocks.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

The NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation Restoration Center (RC) provides technical assistance to partners on coastal habitat restoration. In addition, the NOAA RC leads restoration planning and implementation for oil spills and hazardous substance releases across the Nation through the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration program (DARRP). Every year, NOAA responds to as many as 150 oil spills and hazardous substance releases.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) conducts work in fisheries science, observations, education, and restoration in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

The Budget does not provide funding for these programs.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	Pos./BA	192	56,184	0	0	(192)	(56,184)
	FTE/OBL	184	56,184	0	0	(184)	(56,184)

Habitat Conservation and Restoration Termination (-$56,184, -184 FTE/ -192 Positions) – This request terminates funding for the Office of Habitat Conservation as well as the habitat divisions in Regional Offices and habitat work in Science Centers. For programmatic statutory responsibilities, NOAA may receive and expend funds from a Federal agency, state, tribe, or territory to support permitting and related regulatory activities.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	2	2	65,000	65,000
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	(2)	(2)	(65,000)	(65,000)
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount	
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Pos/BA	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)
	FTE/OBL	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)
Total: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Pos/BA	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)
	FTE/OBL	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)
Total Obligations	**2**	**65,000**	**0**	**0**	**(2)**	**(65,000)**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adjustment mandatory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(131)	0	0	0	131
Unobligated balance, adj. EOY	0	131	0	0	0	(131)
Total Budget Authority	**2**	**65,000**	**0**	**0**	**(2)**	**(65,000)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Transfer to ORF	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appropriation	**2**	**65000**	**0**	**0**	**(2)**	**(65,000)**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS requests a total of $0 for this fund.

Goal Statement

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in FY 2000 to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead and their habitats through competitive funding to states and Tribes.

Program Description

Congressionally authorized activities include:

- Conserving salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a state as at-risk to be so listed,
- Maintaining populations necessary for the exercise of Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, and
- Conserving Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat.

The PCSRF program's three priorities are:

- Eligible projects are those that address factors limiting the productivity of Pacific anadromous salmonid populations that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and/or necessary for the exercise of treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.
- Eligible projects consist of watershed-scale or larger effectiveness monitoring and the biological response of salmonid populations to habitat restoration actions; population-scale status and trend monitoring that directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids or populations, monitoring necessary for the exercise of tribal-treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing on anadromous salmonids, or conducting watershed-scale or larger restoration planning.
- Eligible projects include all other projects consistent with the congressional authorization with demonstrated need for PCSRF funding.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Explanation and Justification

The PCSRF program provides competitive funding to states and Tribes of the Pacific Coast region to implement projects that restore and protect salmonid populations and their habitats. Eligible applicants include the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Alaska and Federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska). States are required to provide 33 percent matching funds, and PCSRF awards are supplemented further by significant private and local contributions at the project level. No match is required from the Federally recognized Tribes or tribal commissions/consortia. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Pos./BA	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)
	FTE/OBL	2	65,000	0	0	(2)	(65,000)

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Termination (-$65,000, -2 FTE/ -2 Positions) – NMFS will continue to support Pacific salmon and steelhead recovery and Tribal treaty fishing rights through other NOAA programs as resources allow.

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Exhibit 5

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund
SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	1	1	300	300
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	0	0
2026 Estimate	1	1	300	300

		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount	
	Pos/BA	1	300	1	300	0	0
	FTE/OBL	1	300	1	300	0	0
	Pos/BA	1	300	1	300	0	0
	FTE/OBL	1	300	1	300	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund
SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	1	300	1	300	0	0
Total Obligations	**1**	**300**	**1**	**300**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**1**	**300**	**1**	**300**	**0**	**0**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Transfer to ORF	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**1**	**300**	**1**	**300**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Fisheries Disaster Assistance Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS requests a total of $300 for this fund.

Goal Statement

To enhance and expedite the review and analysis of fishery disaster requests, allocations, and spend plans, and support faster turnarounds and improved programs for recipients.

Program Description

Fishery disaster assistance is administered by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service within the Department of Commerce. The Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, enacted in December 2022, amended the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Under MSA, a request for a fishery disaster determination is generally made by the Governor of a State, or an elected leader of a fishing community, although the Secretary of Commerce may also initiate a review at their own discretion. The Secretary determines whether the circumstances are consistent with relevant statute and warrant a fishery disaster determination. If the Secretary determines that a fishery disaster has occurred, Congress may appropriate funds for disaster assistance, which are administered by the Secretary.

Statement of Operating Objectives

MSA 312(a)(2) allows for fishery disaster funds to be used for assessing the economic and social effects of the commercial fishery failure and for activities that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future and to assist a fishing community affected by such failure. Additionally, any such activity may not expand the size or scope of the commercial fishery failure in that fishery or into other fisheries or other geographic regions.

Explanation and Justification

NMFS is committed to quickly evaluating information from requestors for fishery disaster assistance to determine if a fishery disaster has occurred and getting assistance to fishers in a more timely way. If Congress appropriates funds, NOAA allocates the funding to positively determined fishery disasters and administers the funds through approved non-competitive awards consistent with spend

plans developed by the recipients. These funds will be used to support implementation of the Fishery Resource Disaster Improvement Act.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fishermen's Contingency Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

			Authority	Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	349	349
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	0	0
2026 Estimate	0	0	349	349

		2024 Enacted Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	Pos/BA	0	349	0	349	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	349	0	349	0	0
Total: Fishermen's Contingency Fund	Pos/BA	0	349	0	349	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	349	0	349	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fishermen's Contingency Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	349	0	349	0	0
Total Obligations	**0**	**349**	**0**	**349**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(930)	0	(908)	0	22
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	930	0	908	0	(22)
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**349**	**0**	**349**	**0**	**0**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Temporarily Reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unapportioned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discretionary Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**349**	**0**	**349**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fishermen's Contingency Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Fishermen's Contingency Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS requests a total of $349 for this fund.

Goal Statement

This fund compensates U.S. commercial fishermen for damage or loss of fishing gear, vessels, and resulting economic loss caused by obstructions related to oil or gas exploration, development, and production in any area of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Program Description

The Fishermen's Contingency Fund is authorized under Section 402 of Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978. This fund minimizes financial instability of the fishing industry caused by competing uses of the OCS, and provides for timely resolution of claims by vessel owners.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Fishermen who can prove that they suffered losses in income due to inability or reduced capacity to fish as a result of the damage sustained may be eligible for compensation for economic loss and property loss or damage. Compensation for economic loss is based on 50 percent of gross income lost, rather than loss of profits.

Explanation and Justification

The funds used to provide this compensation are derived solely from fees collected on an annual basis by the Secretary of the Interior from the holders of leases, exploration permits, easements, or rights-of-way in areas of the OCS. Disbursements can be made only to the extent authorized in appropriation acts.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:
For carrying out the provisions of Title IV of Public Law 95-372, not to exceed $349,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

			Authority	Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	0	0
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	0	0
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total: Foreign Fishing Observer Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Obligations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(522)	0	(522)	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	522	0	522	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Unobligated balance, rescission	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Foreign Fishing Observer Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS requests a total of $0 for this fund.

Goal Statement

The goals of this fund are to provide 100 percent observer coverage aboard foreign vessels fishing within the U.S. EEZ; increase compliance with fishery regulations and requirements; support balanced conservation and management measures to achieve and maintain the optimum use of living marine resources; collect data to determine foreign compliance with fishery regulations and the status of fish stocks within the U.S. EEZ; and administer the base and supplemental observer programs in a cost-effective manner.

Program Description

The Foreign Fishing Observer Fund is financed through fees collected from owners and operators of foreign fishing vessels fishing within the U.S. EEZ (such fishing requires a permit issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act). The fund is used by NOAA to pay salaries, administrative costs, data editing and entry, and other costs incurred in placing observers aboard foreign fishing vessels.

Statement of Operating Objectives

- Monitor foreign fishing for compliance with U.S. fishing regulations
- Collect biological data

Explanation and Justification

The observer program is conducted primarily through contracts with the private sector. This includes longline vessels fishing in the Atlantic billfish and shark fishery and other foreign vessels fishing in the EEZ. NOAA places these observers aboard foreign fishing vessels to monitor compliance with U.S. fishery laws and to collect fishery management data. Amounts available in the fund can be disbursed only to the extent and in amounts provided in appropriation acts. In FY 1985, Congress approved the establishment of a supplemental observer program. The program provided that foreign vessels without federally funded observers are required to obtain the services of private contractors certified by the Secretary of Commerce.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Finance Program Account
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	202	202
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	(202)	(202)
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount	
Fisheries Finance Program Account	Pos/BA	0	202	0	0	0	(202)
	FTE/OBL	0	202	0	0	0	(202)
Total: Fisheries Finance Program Account	Pos/BA	0	202	0	0	0	(202)
	FTE/OBL	0	202	0	0	0	(202)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Finance Program Account
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Actual		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Loan Modification	0	0	0	0	0	0
Credit Reestimates	0	202	0	0	0	(202)
Total Obligations	**0**	**202**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(202)**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(2,781)	0	(2,781)	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	2,781	0	2,781	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**202**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(202)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Less: Permanent Indefinite Authority (Mandatory)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**202**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(202)**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Finance Program Account
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Fisheries Finance Program Account

For FY 2026, NMFS requests a total of $0 for the Fisheries Finance Program Account.

Goal Statement

The Fisheries Finance Program (FFP) is a national loan program that makes long-term, fixed-rate financing available to U.S. citizens who otherwise qualify for financing or refinancing.

Program Description

NOAA's FFP offers financing to U.S. companies seeking to improve their commercial fisheries, aquaculture facilities, and fishing vessels. Vessel financing or refinancing that could contribute to overcapitalization by increasing harvesting capacity is prohibited by regulation.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The purpose of these loans is to provide affordable financing to support participants of the fishing and aquaculture industries.

Explanation and Justification

Types of activities for financing include the reconstruction, reconditioning, and, in some cases, the purchasing of fishing vessels, shoreside processing, aquaculture, mariculture facilities, purchase or refinance the purchase of harvesting rights in federally managed limited access systems, and the purchase of individual fishing quota (IFQ) in two Northwest fisheries. The FFP also provides fishery-wide financing to ease the transition to sustainable fisheries through its fishing capacity reduction programs and provides IFQ financing to fishermen who fish from small vessels and entry-level fishermen to promote stability and reduce consolidation in already rationalized fisheries. Additionally, FFP can provide loans for fisheries investments of Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups.

The FFP operates under the authority of Subtitle V of Title 46 of the U.S. Code, formerly known as "Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936," 46 U.S.C. 53701; Section 303(a) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Finance Program Account
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and, from time to time FFP-specific legislation. FFP lending practices are guided by Title XI, general rules implementing Title XI (found at 50 CFR part 253, subpart B), and NOAA's sustainable fisheries policy. The overriding guideline for all FFP financings is that they cannot contribute or be construed to contribute to an increase in existing fish harvesting.

FFP authority is subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA) (2 U.S.C. 661), which requires the estimated loan losses (FCRA cost) be appropriated in cash at the time Congress authorizes annual credit ceilings. Some types of FFP loans require no FCRA subsidy appropriations because these types of loans have historically not required additional loan subsidy. However, specific loan ceilings for each type of loan authority must be included in appropriation language or other bill language regardless of the need for cash appropriations.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:
Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2026, obligations of direct loans may not exceed $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed $150,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Promote and Develop Fisheries Products
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

			Authority	Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	7,000	420
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	(7,000)	(420)
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

			Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount
Promote and Develop Fisheries Products	Pos/BA	0	7,000	0	0	0	(7,000)
	FTE/OBL	0	420	0	0	0	(420)
Total: Promote and Develop Fisheries Products	Pos/BA	0	7,000	0	0	0	(7,000)
	FTE/OBL	0	420	0	0	0	(420)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Promote and Develop Fisheries Products
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	420	0	0	0	(420)
Total Obligations	**0**	**420**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(420)**
Adjustments for:						
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(392)	0	0	0	392
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. EOY	0	6,972	0	0	0	(6,972)
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**7,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(7,000)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Transfer from USDA	0	(377,363)	0	(413,534)	0	(36,171)
Appropriations previously unavailable	0	(20,669)	0	(19,682)	0	987
Permanently Reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporarily Reduced	0	21,510	0	23,572	0	2,062
Transfer to ORF	0	369,522	0	409,644	0	40,122
Net Appropriation	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Promote and Develop Fisheries Products
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Promote and Develop Fisheries Products

For FY 2026, NOAA estimates that a total of $409,644 will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Promote and Develop account, after accounting for sequestration and prior year recoveries. NOAA requests to transfer $409,644 from the Promote and Develop account to the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) account, leaving $0 for the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) grant program in FY 2026.

Goal Statement

To address the needs of fishing communities in optimizing economic benefits by building and maintaining sustainable fisheries and practices, dealing with the impacts of conservation and management measures, and increasing other opportunities to keep working waterfronts viable.

Program Description

In FY 2026, NOAA will transfer $409,644 from the Promote and Develop account to offset appropriations in the NMFS ORF account. The transfer to ORF will support data collection, data management, and fisheries stock assessment production within Fisheries Science and Management program activities.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for the S-K grant program.

Explanation and Justification

The Promote and Develop account funds are derived from a transfer of thirty percent of duties on imported fisheries products from the Department of Agriculture. Any funds remaining in this account after the ORF transfer are available to carry out the purposes of the S-K program. The Budget does not provide funding for the S-K grant program.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Federal Ship Financing Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	0	0
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	0	0
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount	
Federal Ship Financing Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total: Federal Ship Financing Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Federal Ship Financing Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Obligations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Transfer to Treasury (mandatory)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offsetting collections (mandatory)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Federal Ship Financing Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Federal Ship Financing Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates a total of $0 for the Federal Ship Financing Fund Account.

Goal Statement

To provide for a liquidating account necessary for the collection of premiums and fees under the Fishing Vessel Obligations Guarantee program for loan commitments made prior to FY 1992.

Program Description

Administrative expenses for management of the loan guarantee portfolio were charged to the Federal Ship Financing Fund prior to the enactment of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990. Administrative expenses are charged to the ORF account.

Statement of Operating Objectives

- Collect repayments and interest
- Repay borrowings plus interest
- Pay default claims and interest

Explanation and Justification

These collections are for operations of this program, loans, and for use in case of default.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	8,448	8,448
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	4,000	4,000
2026 Estimate	0	0	12,448	12,448

		Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund	Pos/BA	0	8,448	0	12,448	0	4,000
	FTE/OBL	0	8,448	0	12,448	0	4,000
Total: Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund	Pos/BA	0	8,448	0	12,448	0	4,000
	FTE/OBL	0	8,448	0	12,448	0	4,000

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	0	8,448	0	12,448	0	4,000
Total Obligations	**0**	**8,448**	**0**	**12,448**	**0**	**4,000**
Adjustments for:						
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adjusted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**8,448**	**0**	**12,448**	**0**	**4,000**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanently Reduced	0	511	0	752	0	241
Net Mandatory Appropriation	**0**	**8,959**	**0**	**13,200**	**0**	**4,241**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $12,448 in the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund.

Goal Statement

The Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF) was created by the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 for the purpose of carrying out marine research activities in the North Pacific.

Program Description

These funds will provide grants to Federal, state, private, or foreign organizations or individuals to conduct research activities on or relating to the fisheries or marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean.

Statement of Operating Objectives

- Improve understanding of North Pacific marine ecosystem dynamics and use of the resources
- Improve ability to forecast and respond to effects of changes through integration of various research activities including long-term monitoring
- Improve ability to manage and protect fish and wildlife populations of the North Pacific

Explanation and Justification

Each year NOAA's EIRF account is financed with a transfer from the Department of the Interior. NOAA grants these funds to the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), which conducts an open, competitive process for gathering research proposals. Through this process, the NPRB recommends research projects relating to fisheries or marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean, with emphasis on cooperative research designed to address pressing fishery management or marine ecosystem information needs.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Limited Access System Administration Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	40	40	14,133	15,713
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	(12)	1,116	(455)
2026 Estimate	40	28	15,249	15,258

		2024 Enacted Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount		Personnel Amount	
Limited Access System Administration Fund	Pos/BA	40	14,133	40	15,249	0	1,116
	FTE/OBL	40	15,713	28	15,258	(12)	(455)
Total: Limited Access System Administration Fund	Pos/BA	40	14,133	40	15,249	0	1,116
	FTE/OBL	40	15,713	28	15,258	(12)	(455)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Limited Access System Administration Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	40	15,713	28	15,258	(12)	(455)
Total Obligations	**40**	**15,713**	**28**	**15,258**	**(12)**	**(455)**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(16,691)	0	(17,629)	0	(938)
Unobligated balance, unapportioned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	15,111	0	17,620	0	2,509
Total Budget Authority	**40**	**14,133**	**28**	**15,249**	**(12)**	**1,116**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriations previously unavailable	0	(847)	0	(861)	0	(14)
Temporarily Reduced	0	803	0	870	0	67
Net Appropriation	**40**	**14,089**	**28**	**15,258**	**(12)**	**1,169**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Limited Access System Administration Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Limited Access System Administration Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $15,258 in the Limited Access System Administration account.

Goal Statement

To provide for the collection of fees to cover the incremental costs of management, data collection, and enforcement of Limited Access Privilege (LAP) programs.

Base Program

Under the authority of Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) Section 304(d)(2)(A) funds collected are deposited into the "Limited Access System Administrative Fund" (LASAF). Fees cannot exceed three percent of the ex-vessel value of fish harvested under any such program, and shall be collected at either the time of the landing, filing of a landing report, or sale of such fish during a fishing season or in the last quarter of the calendar year in which the fish is harvested.

Statement of Operating Objectives

- Provide repository for fees collected from Limited Access Programs
- Fund incremental costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of limited access privilege programs

Explanation and Justification

The LASAF is available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, only for the purposes of administering the central registry system; and administering and implementing the MSA in the fishery in which the fees were collected. Sums in the fund that are not currently needed for these purposes are kept on deposit or invested in obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States. Also, in establishing a LAP program, a Regional Council can consider, and may provide, if appropriate, an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial or any subsequent distribution of allocations. If an auction system is developed, revenues from these royalties are deposited in the LASAF.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	0	0
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	0	0
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		2024 Enacted Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total: Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Obligations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(35)	0	(35)	0	0
Unobligated balance, unapportioned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	35	0	35	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $0 from the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund.

Provide funds to support investigations and responses to unusual marine mammal mortality events.

Program Description

An unusual mortality event (UME) is defined under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as "a stranding that is unexpected; involves a significant die-off of any marine mammal population; and demands immediate response." Increased efforts to examine carcasses and live stranded animals have improved the knowledge of mortality rates and causes, allowing a better understanding of population threats and stressors and the ability to determine when a situation is "unusual."

Statement of Operating Objectives

MMPA Section 405 (16 U.S.C. 1421d) establishes the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund and describes its purposes and how donations can be made to the Fund. The Fund is an emergency response fund used to help cover expenses incurred by the volunteer Marine Mammal Stranding Network during a UME. Specifically, the fund: "shall be available only for use by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior: to compensate persons for special costs incurred in acting in accordance with the contingency plan issued under section 1421c(b) of this title or under the direction of an Onsite Coordinator for an unusual mortality event:

- for reimbursing any stranding network participant for costs incurred in preparing and transporting tissues collected with respect to an unusual mortality event for the Tissue Bank; and,
- for care and maintenance of marine mammals seized under section 1374(c)(2)(D) of this title."

According to the MMPA, deposits can be made into Fund in the following ways:

- "amounts appropriated to the Fund;
- other amounts appropriated to the Secretary for use with respect to unusual mortality events; and,
- amounts received by the United States in the form of gifts, devises, and bequests under subsection (d) of this section."

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NOAA will continue to utilize the UME Contingency Fund to support the Marine Mammal Stranding Network's eligible work as needed.

Explanation and Justification

To date, Congress has appropriated funding for UMEs on one occasion in 2005. Some of those funds were transferred to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) since they have the ability to quickly distribute funds within 30 days of invoicing to our partners during a UME. There currently are sufficient funds held at NFWF to meet most of the expected expenses, however, as this is an emergency fund NMFS may need to obligate available funding from the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund in FY 2026. Additionally, the UME Contingency fund is listed on Pay.gov allowing the public to donate to the fund year round.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	750	750
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	(750)	(750)
2026 Estimate	0	0	0	0

		2024 Enacted Personnel Amount		2026 Estimate Personnel Amount		Increase/ Decrease Personnel Amount	
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund	Pos/BA	0	750	0	0	0	(750)
	FTE/OBL	0	750	0	0	0	(750)
Total: Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund	Pos/BA	0	750	0	0	0	(750)
	FTE/OBL	0	750	0	0	0	(750)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	750	0	0	0	(750)
Total Obligations	**0**	**750**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(750)**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(394)	0	0	0	394
Unobligated balance, unapportioned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	394	0	0	0	(394)
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**750**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(750)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	(43)	0	0	0	43
Temporarily Reduced	0	43	0	0	0	(43)
Net Appropriation	**0**	**750**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(750)**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $0 in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.

Goal Statement

The purpose of this fund is to allow foreign fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western Pacific through a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement.

Program Description

Section 204(e) of the 2006 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authorizes the establishment of the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund. Before entering an Agreement, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council must develop a Marine Conservation Plan that provides details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary of Commerce. Marine Conservation Plans must also be developed by the Governors of the Territories of Guam and American Samoa and of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and approved by the Secretary or designee.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The conservation and management objectives for the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund are listed in the four marine conservation plans:

- Hawaii and Pacific Insular Areas
- Guam
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

The Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund serves as a repository for any permit payments received by the Secretary for foreign fishing within the U.S. EEZ around Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, and Jarvis, Howland, Baker and Wake Islands, sometimes known as the Pacific remote island areas (PRIA). Funds are available to:

- The Western Pacific Council for the purpose of carrying out implementation of a marine conservation plan (see below for more info on marine conservation plans).
- The Secretary of State for mutually agreed upon travel expenses for no more than two Federal representatives incurred as a direct result of negotiations and entering into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement. These fishery agreements authorize foreign fishing within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to a Pacific Insular Area other than American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands, at the request of the Western Pacific Council.
- The Western Pacific Council to meet conservation and management objectives in the State of Hawaii if monies remain in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund after the funding requirements of Section 204(e) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of the 2006 amendments to the MSA have been satisfied.

In the case of violations by foreign vessels occurring in these areas, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties are deposited into the fund to be used for fisheries enforcement and for implementation of a marine conservation plan. Additionally, any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives under a Marine Conservation Plan for any Pacific Insular Area other than American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands are deposited in the fund.

Exhibit 5

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	2,298	3,558
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	(238)	0
2026 Estimate	0	0	2,060	3,558

		2024 Enacted Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund	Pos/BA	0	2,298	0	2,060	0	(238)
	FTE/OBL	0	3,558	0	3,558	0	0
Total: Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund	Pos/BA	0	2,298	0	2,060	0	(238)
	FTE/OBL	0	3,558	0	3,558	0	0

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	0	3,558	0	3,558	0	0
Total Obligations	**0**	**3,558**	**0**	**3,558**	**0**	**0**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, adj. SOY	0	(6,176)	0	(1,623)	0	(3,055)
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	4,916	0	1,623	0	(3,293)
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**2,298**	**0**	**2,060**	**0**	**(238)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Mandatory Appropriation Temporarily Reduced	0	131	0	117	0	(14)
Appropriations previously unavailable	0	(135)	0	(117)	0	18
Unobligated balance, Rescission	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**2,294**	**0**	**2,060**	**0**	**234**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates it will collect $2,060 in fines, penalties, and forfeitures proceeds.

Goal Statement

To pay certain enforcement-related expenses from fines, penalties, and forfeiture proceeds received for violations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), National Marine Sanctuaries Act, or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary.

Program Description

Pursuant to Section 311(e)(1) of the MSA, NOAA has established a Civil Monetary Penalty/Asset Forfeiture Fund (AFF) where these proceeds are deposited.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The objective of the AFF is to provide a repository for fines, penalties and forfeiture proceeds, which are only used to fund the authorized costs listed below.

Explanation and Justification

The proceeds held in the AFF may be used to offset in part the costs of administering the Enforcement program. Expenses funded through this source include: costs directly related to the storage, maintenance, and care of seized fish, vessels, or other property during a civil or criminal proceeding; expenditures related directly to specific investigations and enforcement proceedings such as travel for interviewing witnesses; enforcement-unique information technology infrastructure; and annual interagency agreement and contract costs for the administrative adjudication process, including Administrative Law Judges.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
North Pacific Observer Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

			Authority	Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	4,674	4,700
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	0	309	300
2026 Estimate	0	0	4,983	5,000

		2024 Estimate Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
North Pacific Observer Fund	Pos/BA	0	4,674	0	4,983	0	309
	FTE/OBL	0	4,700	0	5,000	0	300
Total: North Pacific Observer Fund	Pos/BA	0	4,674	0	4,983	0	309
	FTE/OBL	0	4,700	0	5,000	0	300

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
North Pacific Observer Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	0	4,700	0	5,000	0	300
Total Obligations	**0**	**4,700**	**0**	**5,000**	**0**	**300**
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, SOY	0	(1,688)	0	(559)	0	1,129
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	1,662	0	542	0	(1,120)
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**4,674**	**0**	**4,983**	**0**	**309**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	(242)	0	(268)	0	(26)
Temporarily Reduced	0	268	0	285	0	17
Net Appropriation	**0**	**4,700**	**0**	**5,000**	**0**	**300**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
North Pacific Observer Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: North Pacific Observer Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $5,000 for the North Pacific Observer Fund.

Goal Statement

To fund observer coverage on the vessels and processors in the partial coverage category within the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP).

Program Description

On January 1, 2013, the restructured NPGOP went into effect and made important changes to how observers are deployed, how observer coverage is funded, and the vessels and processors that must have some or all of their operations observed.

Statement of Operating Objectives

- Collect catch data onboard fishing vessels and at onshore processing plants that is used for in-season management and scientific purposes such as stock assessments and ecosystem studies
- Ensure that the data collected by observers are of the highest quality possible by implementing rigorous quality control and quality assurance processes

Explanation and Justification

Coverage levels are no longer based on vessel length and processing volume; rather, NMFS now has the flexibility to decide when and where to deploy observers based on a scientifically defensible deployment plan. The new observer program places all vessels and processors in the groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska into one of two observer coverage categories: (1) full coverage category and (2) partial coverage Vessels and processors in the full coverage category (≥100 percent observer coverage) will obtain observers by contracting directly with observer providers. Vessels and processors in the full observer coverage category are required to have at least one observer at all times. This will represent no change from the status quo for participants in the full coverage category. Vessels and processors in the partial coverage category (<100 percent observer coverage) will no longer contract independently with an observer provider, and will be required to carry an observer when they are selected through the Observer

Declare and Deploy System (ODDS). Additionally, landings from all vessels in the partial coverage category will be assessed a 1.25 percent fee on standard ex-vessel prices of the landed catch weight of groundfish and halibut. The fee percentage is set in regulation and will be reviewed periodically by the North Pacific Council after the second year of the program. The money generated by this fee will be used to pay for observer coverage on the vessels and processors in the partial coverage category in the following year. NMFS expects approximately $4.7 million to be collected in fees from the FY 2023 season, to be used in FY 2026 for observer coverage.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Revolving Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	128	110	0	20,547
Plus: 2026 Program Changes	0	(15)	0	3,491
2026 Estimate	128	95	0	24,038

		2024 Enacted Personnel	Amount	2026 Estimate Personnel	Amount	Increase/ Decrease Personnel	Amount
SIP Trust Revolving Fund	Pos/BA	128	0	128	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	110	20,547	95	24,038	(15)	3,491
Total: SIP Trust Revolving Fund	Pos/BA	128	0	128	0	0	0
	FTE/OBL	110	20,547	95	24,038	(15)	3,491

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Revolving Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/ Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Mandatory Obligation	110	20,547	95	24,038	(15)	3,491
Total Obligations	**110**	**20,547**	**95**	**24,038**	**(15)**	**3,491**
Offsetting collection from:						
Federal funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trust funds	0	(14,470)	0	(24,038)	0	9,568
Non-Federal sources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments for:						
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, SOY	0	(6,077)	0	0	0	6,077
Unobligated balance, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**110**	**0**	**95**	**0**	**(15)**	**0**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Appropriation previously unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporarily Reduced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**110**	**0**	**95**	**0**	**(15)**	**0**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Seafood Inspection Program Trust Revolving Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Seafood Inspection Program Trust Revolving Fund

For FY 2026, NMFS estimates obligating $24,038 in receipts and fees assessed to users of the Seafood Inspection Program.

Goal Statement

To cover expenses related to the delivery of inspection, auditing, and certification services of the Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) from fees assessed to program participants.

Program Description

The SIP is a fee-for-service program within the National Marine Fisheries Service authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 USC Section 1622(h)). It provides inspection and auditing services to domestic seafood processors and distributors in order to provide health and catch certification for export of fish and fishery products to foreign countries, ensure compliance with food safety regulations, evaluate product quality and grading, and evaluate facility and systems compliance. SIP provides services to companies that export seafood and supply military, school lunch, and other Federal programs as well as consumer markets.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The purpose of the trust revolving fund is to provide a repository to credit receipts and collections from fees assessed to users of the SIP which are used to cover the cost of services provided.

Explanation and Justification

NOAA is authorized to assess, collect, and retain fees under the program. Fees are set with the goal of full cost recovery and the receipts and collections credited to the trust revolving fund are used to offset the total cost of operating the program. Expenses funded through this source include salary and benefits, travel, operation and maintenance of core business applications, rent, utilities, supplies, transportation, shipping, equipment, contractual services, and administrative overhead.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $0 and 0 FTE/ 0 positions for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

With the goal to streamline program management and focus on NOAA's weather mission, NOAA is proposing to eliminate OAR as a NOAA Line Office and transfer several activities to NOS and the NWS. The FY 2026 budget eliminates all funding for climate, weather, and ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. It also does not fund Regional Climate Data and Information, Climate Competitive Research, the National Sea Grant College Program, Sea Grant Aquaculture Research, or the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. Of the remaining funded programs, the U.S. Weather Research Program, Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar, the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative, High Performance Computing Initiatives, and Research Supercomputing will be transitioned to the NWS (see pages OAR-11, OAR-13, OAR-15, OAR-28, OAR-33, NWS-11, NWS-22, and NWS-37), and Ocean Exploration and Research, Integrated Ocean Acidification, and Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring will be transitioned to NOS (see pages OAR-22, OAR-23, OAR-24, NOS-9, NOS-10, and NOS-18). These adjustments will allow these research programs to carry out research that is more directly related to the NOAA mission.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project	Pos./BA	0	19,211	0	0	0	(19,211)
Funding/ NOAA Special Projects	FTE/OBL	0	19,211	0	0	0	(19,211)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$19,211, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) - This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Climate Research

Goal Statement

The mission of the Climate Research in OAR is to monitor and understand the Earth system to forecast and communicate to the public and decision-makers near-term, regional climate variations that are of societal and economic importance.

Program Description

NOAA's competitive research programs fund science, assessments, decision support research, modeling improvements, and transition of research and capacity-building activities in four complementary and important areas:

- Observations and monitoring
- Process understanding and analysis
- Modeling, predictions, and projections
- Societal interactions and communications

The following three Subactivities support the Climate Research Portfolio:

- Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes: Primarily support Earth system science research, modeling, and technology development and maintain long-term atmospheric observation networks and infrastructure, including a network of tall towers and the Atmospheric Baseline Observatories that collect data on the atmosphere's composition.
- Regional Climate Data and Information: OAR supports activities that improve hazard preparedness throughout the Nation with research that advances our understanding of, and response measures to, extreme event risks across sectors and regions and with the development of capacity and tools to enable more informed decision making.
- Climate Competitive Research: OAR funds science through a competitive selection process to advance understanding of the Earth's system and impacts of variability and extreme events on society.

NOAA's climate research activities are authorized under the *National Climate Program Act* (15 U.S.C. §§ 2901-2908), the *Global Change Research Act* (15 U.S.C. §§ 2921-2961), the *Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation* Act (15 U.S.C. § 8501), and the *National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act* (P.L. 115-423; 15 U.S.C. § 8511-8521).

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this Activity.

Explanation and Justification

The Budget does not provide funding for Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, Regional Climate Data and Information, and Climate Competitive Research.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	Pos./BA	216	102,292	0	0	(216)	(102,292)
	FTE/Obl.	204	102,292	0	0	(204)	(102,292)

Termination of OAR's Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (-$102,292, -204 FTE/ -216 Positions) –NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean and weather research programs in NOS and NWS.

In coordination with the requested terminations for Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-10) and Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-19), NOAA will close the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL; the Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) in College Park, MD, Idaho Falls, ID, and Oak Ridge, TN, as well as a nation-wide network of soil moisture sensors; the Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) in Boulder, CO; the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ; the Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) in Boulder, CO, Utqiaġvik, AK, Mauna Loa, HI, Hilo, HI, Big Island, HI, American Samoa, and the South Pole; the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, WA; and the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) in Boulder, CO.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Regional Climate Data and Information	Pos./BA	28	47,932	0	0	(28)	(47,932)
	FTE/Obl.	28	47,932	0	0	(28)	(47,932)

Termination of OAR's Regional Climate Data and Information (-$47,932, -28 FTE/ -28 Positions) –NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean and weather research programs in NOS and NWS.

With this termination, NOAA will no longer support the National Integrated Heat Health Information System, the Climate Smart Communities Initiative, or Climate Adaptation Partnerships. NOAA will assess how to continue support for high priority activities currently supported within Regional Climate Data and Information.

Department of Commerce
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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Climate Competitive Research	Pos./BA	60	69,600	0	0	(60)	(69,600)
	FTE/Obl.	51	69,600	0	0	(51)	(69,600)

Termination of OAR's Climate Competitive Research (-$69,600, -51 FTE/ -60 Positions) – NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean and weather research programs in NOS and NWS.

With this termination, NOAA will no longer support climate research grants.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Weather and Air Chemistry Research

Goal Statement

Weather and Air Chemistry Research continually improves capabilities to provide more accurate and timely warnings and forecasts of various high-impact weather, water, and air quality events by prioritizing improvements in weather data observation, modeling, computing, forecasting, and warnings for the protection of life and property, for the enhancement of the national economy.

Program Description

OAR's weather research laboratories, programs, and partners advance the NWS prediction capabilities. NOAA also focuses resources on better understanding and providing information on seasonal (3 months to 2 years) and sub-seasonal (2 weeks to 3 months) outlooks for farmers, fishermen, emergency responders, other industry workers, and the American people regarding what to expect in two weeks, next month, or next season. In addition, scientists working within OAR's Weather and Air Chemistry Research study atmospheric chemistry to accurately characterize atmospheric composition and predict meteorological processes to more effectively understand their role in severe weather.

Four Subactivities support Weather and Air Chemistry Research:

- Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes: Primarily support weather forecasting improvement and air chemistry research, modeling, and technology development. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.
- U.S. Weather Research Program: Produces cutting-edge research, analysis techniques, and observing platforms through collaboration with Federal agencies and entities, state and local governments, academia, and the private sector. The Budget transitions this program to the NWS.
- Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar: Produces cutting edge research to better determine the type and size of precipitation by coupling weather forecast model information with dual-polarized radar observations, and develops and evaluates Phased Array Radar, which can provide faster and earlier weather predictions. The Budget transitions this program to the NWS.
- Joint Technology Transfer Institute: Accelerates the transition of weather, water, and climate forecasting research to operations in the NWS The Budget transitions this program to the NWS.

NOAA's weather research activities are authorized under the *Weather Service Modernization Act* (Title VII, 15 U.S.C. § 313 note, §§ 701-709), the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act* (Title I, § 108, 15 U.S.C. § 313 note), the *Weather*

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Research and Forecasting Innovation Act (15 U.S.C. § 8501), and the *National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act* (P.L. 115-423; 15 U.S.C. § 8511-8521).

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget requests funding for this program within NWS.

Explanation and Justification

The Budget does not provide funding for the Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. The Budget transitions U.S. Weather Research Program, Tornado Severe Storm / Phased Array Radar, and Joint Technology Transfer Institute to the NWS (see pages OAR-11, OAR-13, OAR-15, NWS-11, NWS-22, and NWS-37).

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Weather Laboratories and	Pos./BA	285	90,156	0	0	(285)	(90,156)
Cooperative Institutes	FTE/Obl.	244	90,156	0	0	(244)	(90,156)

Termination of OAR's Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (-$90,156, -244 FTE/ -285 Positions) – NOAA requests this termination in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to support high priority weather research programs in NWS.

In coordination with the requested terminations for Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-5) and Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-19), NOAA will close the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL; the Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) in College Park, MD, Idaho Falls, ID, and Oak Ridge, TN, as well as a nation-wide network of soil moisture sensors; the Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) in Boulder, CO; the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ; the Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) in Boulder, CO, Utqiaġvik, AK, Mauna Loa, HI, Hilo, HI, Big Island, HI, American Samoa, and the South Pole; the Global Systems Laboratory (GSL) in Boulder, CO; the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman, OK; the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, WA; and the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) in Boulder, CO.

NOAA will discontinue funding for activities previously supported by the Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes Subactivity including the Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment (VORTEX) and the Warn on Forecast (WoF) system. NOAA will evaluate options for supporting these specific activities within the NWS in the future.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
U.S. Weather Research Program	Pos./BA	20	38,840	0	7,506	(20)	(31,334)
	FTE/Obl.	17	38,840	0	7,506	(17)	(31,334)

Transition OAR's U.S. Weather Research Program to NWS (-$31,334, -17 FTE/ -20 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition the U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP) from OAR to the Science and Technology Integration Activity in NWS in order to support Administration priorities.

With this request, weather research activities, including the Earth Prediction Innovation Center, fire weather, extreme precipitation, and drought research will be transitioned to NWS (see NWS-22). NOAA will continue to work with external partners and internally-funded projects to improve NOAA's Unified Forecast System and its predictive skill.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
U.S. Weather Research Program	Pos./BA	20	38,840	20	31,334	0	(7,506)
	FTE/Obl.	17	38,840	17	31,334	0	(7,506)

U.S. Weather Research Program Reduction (-$7,506, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to support high priority weather research programs in NWS (see NWS-22).

With this request, NOAA will reduce grant funding provided through the U.S. Weather Research Program.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Tornado Severe Storm	Pos./BA	6	20,916	0	916	(6)	(20,000)
Research / PAR	FTE/Obl.	6	20,916	0	916	(6)	(20,000)

Transition OAR's Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar to NWS (-$20,000, -6 FTE/ -6 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar activities from OAR to the Science and Technology Integration Activity in NWS in order to support Administration priorities.

With this request, weather radar and severe weather research and development efforts will be transition to NWS (see NWS-22).

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar	Pos./BA	6	20,916	6	20,000	0	(916)
	FTE/Obl.	6	20,916	6	20,000	0	(916)

Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar Reduction (-$916, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to support high priority weather research programs in NWS. NOAA will continue to support high priority weather research in NWS (see NWS-22).

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	Pos./BA	4	12,000	0	2,000	(4)	(10,000)
	FTE/Obl.	4	12,000	0	2,000	(4)	(10,000)

Transition OAR's Joint Technology Transfer Initiative to NWS (-$10,000, -4 FTE/ -4 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative from OAR to the Science and Technology Integration Activity in NWS in order to support Administration priorities.

With this request, weather research technology transfer initiatives will be transitioned to NWS (see NWS-22).

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	Pos./BA	4	12,000	4	10,000	0	(2,000)
	FTE/Obl.	4	12,000	4	10,000	0	(2,000)

Joint Technology Transfer Initiative Reduction (-$2,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests to this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to support high priority weather research in NWS (see NWS-22).

With this request, NOAA will reduce grant funding provided through the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research

Goal Statement

The Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research in OAR provides science to coastal communities from a wide network of university partners, develops technology to advance the Nation's oceans and Great Lakes observations, and coordinates multi-partner ocean exploration missions to characterize our natural resources and improve our understanding of the changes occurring in the oceans and Great Lakes.

Program Description

The following seven Subactivities support the Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research portfolio:

- Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes: Primarily supports foundational ocean observation networks and research, modeling, and technology development at OAR's laboratories and cooperative institutes. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.
- National Sea Grant College Program: The National Sea Grant College Program is a Federal-state partnership that works with institutions on science based practices in coastal communities. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.
- Sea Grant Aquaculture Research: Funds research, extension, and competitive grants targeting challenges to marine aquaculture. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.
- Ocean Exploration and Research: Established by Congress through the Ocean Exploration Act, Ocean Exploration and Research is the only Federal organization dedicated to ocean exploration. The Budget transitions this program to NOS.
- Integrated Ocean Acidification (OA) authorized under the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act to better understand ocean acidification and the consequences of OA on marine resources to enable communities to mitigate, prepare, and adapt to changes. The Budget transitions this program to NOS.
- Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring: A global system for observations and analysis of marine and ocean variables to support operational ocean services worldwide. The Budget transitions this program to NOS.
- National Oceanographic Partnership Program: This OAR funding line was established in FY 2019 to advance ocean science research through the program established under 10 U.S.C. 7901 and to continue support for Ocean Joint Technology Transfer Initiative projects funded in FY 2018. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this program and transitions the highest priority activities to NOS.

Explanation and Justification

The Budget does not provide funding for the Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, National Sea Grant College Program, Sea Grant Aquaculture Research, and National Oceanographic Partnership Program. The Budget transitions Ocean Exploration and Research, Integrated Ocean Acidification, and Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring to NOS (see pages OAR-22, OAR-23, OAR-24, NOS-9, NOS-10, and NOS-18).

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	Pos./BA	131	39,500	0	0	(131)	(39,500)
	FTE/Obl.	111	39,500	0	0	(111)	(39,500)

Termination of OAR's Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (-$39,500, -111 FTE/ -131 Positions) –NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean research programs in NOS.

In coordination with the requested terminations for Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-5) and Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (see OAR-10), NOAA will close the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL; the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) in Ann Arbor, MI, and Muskegon, MI; and the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, WA.

NOAA will discontinue activities previously supported by the Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes including data collection and analysis from ocean observation systems; Great Lakes surveys, mapping, and forecasting of harmful algal blooms; 'omics research; and technology development partnerships.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Sea Grant College	Pos./BA	20	80,000	0	0	(20)	(80,000)
Program	FTE/Obl.	20	80,000	0	0	(20)	(80,000)

Termination of OAR's National Sea Grant Program (-$80,000, -20 FTE/ -20 Positions) - NOAA requests the termination of the National Sea Grant College Program.

NOAA will eliminate funding for the 33 Sea Grant programs located in coastal States and territories. Individual Sea Grant chapters receive funds from their respective states and other sources as part of the required matching of Federal funds under the Sea Grant Program; as such, the full extent of the impact of this termination of NOAA funds will vary by state.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sea Grant Aquaculture	Pos./BA	4	11,500	0	0	(4)	(11,500)
Research	FTE/Obl.	4	11,500	0	0	(4)	(11,500)

Termination of OAR's Sea Grant Aquaculture Research (-$11,500, -4 FTE/ -4 Positions) - NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service will continue to support and advance aquaculture and will prioritize actions to make aquaculture permitting more efficient.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Ocean Exploration and Research	Pos./BA	37	46,000	0	0	(37)	(46,000)
	FTE/Obl.	35	46,000	0	0	(35)	(46,000)

Transition OAR's Ocean Exploration and Research to NOS (-$46,000, -35 FTE/ -37 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Ocean Exploration and Research activities from OAR to NOS.

With this request, ocean exploration and research efforts will be transitioned to NOS (see NOS-9).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos./BA	15	17,000	0	0	(15)	(17,000)
Integrated Ocean Acidification	FTE/Obl.	15	17,000	0	0	(15)	(17,000)

Transition OAR's Integrated Ocean Acidification to NOS (-$17,000, -15 FTE/ -15 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Integrated Ocean Acidification activities from OAR to NOS.

With this request, ocean acidification research efforts will be transitioned to NOS (see NOS-18).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	Pos./BA	32	52,500	0	15,360	(32)	(37,140)
	FTE/Obl.	32	52,500	0	15,360	(32)	(37,140)

Transition OAR's Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring to NOS (-$37,140, -32 FTE/ -32 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring activities from OAR to NOS.

With this request, the Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program will be transitioned to NOS (see NOS-10).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	Pos./BA	32	52,500	32	37,140	0	(15,360)
	FTE/Obl.	32	52,500	32	37,140	0	(15,360)

Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring Reduction (-$15,360, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests to reduce funding for the Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program. NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean research programs in NOS.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease from 2024 Enacted	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Oceanographic	Pos./BA	1	2,500	0	0	(1)	(2,500)
Partnership Program	FTE/Obl.	1	2,500	0	0	(1)	(2,500)

Termination of OAR's National Oceanographic Partnership Program (-$2,500, -1 FTE/ -1 Position) - This request terminates funding for the National Oceanic Partnership Program. NOAA will continue to support high priority ocean research through NOS. NOAA will eliminate activities that supported ocean science research through the National Oceanic Partnership Program established under 10 U.S.C. 7901.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Innovative Research and Technology

Goal Statement

The Innovative Research and Technology accelerates the adoption and transition of advanced computing and technology throughout NOAA. Innovative Research and Technology supports High Performance Computing (HPC) initiatives through major improvements in weather and climate forecasting, ecosystem and ocean modeling, and environmental information dissemination.

Program Description

Innovative Research and Technology efforts provide NOAA with necessary computational and network resources required to support continued advances in environmental modeling capabilities. The High Performance Computing and Communications program improves the accuracy and timeliness of NOAA's short-term weather warnings, seasonal forecasts, hurricane forecast improvements, as well as larger scale weather predictions that are heavily dependent on major advances. Timely and responsive dissemination of NOAA's services and information requires full use of modern network and communication technologies.

The following Subactivities support Innovative Research and Technology:

- High Performance Computing Initiatives: Supports the computing requirements for NOAA’s modeling and research missions. The Budget transitions this to NWS.
- Uncrewed Systems: Supports the advancement of research and evaluation for operational readiness of a full spectrum of NOAA (aircraft and maritime) uncrewed systems (UxS) mission concepts. The Budget does not provide funding from OAR for these activities.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Explanation and Justification

The Budget does not provide funding for OAR Uncrewed Systems. NOAA will continue to support research and development of uncrewed systems in OMAO. The Budget transitions High Performance Computing Initiatives to NWS (see OAR-28 and NWS-11).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
High Performance Computing Initiatives	Pos./BA	17	18,231	0	8,231	(17)	(10,000)
	FTE/Obl.	16	18,231	0	8,231	(16)	(10,000)

Transition OAR's High Performance Computing Initiatives to NWS (-$10,000, -16 FTE/ -17 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition High Performance Computing Initiatives from OAR to the Central Processing Activity in NWS in order to support Administration priorities.

With this request, the High Performance Computing and Communications program will be transitioned to NWS (see NWS-11).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
High Performance Computing Initiatives	Pos./BA	17	18,231	17	10,000	0	(8,231)
	FTE/Obl.	16	18,231	16	10,000	0	(8,231)

High Performance Computing Initiatives Reduction (-$8,231, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to support research and development high performance computing in NWS (see NWS-11). NOAA will maintain its support for the highest-priority HPC research initiatives, thereby enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of short-term weather warnings and forecasts.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos./BA	0	260	0	0	0	(260)
Uncrewed Systems	FTE/Obl.	0	260	0	0	0	(260)

Termination of OAR's Uncrewed Systems (-$260, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change removes funding for projects that were eliminated in the FY 2024 enacted bill; the FY 2024 Enacted funding level reflects legal obligations that were incurred during FY 2024 under a continuing resolution prior to enactment and elimination, for which funds were subsequently reprogrammed. NOAA will continue to support research and development of uncrewed systems in OMAO.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Systems Acquisition

Goal Statement

Research Supercomputing provides sustained capability to the NOAA Research and Development (R&D) High Performance Computing System (HPC) to advance Earth system science and accelerate the development of regional and sub-regional information products and services.

Research Acquisitions and Management delivers the large-scale research infrastructure required for the science and technology at the foundation of NOAA's climate, weather, and ocean products and services. By investing in this infrastructure, NOAA is investing in the future of the Nation by improving our ability to predict potential changes in global climate, provide earlier warnings about severe weather, and understand our oceans and Great Lakes natural resources and their influence on the Earth's weather and climate.

Program Description

NOAA's R&D HPC provides computational resources to support advances in environmental modeling crucial for understanding critical Earth system modeling issues. NOAA's environmental modeling enterprise underpins most of NOAA's products and services to the Nation. NOAA's R&D HPC assets are part of the critical infrastructure required for NOAA to accomplish its mission. NOAA's R&D HPC supports the NOAA user base in the geospatial and ecosystems research communities across the Agency. However, demand for HPC computing resources outweighs the supply currently. NOAA is exploring ways of mitigating this shortfall through other means such as cloud computing. NOAA currently has several pilots examining if cloud could be a possible solution to fill the supply and demand gap. Additionally, NOAA's research infrastructure is critical for the study of Earth's systems to better support NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean and coasts. This research will allow NOAA to make great strides in improving observations for severe weather, including fire weather, hurricanes, and flooding and eventually feed into observational forecasts.

Two Subactivities support Systems Acquisition:

- Research Supercomputing: Provides computational resources to support advances in environmental modeling crucial for understanding critical Earth system modeling issues, including the supercomputing systems, associated storage devices, advanced data communications, hardware and software engineering services, security, and necessary data center space.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

- Research Acquisitions and Management: Provides funding for large-scale infrastructure investments that support NOAA's climate, weather, and ocean research, such as mobile precipitation radars, uncrewed aircraft systems, boundary layer profilers, mobile observation facilities, and weather radar test articles.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Explanation and Justification

The Budget does not provide funding for Research Acquisitions and Management. The Budget transitions Research Supercomputing to NWS (see OAR-33 and NWS-37).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos./BA	4	50,000	0	25,000	(4)	(25,000)
Research Supercomputing	FTE/Obl.	4	50,000	0	25,000	(4)	(25,000)

Transition Research Supercomputing to NWS (-$25,000, -4 FTE/ -4 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Research Supercomputing from OAR to the Central Processing (PAC) Activity in NWS (see NWS-37) in order to support Administration priorities.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos./BA	4	50,000	4	25,000	0	(25,000)
Research Supercomputing	FTE/Obl.	4	50,000	4	25,000	0	(25,000)

Research Supercomputing Reduction (-$25,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will continue to fund high priority research supercomputing in NWS. NOAA will provide software engineering support and associated tools to re-architect its applications for optimal performance on next generation HPC architectures. NOAA will also support R&D HPC software engineering efforts to enhance capacity and utilization of cloud platforms. Furthermore, NOAA will prioritize its support for artificial intelligence (AI) development to improve its weather and ocean numerical models.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2026 Base		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Research Acquisition and Management	Pos./BA	0	20,000	0	0	0	(20,000)
	FTE/Obl.	0	20,000	0	0	0	(20,000)

Termination of Phased Array Radar (-$20,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This request terminates funding for the Phased Array Radar (PAR) acquisition activities. Continued ORF funding in the NWS Science and Technology Integration Subactivity (see NWS-18) will allow NOAA to evaluate technology to meet NOAA's weather radar requirements.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $1,447,927,000 and 4,350 FTE/ 4,472 positions for the National Weather Service (NWS).

NOAA is modernizing the NWS by prioritizing its core mission, streamlining field operations, migrating its primary weather interactive processing system to the cloud, planning for the next generation of radars, and operationalizing artificial intelligence (AI)-based numerical weather predictions. The FY 2026 budget submission reflects realignments and investments that will drive efficiency and focus on fast, agile implementation and modernized operations to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. NWS continues to produce operational forecasts, warnings, impact-based decision support services (IDSS) and other life-saving products and services to the emergency management community and public as they prepare for and respond to increasingly frequent severe weather and water events. In FY 2024, the NWS provided an unprecedented 13,190 severe storm warnings, 2,249 tornado warnings, 1,931 heat watches, warnings and advisories, 1,811 flash flood warnings, and 19,743 fire forecasts, with longer lead times than ever before. In response to this increasing need for decision support services and partner support, NWS is transforming by adapting its operating model to better align resources with shifting partner needs and increased demand for IDSS at state and local levels. FY 2026 investments will take a three-pronged approach to transform NWS across three critical areas:

- Systems - Modernizing NWS infrastructure to leverage new technologies to improve performance, security, and efficiency, while also enabling agility to adapt to future needs; and leveraging commercial data buys to expand the suite of observations available to support NWS operations.
- Operations - Reengineering NWS forecast operations, including products and processes, to meet the demands of a changing nation.
- Mission Support - Aligning critical mission support workflows and operations within the agency to enable NWS front-line mission fulfillment while working to achieve maximum efficiency, reduce duplicative efforts, increase productivity, and deliver optimum results.

By investing in key emerging technologies, NWS will enable forecasters to pivot from the current hard-wired service delivery model to an agile posture that enables eye-to-eye delivery of IDSS directly to decision makers. The mission delivery model will be modernized by coupling emerging technologies with more strategic staffing. By transforming the NWS operations model and streamlining the agency, NWS will drive greater economic benefits, strengthen national security, and deepen NWS partnerships with the commercial weather enterprise into the future.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/ NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	9,886	0	0	0	(9,886)
	FTE/OBL	0	9,886	0	0	0	(9,886)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$9,886, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) - This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Observations

Goal Statement

NWS relies on environmental observations, from the surface of the sun to the bottom of the sea, to meet its forecast and warnings mission. NWS integrates *in situ* and remotely-sensed data from NOAA-managed systems, partner systems, and non-Federal sources such as commercial data buys. These include radars, satellites, upper air, marine, and surface-based systems that support statutory mandates.

Program Description

Funding supports operations and maintenance of all NWS observing systems, and to evaluate observational requirements, engineer technical solutions, perform systems development and testing, and purchase additional observational data from select third-party vendors. Together, the observations ensure warning and forecasting in all mission service areas of the NWS including aviation weather, severe weather, space weather, marine weather, tropical weather, fire weather and more. These systems measure different phenomena from a variety of perspectives, such as ground, air, or remote sensing, and they complement each other to form a holistic picture of the environment. By gathering information from multiple sources, NWS ensures the most complete data picture possible to support NWS meteorologists, as well as other Federal agencies, industry, academia, and international partners.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Sustain the tri-agency Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) radar network
- Sustain the radiosonde and aircraft reporting networks in support of upper air observations and modeling
- Sustain the tri-agency Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) in support of aviation, and other services
- Operate and maintain ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal weather buoys, Coastal Marine Automated Networks (C-MAN), Pacific Ocean Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) buoy network, and the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoy network in support of marine, tropical, tropical cyclone, and tsunami warnings and forecasts
- Sustain data processing of the National Solar Observatory's Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG) in support of space weather warnings and forecasts
- Sustain the Cooperative Observer Program (COOP)
- Sustain the Voluntary Observing Ships program in support of marine weather

- Develop, test, and deploy NEXRAD Radar Product Generator and Radar Data Acquisition Software Builds
- Develop, test, and deploy Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) Supplemental Product Generator (SPG) Builds
- Sustain the Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System
- Transition legacy General Services Administration circuits supporting NEXRAD and ASOS to the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions

Deliverables

- Support operations of 122 NEXRAD systems at 96 percent availability
- Support operations of 45 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) TDWR SPG systems
- Support operations of 100 radiosonde stations in the United States and its territories, and Pacific Island nations, maintaining 90 percent availability
- Support operations and maintenance of 308 NWS, 570 FAA, and 78 Department of Defense ASOS units under a reimbursable funding agreement at 96 percent availability
- Support operations of 93 Coastal Weather Buoys systems at 80 percent availability
- Support operations of 40 C-MAN stations at 80 percent availability
- Support operations of 39 DART buoys at 70 percent availability
- Support operations of the Pacific Ocean TAO buoy network at 70 percent availability
- Support data processing of GONG data to the Space Weather Prediction Center
- Oversee continued observational data purchasing
- Leverage data flow from aircraft observations commercial data purchases
- Maintain National Mesonet Program Office and leverage data flow from commercial environmental data purchases
- Leverage data flow from commercial lightning data purchases
- Leverage data flow from ship, vessel, or other marine surface meteorological and oceanographic data purchases
- Support strategic and tactical ice analysis services for the tri-agency U.S. National Ice Center by leveraging data from foreign satellite data purchases and providing support for the International Arctic Buoy Program
- Provide maintenance, repair, quality assurance, and warehousing of new and reconditioned parts
- Develop and maintain software for observing systems
- Perform system and operational tests and evaluation of alternative systems
- Continue the transition of legacy circuits supporting NEXRAD and ASOS inventory to the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions
- Support the development of applications for use of meteorological satellite data and information in NWS operations

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

Observations maintains the following programs to accomplish this activity:

Upper Air Observations Program provides a vertical profile of meteorological data across the Earth's atmosphere. To provide humidity, pressure, and other data that inform weather forecasts, NWS operates a radiosonde network, acquires observations from private and commercial aircraft, and acquires lightning data from commercial vendors. In addition, the program provides for critical, terrestrial-based space weather observations.

Radar Observations Program provides meteorological data about winds, clouds, and precipitation that provide real-time information to forecasters for issuing severe weather warnings, with guidance on storm impacts, quantitative precipitation estimates and severity. To produce timely and accurate storm data, NWS operates 122 NEXRADs and acquires supplementary radar data from other sources and tests and evaluates current and new functions in NEXRAD through scientific and engineering support.

Surface Observations Program provides meteorological data at the Earth's surface. To provide on-the-ground observations, NWS operates the ASOS, the COOP, and the National Mesonet Program.

Marine Observations Program provides real-time meteorological, oceanographic, climatological, and tsunami *in situ* observations in the open ocean and coastal zones surrounding the U.S. and the equatorial Pacific Ocean. NWS operates the Coastal Weather Buoy network, C-MAN, the TAO buoy network, the DART buoy network, and the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) program. NWS tests and evaluates current and new capabilities in marine-borne observations through scientific and engineering support.

Systems Engineering and Support provides systems acquisition, engineering, and logistics support for NWS mission critical observing systems, as well as the functional expertise necessary to design, acquire, test, and provide life cycle support.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos/BA	712	249,962	711	251,462	-1	1,500
Observations	FTE/OBL	692	249,962	692	251,462	0	1,500

Observations Increase (+$1,500, 0 FTE/ -1 Positions) - NOAA requests this increase to ensure operations of observing systems, such as the NEXRAD, ASOS, ocean buoys, and radiosondes that collect data necessary to provide weather forecasts, warnings, and outlooks. NWS will continue to operate 93 Coastal Weather Buoys at 80 percent availability, providing frequent, high-quality marine observations in support of marine, tropical, tropical cyclone, and tsunami warnings and forecasts. The NWS will also continue to perform emergency repairs for NEXRAD radomes and towers. The NEXRAD system has been in place for more than three decades and it is projected that the system will not meet its availability requirements by the mid-2030s, compromising the nation's weather radar capability which is vital for severe weather detection. NOAA is in the process of exploring and evaluating solutions for a follow-on radar capability (see NWS-26 and NWS-27).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Central Processing

Goal Statement

Central Processing is the second step in the NWS forecast process. Through this Activity, NWS ingests data obtained from observing infrastructure and delivers it in a usable form to NWS modelers and meteorologists. Central Processing also supports high performance computing (HPC) initiatives through major improvements in weather and seasonal forecasting, ecosystem and ocean modeling, and environmental information dissemination.

Program Description

Activities under Central Processing include managing the Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOSS), the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), hydrology information technology initiatives, and the information technology (IT) infrastructure that supports national centers and field operations. Together these ensure the uninterrupted flow of information from collection of observations to central guidance production and local access to all essential weather, water and environmental data products. The High Performance Computing and Communications program aims to improve the accuracy and timeliness of NOAA's short-term weather warnings, seasonal forecasts, hurricane forecast improvements, as well as regional and global weather predictions that are heavily dependent on major advances. Central Processing efforts provide NOAA with necessary computational and network resources required to support continued advances in environmental modeling capabilities. Timely and responsive dissemination of NOAA's services and information requires full use of modern network and communication technologies.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Manage high performance computing usage, reliability, and resources including a major system upgrade
- Support scheduled improvements to National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) production suite
- Maintain updated AWIPS architecture and infrastructure at National Centers, Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), River Forecast Centers (RFCs)
- Continue to improve flood lead time and accuracy improvement
- Implement cloud-based AWIPS

- Complete migration of at least one operational model and one research model to next-generation architecture software
- Test impact of assimilation of new and proposed satellite observations using observing system simulation experiment and observing system experiment approaches using the operational Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast hybrid data assimilation system to improve hurricane intensity guidance
- Quantitative evaluation of (statistically) downscaled weather projections for the U.S. and their suitability for use in weather impacts and decision-making applications published in the peer-reviewed literature
- Participate in the Networking and information Technology Research and Development Program interagency activities

Deliverables

- WCOSS meeting or exceeding reliability metrics
- 43 million numerical prediction products produced per day for weather, ocean, river, and space-weather forecasts
- 4,011 operational Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System (AHPS) forecast locations
- National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) performance meeting or exceeding flood lead time and accuracy goals
- National Center and Regional IT infrastructure that meets operational reliability goals through improved annual maintenance
- Continued investigation of emerging HPC technologies and applicability to NOAA research efforts

Explanation and Justification

Central Processing maintains the following programs to accomplish this activity:

NCEP Central Operations provides support for WCOSS including the software and infrastructure that forms the basis for predictions from NCEP Centers and WFOs through its Weather and Climate Computing Infrastructure Services program.

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System is the information processing, display, and telecommunications system that is the cornerstone of NWS field operations. In FY 2026, NOAA will begin to implement the new AWIPS in the Cloud system. NWS will also continue to translate key products into Spanish, Samoan, Chinese, Vietnamese, and French.

Hydrology Information Technology Initiatives gather, integrate and utilize advanced and localized water and related observations to predict streamflow and produce water resources information to inform decisions, which optimize water use and mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts.

National Centers and Regional IT Infrastructure maintain the information technology infrastructure and standards that enable the

National Centers and regional offices, including forecast offices, to effectively work together.

High Performance Computing Initiatives, established through the *High-Performance Computing Act of 1991* (P.L. 102-194), improve the accuracy and timeliness of NOAA's short-term weather warnings, forecasts, hurricane forecast improvements, as well as regional and global environment and ecosystem predictions. HPC Initiatives provide necessary computational and network resources required to advance in environmental modeling capabilities across NOAA. In fact, every NOAA Line Office uses R&D HPC systems.

Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos/BA	230	110,000	232	120,132	2	10,132
Central Processing	FTE/OBL	219	110,000	221	120,132	2	10,132

Central Processing Increase (+$10,132, +2 FTE/ +2 Positions) - NOAA requests an increase to better support Administration priorities. With this increase, the NWS will continue to implement AWIPS in the Cloud, ensuring that the highest priority mission activities for NOAA can continue. The NWS will work towards the planning, designing, and implementation of the AWIPS in the Cloud system that is aligned with the new concepts for NWS operations. NWS anticipates that the legacy AWIPS will need to operate in parallel with AWIPS in the Cloud in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to account for phased implementation and reliability testing.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos/BA	230	110,000	247	120,000	17	10,000
Central Processing	FTE/OBL	219	110,000	236	120,000	17	10,000

Transition High Performance Computing Initiatives from OAR (+$10,000, +17 FTE/ +17 Positions) - NOAA requests to transition High Performance Computing Initiatives from OAR to NWS in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will maintain its support for the highest-priority HPC research and development initiatives, thereby enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of short-term weather warnings and forecasts.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Analyze, Forecast and Support

Goal Statement

NWS' mission is to provide forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services (IDSS) for the protection of life and property, and to support the national economy. The Analyze, Forecast and Support (AFS) Activity leverages innovations from the Science and Technology Integration (STI) Activity, and utilizes output and support services from the Observations, Central Processing, and Dissemination Activities by applying expertise to the observed data, model outputs, and dissemination systems, resulting in forecasts, warnings, and IDSS for the Nation.

Program Description

NWS' national network of forecast offices, specialized centers, and associated workforce of meteorologists, hydrologists, climatologists, and space physicists are supported through the AFS Activity. This expert workforce monitors the weather, water, and space weather from our oceans to the surface of the sun, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Forecasts and warnings, provided days in advance of pending winter storms or hurricanes, wildland fire conditions, tornado outbreaks, heat waves or river floods, enable communities, industry, and emergency managers to plan effective preparation and response strategies. Warnings for high impact, rapidly evolving hazards such as solar storms, tornadoes, tsunamis, flash floods or ash plumes following volcanic eruptions, enable decision makers to keep the public out of harm's way to protect their lives and livelihoods.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Operate national network of 24/7 WFOs, that provide weather surveillance, IDSS, forecast and warning services
- Operate national network of RFCs that provide river stage, streamflow, water supply, and flood guidance
- Operate the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Centers
- Operate the National Water Center 24/7
- Operate NOAA's component of the interagency U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) to support sea ice analysis and prediction
- Provide IDSS to core partners during routine and high impact events
- Operate Tsunami Warning Centers to monitor and predict tsunamis

- Provide weather and financial support to the Nations of the Pacific Island Compact

Deliverables

- Operations of all WFOs, RFCs, National Centers, and Tsunami Warning Centers
- IDSS provided to local, regional and state partners and decision makers from WFOs, RFCs and National Centers
- Provision of field operational support from National Headquarters
- Operations and maintenance of Weather Service Offices and Data Collection Offices outside the continental United States
- Operational sea ice forecasts from the USNIC
- Aviation weather forecasts for all identified airports and air routes
- Incident Meteorologists trained and deployment-ready to support decision makers at wildland fires
- Probabilistic prediction of extreme weather events in support for fire management of large fire outbreaks and growth
- Fire weather services, decision support and risk communications for rural, Tribal, and wildlife urban interface communities
- Continued support of StormReady® and TsunamiReady® communities
- Nearly one hundred percent of the U.S. population served by operational Flood Inundation Mapping services
- Design an aligned National Tsunami Warning System, and redesign tsunami.gov website to support alignment of new system
- Fortified concept of operations and common analytic and messaging interfaces for Tsunami Warning Centers
- Seasonal to sub-seasonal IDSS tools deployed to support regional and local delivery of IDSS
- Plain language utilized in hazard communication to support risk mitigation and decision-making
- Revised space weather scales to provide critical and timely space weather IDSS
- Improved resolution of warning services to reduce overwarning

Explanation and Justification

AFS maintains the following programs to accomplish these and other mission-critical activities:

Weather and Climate Services and Warnings provide real-time meteorological and subseasonal to seasonal products and services to emergency managers, public officials and the public. To achieve this requirement, NWS operates WFOs and other field offices within the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawai'i, U.S. territories and in locations within the Pacific Island Compact.

National Centers provide specialized forecast guidance and products for NWS field offices and other direct users (such as the FAA's Air Route Traffic Control Center, and FEMA). The National Centers provide an integrated suite of numerical weather and environmental forecast guidance, at scales ranging from local to global, at various time frames. NWS forecasters and the weather

enterprise use this information and the suite of weather model output as the basis for consistent forecast products, advisories and warnings. The AFS Activity supports the following NCEP Centers:

- **Aviation Weather Center** delivers consistent, timely and accurate weather information to support safe air navigation for the world airspace system.
- **Climate Prediction Center** delivers real-time products and information on timescales from weeks two-to-four to sub-seasonal and seasonal, integrating observed weather with longer-term climate variability. This includes predictions for the onset and duration of El Niño and La Niña events.
- **National Hurricane Center** issues watches, warnings, forecasts and analyses of hazardous tropical weather (e.g., tropical storms and hurricanes including storm surge), and offshore and high seas marine forecasts for a large part of the southwest North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of America, and the eastern North Pacific.
- **Ocean Prediction Center** issues marine warnings, forecasts, and guidance for maritime users and continually monitors and analyzes maritime data for protection of life and property, safety at sea, and enhancement of economic opportunity.
- **Space Weather Prediction Center** provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events and disturbances such as geomagnetic storms and solar flares.
- **Storm Prediction Center** provides forecasts and watches for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, large hail, lightning, wildfire potential, and heavy precipitation for the United States.
- **Weather Prediction Center** is responsible for preparing a variety of analyses, national guidance products, and reliable national forecasts through a collaborative forecast process that ensures consistency and accuracy.

Hydrologic Services and Warnings provides hydrologic data, analysis, forecast information, and decision support services through the National Water Center, RFCs, and WFOs to address the Nation’s growing water resources challenges.

NOAA’s Tsunami Warning Program provides reliable, 24/7 monitoring of seismic events that could generate a tsunami that could impact the Atlantic or Pacific coastlines.

Pacific Island Compact is part of the U.S. Compact of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau in which the U.S. government provides basic government and commerce services including weather services to these island nations. The Compact provides the necessary funding to support the NWS WSOs and associated weather warning, forecast, and observation services for these islands.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Dissemination

Goal Statement

The ability to communicate warnings and forecasts to the American public is essential to protecting property and saving lives. To be effective, NWS requires a scalable, robust, secure, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week operational dissemination infrastructure with a combination of on-premise and public cloud components, an optimized network that meets capacity requirements, and a sophisticated suite of communications systems to meet varied customer needs in a timely, reliable, and authoritative manner.

Program Description

The NWS transmits forecasts and warnings through the infrastructure supported by the Dissemination Activity. Dissemination maintains communication technology required by NWS to collect, tailor, and distribute data and products. The resilient Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP) infrastructure is an on-premise private cloud located in Boulder, CO, and College Park, MD. The IDP infrastructure collects and distributes watches, warnings, advisories, data, and products internally and externally. It provides information to multiple users in various formats including satellite broadcast and terrestrial (Earth-based) networks, internet, radio, and partner briefing webinars. The IDP infrastructure is the mission-critical communications hub that delivers information to different dissemination networks, such as to NWS offices, over the OneNWS Network, which connects NWS sites to each other and to partners, to the public with Wireless Emergency Alerts through FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and requests for Emergency Alert System activations through NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), and to emergency managers via the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network.

In FY 2026, NWS will begin divesting in IDP and transitioning the dissemination applications from IDP to the DIS Cloud. NWS will also continue to migrate the OneNWS Net and other circuits off of the General Services Administration (GSA) Networx contract to the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS) contract and to the NOAA N-Wave network. To ensure a Weather-Ready Nation and optimize the delivery of scalable and agile dissemination capabilities, the NWS organized the Dissemination Subactivity around infrastructure, networks, web services, and other warning-delivery services.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Maintain existing Enterprise Geospatial and Web Services to accommodate data providers and users and increase data throughput via the DIS Cloud
- Execute approved and resourced Roadmap for future Weather Distribution Services to support a Weather-Ready Nation
- Manage IDP system usage, reliability, and resources
- Operate and maintain IDP applications 24x7
- Operate and maintain applications in the public cloud 24x7
- Operate and maintain water-related products and services
- Maintain operational support and maintenance of IDP on-premise private cloud infrastructure
- Maintain operational support and maintenance of NWS Geostationary Weather Satellite Antenna System
- Operate and maintain OneNWS Network bandwidth/reliability as NWS transitions to the EIS contract and NOAA N-Wave
- Transition all NWR IP circuits, NWR sites, and One NWSNet sites to EIS and NOAA N-Wave.
- Sustain operational capability of applications such as NWWS and Spot on IDP
- Sustain operational capability of National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) and NWSChat 2.0 on the DIS Cloud

Deliverables

- Maintain IDP services at greater than 99 percent reliability
- Maintain NWR service at 96 percent availability
- Disseminate warning messages in fewer than 15 seconds
- Integrated enhanced weather data and web services operationally supported on IDP system monitored 24x7
- 24x7 support of infrastructure and networking services
- 24x7 support of NWS Global Information System Centers, GIS, and Web Services via the DIS Cloud
- Modernized telecommunications infrastructure capable of meeting the agency's mission

Explanation and Justification

Dissemination maintains the following programs to accomplish this activity:

Dissemination IT Infrastructure and Virtualized Application Services within the IDP provides a scalable, robust, and secure dissemination IT infrastructure in two geographically diverse locations for NWS, NOAA, and Federal partners.

Terrestrial and Satellite Networking Services ensures NWS has the networking capacity and reliability to deliver critical weather data for internal and external partners. NWS operates and maintains critical terrestrial and satellite networking capabilities. With its

updated IT infrastructure, NWS ensures adequate processing, delivery, and exploitation of new environmental satellite, model, and radar data. These terrestrial and satellite operational networks enable NWS to use new data to improve the accuracy and timeliness of weather warnings and forecasts.

Weather Information Distribution Services provides the capabilities to communicate weather-related warnings directly to emergency managers and the American public. These services include providing NWS data and product access for international partners via the World Meteorological Organization Information Systems and the robust NWS Global Information System Centers.

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Science and Technology Integration

Goal Statement

NWS improves the overall quality of the environmental information needed to safeguard life and livelihoods by integrating new science and technology into its operations. NWS' STI activity leverages the entire weather enterprise including users, research communities, partner agencies, and industry, to provide improved ensemble-based weather forecast guidance, to leverage innovative artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technology for efficient operations and enhanced services, to evaluate NWS products and services for improved service delivery, to quantify the economic value of NWS information, and to effectively transition knowledge and applications to operations for the Nation. Weather and Air Chemistry Research continually improves capabilities to provide more accurate and timely warnings and forecasts of various high-impact weather, water, and air quality events by prioritizing improvements in weather data observation, modeling, computing, forecasting, and warnings.

Program Description

STI engages partners in outreach efforts, supporting targeted research and development efforts, improving a suite of forecast guidance models and post-processing, implementing AI/ML technologies efficiently and effectively to improve forecasts, alerts, and communications, continuously training the workforce on scientific advances, as well as integrating the latest scientific advances to include economic and evaluation methodologies into operations. Demonstration and transition of groundbreaking research into operations (R2O) is a fundamental activity of this portfolio. NWS identifies and transfers innovative science into operational warnings, forecasts, stakeholder engagement, and decision support services, enabling the NWS vision to build a Weather-Ready Nation through improved products and probabilistic impact-based decision support services (IDSS).

NWS’s weather research activities are key contributors to advancing operational prediction capabilities. NOAA also focuses resources on better understanding and providing information on seasonal (3 months to 2 years) and sub-seasonal (2 weeks to 3 months) outlooks for farmers, fishermen, emergency responders, other industry workers, and the American people regarding what to expect in two weeks, next month, or next season.

Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs support cooperation with external experts in weather and air chemistry research, improving predictions and warnings for the public and weather-sensitive U.S. industries with cutting-edge research, analysis techniques, and observing platforms.

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 - FY 2030

- Test, demonstrate, and evaluate new science and service capabilities, including Seasonal Forecast System prototypes
- Routinely upgrade regional, global, hurricane, and air quality model, and National Blend of Models
- Improve weather model and post-processing guidance
- Demonstrate high-resolution large watershed modeling with nested hyper-resolution modeling over three regional areas
- Incrementally update Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis/Unrestricted Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis, Hurricane Analysis and Forecast System, and the broader product suite based on customer requirements
- Develop an Agent Based Model for select riverine communities experiencing flooding
- Implement case study methodology to support Service Assessments and After Action Reports to evaluate impacts of weather and weather services on communities
- Implement the Next Generation Probabilistic Guidance Suite, NWS Connect Full Operating Capability, and Regional Wave Prediction System
- Demonstrate the NWS Weather-Ready Community Engagement Model
- Advance radar capabilities to better estimate precipitation in the cool season using dual polarization techniques in operational radar's Multi Radar Multi Sensor
- Complete annual competitive grant process for U.S. Weather Research Program-funded research and demonstration projects
- Evaluate Advanced Technology Demonstrator as a proof-of-concept for phased array radar (PAR)
- Continue development of rotating planar PAR test plan
- Facilitate knowledge sharing through the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC)
- Produce well-documented, cloud-friendly, performance-optimized code through EPIC by managing and documenting code, integrating code with other NOAA and community modeling efforts, and conducting performance optimization
- Conduct real-time demonstrations to evaluate the Experimental Hourly Wildfire Potential Index derived from the High Resolution Rapid Refresh model predictions of temperature, winds, and soil moisture conditions

Deliverables

- Upgrades to operational global coupled earth system prediction systems, modeling infrastructure, operational regional and hurricane forecast systems, operational storm surge warning service products, and ozone and particulate prediction systems.
- Probabilistic hydrologic forecasts for assessing river level and flood risks
- Continuous improvements to operational forecast models with new or improved probabilistic forecast information

- Regular release of operational forecast systems to the research and development community through the UFS framework
- Transition of new and improved modeling techniques, evaluated by the Developmental Testbed Center and EPIC, and delivered to NWS for incorporation in the operational modeling suite
- Development and implementation of the next generation Joint Effort for Data assimilation Integration (JEDI) data assimilation infrastructure across operational modeling suite forecast systems
- Agile HPC environment with quicker operational transition of research and development efforts
- Operational weekly, monthly and seasonal sea ice outlook guidance products for Arctic Ocean
- Forecaster applications of near real-time data products from research ocean remote sensing satellites
- Global operational coupled atmosphere-ocean-land-wave-sea ice prediction system extending today's operational weather outlooks from 16 days out to one year
- Improved forecasts provided to the Nation's critical infrastructure of space weather
- Improved public access to Federal water information
- Implement NWS Connect, including decision thresholds for specific weather events and communities
- Implement NWS Weather-Ready Community Engagement Model
- Prototype PAR products available for transfer into NOAA operational system in an experimental mode
- Initiate the report on the evaluation of the rotating PAR capability
- Release EPIC community portal that integrates UFS code repository and dashboard, tutorials, and advanced user support
- AI/ML repository with AI-ready datasets to promote open development for AI-based numerical weather prediction models.

Explanation and Justification

Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) is a nationwide initiative to build community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. WRN empowers emergency managers, first responders, government officials, businesses, and the public to make faster, smarter decisions to save lives and protect livelihoods.

Operational Environmental Prediction Modeling Suite is the foundation for all warning, forecast, and decision support services. The Environmental Modeling Center develops, enhances, and maintains complex software systems for numerical weather, ocean, sea-ice, land, air quality, and coastal prediction, including data assimilation and post-processing, that span the globe from minutes to seasonal timescales. These forecast systems underpin all NOAA forecasts, warnings, and decision support service products.

Improving Effectiveness of Warning and Forecasts aims to accelerate the transition of advanced modeling, tools, and technology

research into operations. This program is focused on improving warning and forecast lead times and accuracy of hazardous weather events associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, flash floods, and other severe weather hazards. The current focus is on Medium Range Weather / Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (days to months), Short Range Weather (hours to days), and Hurricane applications.

Hydrology and Water Resource Programs leverage NOAA partnerships to improve and integrate water resource prediction modeling capabilities. NWS' Hydrology Laboratory conducts research leading to the application of new scientific and computer technologies to hydrologic forecasting and related water resources problems. NWS transitions research into operational hydrologic and water resource forecasts to provide integrated decision support tools that offer a seamless suite of summit-to-sea forecasts.

Training Infrastructure is critical to preparing the current and future workforce for WRN. NWS uses a blended learning approach including online courses, webinars, and residence training. Implementation of these training initiatives requires new and enhanced methods and technologies for training development and delivery, taking into consideration adult learning principles and innovative technology such as such as simulations and on-demand training, integrated into applications and other systems.

Improve Operational Forecast Products and Services through a continuous infusion of science and technology. This is critical for improving services and ensuring the current and future workforce is prepared to meet the requirements of a WRN.

Build Economic and Evaluation capabilities to understand weather impacts to communities so that the NWS can improve decisions-making and service delivery to fulfill its mission. In order to ensure a Weather Ready Nation through improved warnings, forecasts, and training, the Service Delivery Evaluation program provides an evaluation framework to measure progress, understand and impacts and outcomes over time, and to quantify the value of the NWS.

Tornado and Severe Storm Research to couple weather forecast model information with dual-polarized radar observations to better determine the type and intensity of precipitation, and add the ability to classify hail size and detect tornado debris. Other radar research includes developing phased array radar, which can reduce the time to scan a weather system from four to five minutes to less than one minute, providing earlier weather predictions.

Earth Prediction Innovation Center is creating a true community global weather research modeling system that is accessible by the public and utilizes innovative strategies to host and manage the modeling system, leveraging existing NOAA resources to accelerate advances to the UFS.

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PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Science and Technology Integration	Pos/BA	471	175,920	502	237,254	31	61,334
	FTE/OBL	440	175,920	469	237,254	29	61,334

Transition Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs from OAR (+$61,334, +29 FTE/ +31 Positions) - NOAA requests to transition the U.S. Weather Research Program, Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar, and the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative from OAR to NWS in order to better support administration priorities. NOAA will prioritize several critical initiatives, including the further analysis of PAR, EPIC, and advancing AI.

To improve forecasting capabilities, NOAA will modify how it supports projects that test and demonstrate innovative science and technology, with the goal of integrating advanced forecasting techniques, models, and products in preparation for their operational implementation.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Science and Technology Integration	Pos/BA	471	175,920	469	169,320	-2	(6,600)
	FTE/OBL	440	175,920	438	169,320	-2	(6,600)

Science and Technology Integration Decrease (-$6,600, -2 FTE/ -2 Positions) - NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will maintain support for the highest priority activities, while reducing funding for research conducted by academic and non-profit research institutions to further NOAA's mission.

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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: NWS Systems Acquisition
Subactivity: Observations

Goal Statement

The PAC Observations Subactivity supports the life cycle of all NWS observing system investments by providing technical solutions to meet NWS' operational observational requirements. Through these activities, NOAA conducts current observational capabilities, provides recapitalization of critical observational systems and components, and engineers technical solutions to address system obsolescence, and to meet evolving requirements and demands of systems.

Program Description

Observations is responsible for the collection of space, atmosphere, water, and climate observational data owned, leveraged, or purchased by NWS. Observations is also responsible for the development, acquisition and management of cost-effective observing technologies, hardware and software enhancements, maintenance and repairs, logistics, cost management, technical data verification, and life-cycle replacements of NWS observational platforms.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD)

- Recapitalize test equipment
- Begin radome replacement
- Procure and deploy Transitional Power Management System
- Procure IT refresh of Radar Product Generator hardware and deploy software
- Continue IT Refresh of radar network routers, servers, and IT devices

Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)

- Continue deployment of Acquisition Control Unit (ACU) and Data Collection Package (DCP) upgrades
- Continue to migrate comms to EIS
- Replace end-of-life sensors (e.g., visibility, ceilometers)

Weather Buoys and Coastal Marine Automated Network (C-MAN) stations
- Initiate refresh of at-risk weather buoys (e.g., platforms and sensors)

Upper Air
- Initiate refresh of end-of-life Automated Radiosonde Observation System

Volunteer Observing Programs
- Initiate refresh of end-of-life sensors for Cooperative Observer Program
- Initiate communication upgrades for Voluntary Observing Ship network

EIS
- Establish a sustainable, resilient architecture to meet NWS's current and planned needs
- Continue to migrate communications to EIS

Radar Next
- Issue and analyze Broad Agency Announcements to inform the Analysis of Alternatives; complete market research
- Milestone 2 approval from the DOC Milestone Review Board
- Prototype design, acquire, and test from multiple vendors

Deliverables

NEXRAD
- Re-engineer and integrate key IT hardware and system components to extend service life and maintain IT security controls.

ASOS
- Total refreshment of ACU-DCP enabling rapid sensor replacement, increased data flow, and remote maintenance capabilities
- New sensors to improve precipitation estimates and local weather conditions

Weather Buoys and C-MAN stations
- Refurbished marine and coastal observing network to support weather forecasting and marine transportation

Upper Air
- Continuity for upper air launch sites providing critical input to Numerical Weather Prediction models

Cooperative Observer Programs
- Targeted refresh of critical observing sites providing climatological and oceanic data

EIS
- Modernized telecommunications infrastructure capable of meeting the agency's mission via EIS implementation

Radar Next
- Baselined Cost and Schedule

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

PAC Observations follows a portfolio management approach, wherein objectives are achieved through the prioritization of validated resource requirements and allocation of funds to those priorities. In this case, NWS prioritizes the refurbishment/extension of the useful life of NWS observational assets. Then, funds are allocated based on an evaluation of validated requirements, the impact of the observations to the NWS mission, the overall annual portfolio risk outlook, and costs.

Observation Systems Sustainment
Many of the NWS' observational systems are old and have reached, or are approaching, their end-of-life. Radar systems have thousands of components that continue to wear-out and/or become obsolete. In these cases, replacement components must be designed, engineered, and integrated - sometimes requiring a new manufacturer. Other observing systems face similar challenges - the weather buoy network requires a system refresh as well as new hulls and sensors to replace the current network which has been subject to many years in the harsh ocean environment. The upper air network of automated balloon launchers, a critical input to numerical weather prediction and medium range forecasts, are nearing the end of their life. Observations will have to work with the manufacturer to extend their useful life. The Cooperative Observer Program, the NWS' longest operating and oldest observation program, relies on equipment that is no longer supported by manufacturers and the support systems are nearing obsolescence.

NWS addresses these challenges in a systematic manner, based on system risk and observational impact. It will address obsolete components by re-engineering and integrating new solutions, updating hardware, software, and network components to maintain pace with industry standards, and identifying ways to operate and maintain systems more efficiently.

In FY 2026, the NWS plans to continue migrating systems to EIS, begin recapitalization of vital NEXRAD components; begin to purchase and deploy new ASOS sensors; begin system refresh and recapitalization efforts for the C-MAN stations and weather buoys; and recapitalize obsolete hydrogen generators to replace the need for scarce and expensive helium as a lifting gas for our weather balloons. The Radar Next acquisition will provide for a follow-on to the current NEXRAD system. The next generation radar program, known as Radar Next, will address the expected gap in radar service, improve low elevation radar coverage for vulnerable areas, and introduce technology to improve timelines for issuing warnings for severe weather. Through Radar Next, NWS will continue efforts for the acquisition, integration, and implementation of a follow-on radar capability to provide continuity and meet emerging requirements for NOAA's most important observational system.

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PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos/BA	2	16,200	2	16,700	0	500
Observations	FTE/OBL	2	16,200	2	16,700	0	500

Establish Radar Next Program (+$500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) - NOAA requests this increase to formally establish the next generation radar program, known as Radar Next, to address the expected gap in radar service, improve low elevation radar coverage for vulnerable areas, and introduce technology to improve timelines for issuing warnings for severe weather. Through Radar Next, NWS will continue efforts for the acquisition, integration, and implementation of a follow-on radar capability to provide continuity and meet emerging requirements for NOAA's most important observational system.

Based on initial analysis completed by MITRE, the current NEXRAD system is at a high risk of not being able to maintain a target availability of 96 percent in approximately 10 years based on risk factors such as the supply chain, and component repairability. Loss of this substantial weather radar network without a future alternative would be detrimental, leading to multiple radar outages that would cause significantly reduced severe storm and flash flood detection negatively impacting warning and advisory lead times.

The Radar Next acquisition will provide for a follow-on to the current NEXRAD system. While the NEXRAD Service Life Extension Program extends the current radar's useful life, it does not address all the at-risk components within the system. Supply chain constraints continue to present risk to the availability of critical NEXRAD components and availability of the overall network. Absent this capability, there is a threat of future long-duration/multi-radar outages that would undermine the ability of the NWS to provide vital, life saving warnings and IDSS to core partners and emergency managers in support of the American public.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Pos/BA	2	16,200	2	15,700	0	(500)
Observations	FTE/OBL	2	16,200	2	15,700	0	(500)

Reduce Hydrogen Generator Recapitalization (-$500 0 FTE/ 0 Pos) - NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. Hydrogen Generator (HOGEN) sites convert water into hydrogen instead of purchasing costly helium tanks to inflate weather balloons. Three sites are undergoing recapitalization each year, with a goal of all 27 recapitalized over the next decade in order to upgrade aging equipment. This reduction will recapitalize two less HOGEN sites per year supporting the upper air program.

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: NWS Systems Acquisition
Subactivity: Central Processing

Goal Statement

The PAC Central Processing Subactivity ensures the uninterrupted flow of information from the collection of observations, to central guidance production, to local applications of all essential weather data products, and continuity of public watches and warnings.

Program Description

Central Processing is responsible for program and budget planning for the Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOSS) and the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS). Central Processing is also responsible for maintaining an optimum processing systems configuration and an enterprise architecture for processing systems to meet current and future NWS mission requirements, including the strategy for maximizing effectiveness while minimizing operating costs and coordination with the Office of Dissemination.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – 2030

- Provide operations and maintenance support for WCOSS
- Provide operations and maintenance support for NOAA's R&D High Performance Computing system
- Phased implementation of new forecast tools and capabilities into AWIPS
- Complete resign of software baseline for cloud-based AWIPS
- Award Phase II task order for enhanced WCOSS capabilities

Deliverables

- Operational WCOSS with full backup capability
- Production Suite On-Time Product Generation at 99 percent
- Sustained WCOSS capacity at 14.5 petaflops, in each of the primary and backup systems
- New forecast tools and capabilities for impact-based decision support services / Weather-Ready Nation operations
- Weather Event Simulator integration into AWIPS

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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

PAC Central Processing objectives are achieved through the following programs:

Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOSS) supports (a) weather forecasting capabilities 24 hours per day/seven days a week, (b) numerical environmental prediction model development and testing, and (c) dissemination of operational products using a wide area network. These products include national and global weather, water, and space weather guidance, forecasts, warnings and analyses to a broad range of users and partners including other NOAA programs, government agencies, military, and the general public.

WCOSS is composed of primary and backup operational supercomputing systems, storage resources, wide area network, support services, and developmental research and development computing systems. The primary system runs the NCEP production suite. The backup is used to thoroughly test new weather forecasting applications when it is not being used to run the production suite (during a backup system test or an actual emergency). The backup supercomputer system is capable of handling 100 percent of the operational workload should the primary supercomputer system be disrupted. In accordance with NOAA Critical Infrastructure Protection plans, implementation and maintenance of a redundant WCOSS architecture ensures uninterrupted flow of weather data and products, such as storm watch and warning services to the public. WCOSS also provides NWS access to developmental computing systems through the NOAA-wide enterprise Research and Development High Performance Computing System.

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) is an information processing, display, and telecommunications system that is the cornerstone of NWS field operations. AWIPS provides the following services:

- Integrates and displays radar, satellite, and other meteorological and hydrological data at NWS field offices;
- Acquires and processes data from sensors and local sources;
- Provides computational and display functions at the forecaster's desk;
- Provides an interactive communications system to interconnect NWS operational sites;
- Initiates the dissemination of weather and flood warnings and forecasts in a rapid and highly reliable manner; and,
- Provides the communication interface for internal and external users of much of NOAA's real-time environmental data.

Sustained investments in the AWIPS hardware, communications, and software infrastructure, are necessary for integrating many other programs such as NEXRAD, and other weather radars, weather satellites, sensors, and instruments. NWS Government Performance and Results Act goals are based on the effective use of these technology investments along with advanced decision assistance tools, forecast preparation and advanced database capabilities. As the NWS continues to evolve toward an IDSS-based

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WRN, improvements to AWIPS technology will be needed to ensure NWS meteorologists and hydrologists have the necessary tools and technology. Continued AWIPS improvements produce increased performance in the Government Performance and Results Act goals of Tornado Warning Lead Time, Flash Flood Warning Lead Time, and Winter Storm Warning Lead Time.

In FY 2026, NWS will continue to develop new Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS-II) forecast capabilities and implement modeling advancements on its modernized WCOSS.

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Systems Acquisition
Subactivity: Dissemination

Goal Statement

The advancement of the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Program is a life-saving mission critical component in the delivery of short-fused warnings and emergency messages for the American Public and near shore marine community. As commercial providers stop supporting copper lines, the NWS must migrate to current technologies. In FY 2026 NWS will continue to transition NWR transmitter circuits from legacy copper to a wireless solution to continue the delivery of time-sensitive warnings over NWR broadcasts.

The NOAA Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP) became operational in FY 2018, providing a reliable and scalable NWS on-premise private cloud (a dissemination infrastructure) to sustain 24 hours a day/seven days a week mission operations. To ensure IDP continues to function as intended, ongoing maintenance and support is necessary to keep both the hardware and software up to date and meeting current security requirements.

Program Description

To ensure a Weather-Ready Nation and optimize the delivery of scalable and agile dissemination capabilities, the PAC Dissemination Subactivity is organized around infrastructure, networks, web services, and warning dissemination services.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Provide processing and storage resources to support WRN
- Conduct modest enhancements and cloud refactoring and optimization of existing IDP applications and services
- Conduct annual phase of five-year refresh of Dissemination Infrastructure hardware
- Conduct enhancements of GIS and web services both on-premise private cloud and off-premise public cloud environments
- Replace legacy NWR copper circuits to wireless technologies and NWR transmitter site monitoring equipment

Deliverables

- Improved reliability of enterprise GIS capabilities on the Dissemination Cloud Services
- Reliable infrastructure for NWS Dissemination services

- Continued reliability of NWR on updated wireless solutions

Explanation and Justification

PAC Dissemination objectives are achieved through the following programs:

NOAA Weather Radio
NWR provides the NWS with the capability to quickly disseminate severe and high impact weather warnings, watches and forecasts, and non-weather emergency messages to the public. NWS continues the slow transition of NWR legacy technology to Ethernet/Internet Protocol-based services within budgetary resources. Further, NWS has continued to strengthen its partnership with FEMA to look for efficiencies in delivering both weather and non-weather emergency messages via NWR and FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. This partnership ensures that messages from both the Federal Communication Commission-managed Emergency Activation System and Wireless Emergency Alerts are distributed appropriately.

Improve Dissemination Reliability Project
The improved dissemination reliability project mitigates risk to mission operations during severe weather events by enhancing capabilities to reduce single points of failure. Providing phased hardware refresh of the IDP architecture and modest enhancements and cloud refactoring and optimization to existing core applications on IDP ensures reliable delivery of NWS products to users and capitalizes on better observation data and prediction models to improve services.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Systems Acquisition
Subactivity: Research Supercomputing

Goal Statement

Research Supercomputing provides sustained capabilities to the NOAA Research and Development (R&D) High-Performance Computing System (HPC), facilitating advancements in Earth system science and expediting the development of regional and sub-regional information products and services.

Program Description

NOAA's R&D HPC provides essential computational resources that support advancements in environmental modeling, which are crucial for addressing significant Earth system modeling challenges. The modeling enterprise at NOAA underpins the majority of the agency's products and services offered to the nation. The R&D HPC assets are critical infrastructure necessary for NOAA to fulfill its mission. NOAA's R&D HPC supports a diverse user base within the geospatial and ecosystems research communities across the agency. However, the demand for high-performance computing resources currently exceeds the available supply. To address this shortfall, NOAA is exploring alternative solutions, including cloud computing. Furthermore, NOAA's research infrastructure is vital for studying Earth's systems, enhancing the agency's ability to understand and predict changes in weather, oceans, and coastal environments. This research will enable NOAA to make significant progress in improving observations related to severe weather events, including fire weather, hurricanes, and flooding, ultimately contributing to more accurate observational forecasts.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 - FY 2030

- High-Resolution Integrations for predicting seasonal tornado risks at multi-month lead times and enhancing the credibility of projections related to changes in weather patterns, including significant regional weather changes and Extreme Weather Events.

- NOAA's environmental modeling applications benefit from the performance enhancements provided by fine-grained architecture
- Support HPC initiatives to improve the accuracy of short-term warning and weather forecast systems and models; enable scientists to investigate long-lead time problems; accelerate modeling and simulation activities; and provide relevant decision support information that directly supports NOAA's mission to provide timely, accurate, and reliable weather information and predictions that safeguard life, property, and enhance the nation's economy
- Enhance cloud platform development tools for adoption, workflow, and scaling enhancements in transitioning models to commercial cloud providers in a cost-effective manner
- Continue supporting high priority R&D HPC initiatives efforts to efficiently employ capacity and workflow adoption to cloud platforms
- Continue to support high priority AI development projects
- Maximize HPC capacity with available resources

Deliverables

- Required hardware is available for high priority AI development projects
- Platform is provided for investigation and utilization of new technologies related to HPC Cloud and AI/machine learning (ML)
- High-resolution Earth System Model integrations are publicly accessible for use in regional decision-making through the use of federated data services. The exploratory application of Earth System Models, along with the demonstration of applications using exascale high-performance computing platforms capable of achieving at least one exaflop (flop is a unit of measurement for computational speed), equivalent to one thousand petaflops.

Explanation and Justification

NOAA's R&D HPC provides essential computational resources to support advancements in environmental modeling, which are crucial for understanding significant issues related to Earth system modeling. This investment encompasses supercomputing systems, associated storage devices, advanced data communications, hardware and software engineering services, security measures, and the necessary data center space. Currently, NOAA operates three R&D HPC facilities.

- Gaea – Located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Gaea is primarily used for long-term weather predictions and projections.
- Hera – Located in Fairmont, West Virginia, boasts a total capacity of 3.27 petaflops, more than doubling that of the previous Theia system.
- Jet – Located at the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado, primarily supports the HPC needs of the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program, numerical weather prediction, and other weather research.

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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NOAA's R&D HPC also offers software engineering support and associated tools to re-architect NOAA's applications for optimal performance on next-generation fine-grain HPC architectures. Through a dedicated effort, engineers investigate and test new algorithms, train current NOAA developers in advanced coding techniques, and assist these developers in expediting the re-architecting of NOAA's applications. These software engineering initiatives enable NOAA to leverage next-generation research computing technologies while also enhancing the efficiency of its existing high-performance computing resource.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Research	Pos/BA	0	0	3	25,000	3	25,000
Supercomputing	FTE/OBL	0	0	3	25,000	3	25,000

Transition Research Supercomputing from OAR (+$25,000, +3 FTE/ +3 Positions) – NOAA requests to transition Research Supercomputing from OAR to NWS in order to support administration priorities. NOAA will provide software engineering support and associated tools to re-architect its applications for optimal performance on next generation HPC architectures. NOAA will also support R&D HPC software engineering efforts to enhance capacity and utilization of cloud platforms. Furthermore, NOAA will prioritize its support for artificial intelligence (AI) development to improve its weather and ocean numerical models.

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Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: NWS Construction
Subactivity: Facilities Construction and Major Repairs

Goal Statement

The objective of the Construction activity is to construct and provide for major repairs and relocations to forecast offices and other government-owned and leased weather facilities.

Program Description

To support its mission, the NWS operates and maintains 122 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO), 13 River Forecast Centers (RFC), 17 Weather Service Offices (WSO) and associated employee housing units, and nine National Centers. To support these facilities, the Facilities Construction & Major Repairs Subactivity is managed by NWS Office of Facilities.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Design and build out tenant improvements for the relocation of up to seven operational sites
- Award contracts for highest priority repairs, replacements, and real property disposals

Deliverables

- Forced relocations addressed through new GSA leases
- Completed tenant improvements, construction, and relocation of operations
- Conducted necessary actions for real property disposals with available resources
- Completed deferred maintenance and major component replacement projects with available resources

Explanation and Justification

NWS facilities require extensive capital improvements to maintain operational readiness to support a Weather-Ready Nation. Immediate capital investments are required to address deficiencies in both leased and owned facilities including mission-critical infrastructure such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, emergency power generators, roofs, flooring systems, and uninterruptible power supply systems. This effort is essential to ensure the safety of the workforce and continuity of uninterrupted warnings, watches, and forecasts for local communities and for our partner agencies, such as the FAA and DoD. NWS relies on

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Facilities PAC funding to cover the costs of tenant improvements and move costs associated with forced office relocations resulting from the competitive procurement of new GSA leases. The Facilities Portfolio must meet the evolving needs of the NWS mission to provide facilities that enable a fully integrated field structure capable of supporting IDSS.

NWS anticipates the following activities will be supported in FY 2026: NWS will complete design at WFO/RFC Slidell, New Orleans, LA, WFO/RFC Sacramento, CA, and WFO/RFC State College, PA; start the construction of new offices for WFO Topeka, KS, WFO Honolulu, HI, and WFO/RFC Slidell, New Orleans, LA; and will continue with the competitive lease procurement process for new office space at WFO Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, WFO/RFC Tulsa, OK, and WFO Miami, FL. NWS will complete construction of the tenant improvements at WFO/RFC Salt Lake City, UT and San Angelo, TX; and anticipates completing the design for major system replacements at WFO Bismarck, ND. NWS will complete the WSO Pago Pago Emergency Readiness project. NWS will continue to address the aging infrastructure of its headquarters building in Silver Spring, MD, and continue implementing the data center infrastructure refresh project, a multi-year effort to address aging NWS IT architecture and equipment. NWS will also continue to focus resources on lifecycle management of government owned assets to address improved space utilization in the National Capital Region. Future projects include the remediation, demolition, disposal, and site restoration at Lake Hughes, CA; Yap; Majuro; Guam; Miami, FL (RDA); St. Paul AK; NWS' Yakutat 6-plex, AK; Sterling, VA; and Elmendorf, AK.

In FY 2026 as part of facilities lifecycle management, NWS will complete ongoing forced relocations, address deferred maintenance, field requirements, continue real property disposals, and continue NWS headquarters infrastructure repairs.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $1,531,373,000 and 916 FTE/ 935 positions for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS).

NESDIS (http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/) provides secure and timely access to global environmental data from satellites and other sources to enhance the Nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life. NESDIS works in close coordination with its NOAA Line Office partners to help satisfy NOAA's weather and environmental mission service requirements. Information derived from the data that NESDIS collects and curates supports investments and resource utilization in the economy, including: agriculture, transportation, fisheries, energy, construction, emergency management, hazard mitigation, and other sectors.

NESDIS manages the Nation's civil operational environmental satellites, which constitutes the largest constellation of civil operational satellites in the world. These satellites are essential to the agency's integrated observing system, which is the foundation of the environmental intelligence that the agency provides. NESDIS maintains primary constellations of environmental satellites in the polar and geostationary orbits and in deep space at Lagrange point 1, directly along the sun-earth line. NESDIS also leverages Federal, partner, and commercial data sources to develop and distribute products and information from NOAA to save lives and property and provide essential information to sustain and generate economic activity. NOAA satellite observations, along with partner and commercial observations, provide uninterrupted global coverage necessary for generating short-term and long-term weather forecasts. NESDIS is committed to the shared international effort to establish a global observing system that meets both the Nation's and the world's need for environmental intelligence. A fully implemented global observing system, which through partnerships with multiple international contributors delivers to the United States twice as much satellite data as we provide to the world, is yielding increasingly accurate and reliable warnings of severe weather and other environmental events in the United States and all around the world.

Next Generation Architecture

Within the evolving weather and environmental data landscape, we are seeing an ever-increasing pace of technology advances (such as satellite and launch vehicle capabilities, artificial intelligence, high performance computing, and machine learning), which is opening access to space, increasing demand for timely integrated data and information, and advancing forecast modeling. NOAA is committed to leveraging the innovation and capabilities of the commercial industry to support weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, and space weather observations. In the development and operation of satellite programs, NOAA will adopt commercial best practices and technology where possible, working with industry partners. NOAA will also pursue expansion of data acquisition efforts to more fully utilize commercially available data where the data meet NOAA mission needs.

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National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

NOAA's vision is to create an integrated, digital understanding of our Earth environment that will allow our citizens to adapt and thrive. This observing system will provide advanced, real-time data critical to saving lives and protecting property as well as powering increasingly sophisticated models that forecast weather patterns and environmental conditions, to provide our communities and users with information to manage their lives and investments into the future.

We envision a future observing system that will provide:

- A breadth of observations obtained from multiple viewpoints and organized into observation portfolios, including Low Earth Orbit (LEO), Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO), and Space Weather Observations (SWO), where and when we need them to meet expected future demands.
- A system featuring a mixture of small, medium, and large satellites and instruments, including shorter development times, more frequent launches, and smaller and more capable instruments and satellites.
- A Common Ground Services approach to operate the evolving observing system, and integrate cloud, artificial intelligence, and machine-learning capabilities to verify, calibrate, and fuse data into better products and services. This includes a flexible, scalable platform that enables secure ingest of partner data in different formats.
- A combination of assets, including NOAA-owned and managed, partner assets, commercial partnerships, and the purchase of commercial data.

As NESDIS continues adapting to the evolving weather and environmental data landscape, future endeavors will focus on LEO, GEO, and SWO capabilities as well as the provision of common ground services for the secure ingest of data. Together, these four areas constitute the pillars of NOAA's next-generation observing system.

NESDIS will continue to adhere to and track the life cycle costs (LCCs) formulated in conjunction with the Department of Commerce for major satellite programs such as the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite – R Series (GOES-R Series), Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS), Polar Follow On (PFO), and Space Weather Follow On (SWFO). Since each of these represents established missions with unique visibility and stakeholders, NESDIS will keep the current reporting structure for the duration of these missions.

The FY 2026 budget supports the current constellation and makes the critical investments necessary to maintain the development timelines for the most mature next generation satellite programs to expand delivery of essential weather, environmental, and space weather information to meet the needs of the Nation.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/ NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	7,250	0	0	0	(7,250)
	FTE/OBL	0	7,250	0	0	0	(7,250)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$7,250, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) - This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Environmental Satellite Observing System

Goal Statement

NOAA manages environmental satellites and related ground systems to provide timely and accurate environmental data and products for forecasts and warnings to ensure the safety of U.S. citizens, public property, and infrastructure.

Program Description

NOAA's Environmental Satellite Observing Systems activity maintains and operate a system of polar-orbiting satellites which provides global imaging and sounding for medium and long-range weather forecasting crucial to numerical weather prediction models. It also maintains and operates a system of geostationary satellites to provide near-continuous environmental observations of the Earth's Western Hemisphere and supplies data and operational products to the public and decision-makers.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Office of Satellite and Product Operations:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- 24/7 operations, collision, and anomaly support for NOAA geostationary, low Earth orbiting, and space weather satellites; and, backup operations for Jason Continuity of Service and Metop satellites
- Process and distribute environmental data from NOAA geostationary and low earth orbiting satellites
- Maintain satellite operation facilities at Suitland, Maryland; Wallops, Virginia; Utqiaġvik and Fairbanks, Alaska; and Fairmont, West Virginia

Deliverables

- Delivery of satellite data and products to users
- Engineering support for NOAA on-orbit satellites

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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Product Development, Readiness and Application:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- For JPSS and GOES-R Series missions, complete pre- and post-launch calibration/validation, and transition to routine calibration/validation, algorithm development and maintenance, and anomaly resolution
- Develop ocean-related products that support the weather forecasting mission and transition them to sustained operations
- Conduct scientific research for operational product development using satellite remote sensing observations to support the weather enterprise

Deliverables

- Maintain algorithms and data product validation to translate raw data into useful products meeting quality requirements for GOES-R Series, Jason-3, Sentinel-6, Metop, COSMIC-2, etc.
- Conduct pre-launch initial instrument calibration and product validation for satellites to be launched, and perform on-orbit sensor calibration and product validations for recently launched satellites
- Provide observing requirements inputs to future satellite sensor and mission studies and support their optimization for NOAA mission needs and subsequent development

U.S. Group on Earth Observations:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Increase U.S. leadership in the implementation of Group on Earth Observations (GEO) strategic goals, which align with U.S. interests, including furthering innovation in Earth observations through the GEO Work Programme, integration and advocacy for private sector participation in GEO activities, and strengthening public-private partnerships in support of Earth Intelligence through a grant to the GEO Trust Fund

Deliverables

- Participation in major GEO meetings and activities to promote international engagement and coordination with stakeholders and outreach
- Leverage AmeriGEO to advance the application of Earth observations, geospatial, and statistical data through flexible training options to gain required knowledge, skills, and abilities

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO) (http://www.ospo.noaa.gov/): OSPO acquires and delivers accurate, timely, and reliable satellite observations and integrated products from NOAA-operated, commercially-acquired, and domestic and international non-NOAA satellites. OSPO provides support during launch, activation, and evaluation of new satellites and provides assessments of satellite and ground station anomalies.

OSPO manages and directs NOAA's command and control of the suite of on-orbit satellites that supply the environmental data critical for developing weather and climate products used daily by Federal and state agencies, industry, and citizens across the Nation. OSPO works with NOAA's NWS to supply the satellite data that makes up over 90 percent of the information used in their numerical weather prediction models. OSPO also collects space weather data, which is used to protect the aviation and electric power industries, Global Positioning System, radio communications, and satellites.

Product Development, Readiness and Application (PDR&A) (http://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/star/index.php): PDR&A supports the development and improvement of new satellite algorithms, and supports the development, maintenance, and delivery of products derived from geostationary and low Earth observations to enable weather forecasting, severe storm tracking, and other natural hazard monitoring and response. PDR&A also supports remote-sensing solutions to supply critical, near real-time data and information products to enhance NOAA services that protect lives, property, ecosystems and livelihoods.

U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) (https://usgeo.gov/): USGEO is a subcommittee of the White House National Science and Technology Council, co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, NASA, NOAA, and the U.S. Geological Survey. USGEO provides program resources to support the U.S. Group on Earth Observations and supports NOAA's participation as part of the U.S. membership in the international GEO organization. GEO is a partnership of 117 governments and more than 150 participating organizations and Associates from the public and private sectors at international, regional, and national levels with a mission to coordinate comprehensive and sustained Earth observations.

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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	Pos./BA	344	249,663	344	242,947	0	(6,716)
	FTE/OBL	320	249,663	320	242,947	0	(6,716)

GOES-14 Transfer (-$6,716, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA's GOES-14 legacy satellite is scheduled to be transferred to the U.S. Space Force in FY 2025, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 103 for disposal of capital assets. This proposal requests the elimination of the operation and maintenance budget for the GOES-NOP Series (designated GOES-13, -14, -15 after launch, respectively). GOES-14 currently serves as an on-orbit spare for NOAA's geostationary satellite constellation. With GOES-U becoming operational as GOES East (April 7, 2025), there is no longer an operational requirement for the GOES-14 satellite.

NOAA transitioned GOES-13 and GOES-15 to the USSF in FY 2020 and FY 2023, respectively. The transfer of GOES-14 illustrates the continued successful partnership between NOAA and the USSF and the efficient use of operational assets across the Federal government to meet the Nation's observational needs.

The formal disposal notification, as required by statute, has not yet been provided to Congress. NOAA will provide the notification at least 15 days prior to the transfer of GOES-14 to the U.S. Space Force.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	Pos./BA	344	249,663	344	247,163	0	(2,500)
	FTE/OBL	320	249,663	320	247,163	0	(2,500)

SARSAT Transfer (-$2,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA, the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) operate the U.S. Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) mission on an approximately one-third cost share basis. Pending approval of a revised Memorandum of Agreement, the USAF and the USCG will be fully responsible for the SARSAT mission's operations and maintenance costs beginning in FY 2026. NESDIS will provide command, control, operations, and maintenance for SARSAT assets on a fully reimbursable basis. NESDIS does not anticipate any change in the level of support or quality of service for SARSAT.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	Pos./BA	344	249,663	351	249,216	7	(447)
	FTE/OBL	320	249,663	346	249,216	26	(447)

Reduction to Office of Satellite and Product Operations (-$447, +26 FTE/ +7 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. Remaining funds will be used to maintain and operate satellites and to provide essential weather observations.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Product Development, Readiness and Application	Pos./BA	82	59,250	69	43,500	(13)	(15,750)
	FTE/OBL	74	59,250	67	43,500	(7)	(15,750)

Product Development, Readiness and Application Decrease (-$15,750, -7 FTE/ -13 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. Satellite observations will be transformed into actionable information through algorithm development, transitions to operations, and continued sensor calibrations and product validation, prioritizing weather forecasting, severe storm tracking, and other natural hazards monitoring and response for protection of life and property.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
U.S. Group on Earth Observations	Pos./BA	0	750	0	500	0	(250)
	FTE/OBL	0	750	0	500	0	(250)

U.S. Group on Earth Observations (-$250, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. With FY 2026 resources, NOAA will support the development and growth of the United States' programmatic contributions to the GEO Work Programme in support of U.S. national and international policy and NOAA mission objectives. This will occur via support for implementation of GEO's programmatic and regional objectives through support for selected elements of the GEO Work Programme activities and the general application of Earth observation and geospatial information to meet pressing national needs through activities in the United States and internationally.

Department of Commerce
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Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Centers for Environmental Information

Goal Statement

NOAA provides secure and enduring access to authoritative environmental data and products to support economic prosperity and secure the Nation's safety and livelihoods.

Base Program

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is the Nation's leading authority for environmental information, an operational provider of data products and information services responsive to U.S. industry and policy requirements, and is responsible for preserving, hosting, and providing access to one of the most significant environmental archives on Earth, with comprehensive oceanic, coastal, atmospheric, and geophysical data and information, covering the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, spanning million-year-old sediment records to near real-time satellite images.

Statement of Operating Objectives

National Centers for Environmental Information:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Provide authoritative and actionable environmental data that informs future investments across sectors such as finance, agriculture, fisheries, transportation, energy, insurance, and manufacturing
- Provide access to environmental data and products for use in public- and private-sector decision-making earth ecosystem baselines, monitoring, and assessments
- Continue a strategic and prioritized transition of environmental data ingest, preservation, access, and use-inspired information/services to the NESDIS Common Cloud Framework (NCCF) to provide scalability and facilitate transformation to analysis-ready information and ethical use by artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) tools

Deliverables

- Provide ingest, quality control, assembly, archive, and access services for NOAA and NOAA partners' environmental data and their derived products, and promote increased availability of priority analysis-ready data for ethical AI/ML use

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

- Maintain the Nation's archive of environmental information as well as international data holdings through the World Data System and leverages data portals and cloud services to maximize the availability and accessibility of official archived records
- Decommission on premises information technology infrastructure commensurate with the successful transition of archive, access, and information production/service capabilities to the NCCF

Explanation and Justification

Information provided by NCEI helps businesses and organizations across all sectors of the U.S. economy operate more efficiently, safely and economically sustainably. Demand for high-value environmental data and information has dramatically increased in recent years, and continues to increase. NCEI ingests raw observational and model environmental data from NOAA's observational platforms and partners, and calibrates, derives, and assembles data products and services that empower U.S. industry and inform policy. It hosts and provides access to over 70 petabytes (PB) of data (primary and secure copy), projected to increase annually by 8.5 PB in 2030. NCEI provides online access to environmental datasets and products in easily-used, -understood, and -accessible formats, serving more than 3.7 million unique, domestic website visitors annually.

The data and access tools that NCEI provides are used in the public and private sectors throughout the U.S. economy including, but not limited to, agriculture, transportation, retail trade, energy and utilities, finance and insurance, health, coastal hazards, and water resources. Case studies that highlight specific products, use cases, and systems that rely on NCEI data to protect life and property, save money, and conserve natural resources can be found at https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/about/our-impact.

NCEI is the official archive of NOAA's GOES, POES, JPSS, GOES-R Series, Jason, DSCOVR, and COSMIC-2 satellite data, housing data from the 1970s to the present, adding over 2.3 PB of data to the archive annually from active satellites. NCEI works with NOAA offices to host data from programs, including NWS's Tsunami Warning Program, NOS's National Geodetic Survey, NMFS's Office of Science and Technology, and OMAO ships, aircraft, and uncrewed systems. NCEI also provides a repository for partner data collectors that are integrated with NOAA data, such as in the World Ocean Database. NOAA will continue the core mission of preserving, hosting, and providing access to its extensive environmental data archives.

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PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
National Centers for Environmental Information	Pos./BA	202	70,000	186	52,000	(16)	(18,000)
	FTE/OBL	184	70,000	178	52,000	(6)	(18,000)

National Centers for Environmental Information Decrease (-$18,000, -6 FTE/ -16 Positions): NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. This realignment will reduce engagement services, tailored products, and eliminate the Regional Climate Services program. Resources will be prioritized for enhancing scientific data assembly, archiving and access capabilities, preparing data for AI applications to facilitate private sector use, and migrating data to the NCCF to improve data discoverability and usability. The improvement of core archive functions and migration to NCCF will support NOAA's initiatives to unleash American prosperity through accelerated innovation in the weather and space enterprises. NCEI will also support data assembly hubs, in support of other NOAA Line Office objectives, through Coastal Data Development to grow the American maritime economy.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Systems Acquisition and Construction

Goal Statement

Systems Acquisition: NOAA's satellite portfolio provides the backbone for the operational data products that support NOAA's work related to weather, oceans, coasts, and ecosystems. NOAA satellite data drives critical decision-making, impacts national security, and numerous sectors of the economy including agriculture, transportation, energy, construction, infrastructure, emergency management, and hazard mitigation.

Construction: The objectives are to support repairs and renew facilities that contain critical infrastructure; maintain structural integrity through capital improvements; and to ensure availability of power and cooling necessary for NOAA's satellite ground system.

Program Description

Systems Acquisition: NOAA maintains three portfolios of environmental satellites and data acquisition that produce crucial sets of observations: low-earth orbiting, geostationary, and space weather. Systems Acquisition includes flight, ground, and architecture planning, risk reduction, and development activities. System Acquisition enables NOAA satellite programs to continue to meet milestones, as well as to plan for future programs and comprehensive engineering solutions. Detailed operating objectives for each Subactivity are described below.

Construction: Addresses NESDIS PAC facility requirements for NESDIS Command and Data Acquisition Facilities.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Systems Acquisition:

Geostationary Systems - R:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- Continue sustainment activities, to include obsolescence, cloud migration, and on-orbit anomalies

Deliverables
- Sustainment of GOES-R Series ground system

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(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Polar Weather Satellites:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- JPSS-4 Launch Commitment Date (Q1 FY 2028) and satellite commissioning (transition to operations)
- JPSS-3 periodic instrument and spacecraft checkout while in storage

Deliverables
- Launch of JPSS satellites
- Sustainment of JPSS ground system

Common Ground Services:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- Continue to develop, optimize, and sustain the NESDIS Common Cloud Framework (NCCF) core services to support the NESDIS Ground Enterprise, including data distribution and ingest for GOES-R Series, and processing and distribution for QuickSounder missions.

Deliverables
- Enterprise NCCF that provides operational services, including secure ingest, product generation, science sandbox, stewardship, storage, dissemination, and archive common services of data from NOAA-managed missions, commercial, and partner data sources

Geostationary Earth Orbit:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- Complete Program restructure into a more streamlined, innovative, and cost-effective operation

Deliverables
- Complete Program restructure approval

Low Earth Orbit:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- QuickSounder Target Launch Date (Q4 FY 2026)
- QuickSounder DOC Milestone 4

- NEON Series 1 DOC Milestone 2a
- Award NEON Series 1 microwave sounder instrument contract
- NEON Series 2 DOC Milestone 1
- Award NEON Series 2 infrared sounder instrument study contracts
- NEON Series 1 DOC Milestone 2b/3
- NEON Series 2 DOC Milestone 2/3

Deliverables
- Launch QuickSounder satellite mission

Space Weather Next:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- SOLAR-A launch and post launch checkout and calibration activities

Deliverables
- Launch of SOLAR-A satellite

Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 – FY 2030
- Continue to execute commercial radio occultation contract delivery orders to continue operational data purchases

Deliverables
- Commercial radio occultation data processed and delivered to NWS for use in operational numerical weather prediction (NWP) models and delivered to Space Weather Prediction Center for use in space weather models

Construction:

Satellite CDA Facility:
Schedule and Milestones
FY 2026 - FY 2030
- WCDAS: Paving Upgrade - Phase III; Operations Building Construction (to correct non-compliant issues); Data Center Lights Upgrade (for sustainability)

- FCDAS: Demolition of Abandoned Antennas; Roadway Paving Upgrade - Phase II; New Security Fence (around station core/Phase-I/6,000 linear feet); New Security Fence (along main road/Phase-II/7,500 linear feet); Data Center Electrical Upgrades; Historic Log Cabin Demolition; VLBI Building Demolition

Deliverables

- Demolition of multiple abandoned structures
- Paving upgrades to damaged service roads
- Implementation of recommended countermeasures from anti-terrorism risk assessments

Department of Commerce
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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification:

Systems Acquisition

Geostationary Earth Orbit Observations: NOAA's geostationary observations contribute to weather forecast models and drive short-term weather forecasts, severe weather warnings, and monitoring of hazards such as lightning, fire hot spots, and volcanic eruptions. NOAA's geostationary observational capability is derived from two programs:

- **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites – R (GOES-R) Series** (http://www.goes-r.gov): The GOES-R Series, a four-satellite program, provides advanced imagery and atmospheric measurements of Earth's weather, oceans and environment, real-time mapping of lightning activity, and improved monitoring of solar activity and space weather. Observations from these satellites provide coverage of the western hemisphere, allowing continuous monitoring from geostationary orbit, allowing continuous monitoring. The GOES-R Series will support ground system sustainment, cloud migration, and on-orbit anomalies to ensure successful operations through the end of the program in 2036.

- **Geostationary Extended Observations (GeoXO)** (https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/GeoXO): NOAA's GeoXO satellite program will continue the GOES-R Series mission as a follow-on four-satellite program and serve as the next generation of space-based severe weather monitoring observatories, providing essential, sustained observations from geostationary earth orbit to meet NOAA weather mission requirements.

  NOAA is currently in the process of restructuring this program with a reduced scope compared to the program baseline set by the prior administration. The GeoXO satellites will host an imager and new hyperspectral sounder for short-range (0-3 days) forecasting, severe weather warnings, and hazardous conditions. If achievable within new program cost guidelines, the program will also include a lightning mapper, to continue the observations from the GOES-R Series. The ocean color and atmospheric composition instruments will be eliminated from the program, along with the third satellite position that was to fly over the central U.S.

  The configuration of the four-satellite constellation will include two series of two satellites in the GOES East and West positions. NOAA has contracts in place for all the required components. These contracts will also be changed from cost-plus contracts to firm-fixed-price contracts and with appropriate acquisition authorities, the contracts may be novated from NASA to NOAA as the acquisition agent, as the Administration addresses unnecessary layers of bureaucratic oversight. Under this reconstituted approach, NOAA would also work to award a contract for a commercial mission to handle all satellite, launch, commissioning, and operations.

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JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NOAA has identified authorities in NASA's authorization but not in NOAA's current authorizations that could help clarify and support the acquisition strategy that the agency intends to utilize. NOAA's goal is to modernize acquisition, hiring, and program management authorities to better enable it to independently lead its weather satellite and commercial space programs and to become the acquisition agent for these programs instead of NASA. Namely, the explicit authorities NOAA is seeking will enable NOAA to incrementally fund non-severable contracts, and provide authority to manage multi-year contract periods of performance. Additional authorities that NOAA is evaluating are hiring and compensation flexibilities to better compete with the private sector for talent, exempting satellite systems and commercial data buys from "information technology" designations and thus exempting them from IT-specific oversight requirements, and authority to utilize the services of other Federal agencies on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. These additional authorities align with those of NASA and/or DoD and will better enable agile, efficient, cost-effective, and accountable execution of critical environmental satellite missions to execute contracts that may be firm fixed price and leverage commercial best practices. As NOAA assumes the primary responsibility for the acquisition agent of weather satellite development, launch services, ground services and operations along with commercial space data procurement, it must be empowered to act with the speed, flexibility, and authority of other space agencies.

NOAA has a single flight spare GOES-R Series ABI instrument, available to fly on the first GeoXO platform in 2032, to maintain critical observation continuity between the GOES-R Series and GeoXO. Imagers on the second, third, and fourth GeoXO satellites will provide more detailed observation and precise forecasting capabilities than the GOES-R Series ABI, including higher spatial resolution imagery and additional spectral channels for water vapor detection. GeoXO satellites will also introduce new hyperspectral infrared sounders capable of measuring the vertical distribution of atmospheric temperature and water vapor. These sounders will increase atmospheric condition data in real time for weather modeling, nowcasting, and localized forecasts. Harnessing the combined capabilities of the imager and sounder instruments, the GeoXO program will significantly improve weather forecasting and severe weather and storm warnings.

Low Earth Orbit Observations: NOAA's low Earth orbit (LEO) polar orbiting satellites detect and monitor hazards such as fires, droughts, floods, poor air quality, coral bleaching events, and unsafe coastal waters due to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. NOAA's LEO observational capability is derived from multiple programs:

- **Polar Weather Satellites (PWS)** (www.jpss.noaa.gov): PWS provides global meteorological observations to enable short-range (0-3 days), and mid-range (3-7 days) forecasts and warnings of severe weather events which emergency managers and communities rely on to make timely decisions to protect life and property. In FY 2026, NOAA will continue integration and testing of the JPSS instruments and spacecraft. NOAA will also continue the development, maintenance, and sustainment of the ground systems, evolve ground systems to align with changing technologies and threats, and conduct risk reduction efforts

to support current and future polar data acquisition requirements.

- **Near Earth Orbit Network (NEON):** NEON program is the follow-on to PWS. NEON will employ a "Buy, Partner, Build" approach, leveraging the commercial space industry and commercial best practices to the fullest extent possible, partnering with Federal and international partners to obtain observations more efficiently and to avoid duplication of efforts, and building only what it must. QuickSounder, an initial demonstration mission for the NEON program, will launch in Q4 FY 2026 and will help NOAA to define an agile, disaggregated architecture using small and medium sized satellites and determine best practices for exploiting developments in commercial space. NEON Series 1 will focus on providing microwave sounding data that are essential to the performance of NWP global models.

Space Weather Observations: NOAA's satellites observe space weather and provide essential data necessary for safeguarding society. Space weather continues to be critical to all space assets and the establishment of space commerce.

- **Space Weather Next (SW Next):** The SW Next program will provide observations that are most critical to predict and observe space weather phenomenon that pose the greatest risk to life and property. SW Next includes an L1 continuity series and an L5 project in partnership with the ESA. The SW Next L1 Series – now referred to as Space weather Observations at L1 to Advance Readiness (SOLAR) - will sustain and continue the coronal mass ejection (CME) and solar wind measurements established by the Space Weather Follow On program.

Common Ground Services (CGS): CGS supports the planning and implementation of a common ground service for NOAA's satellite, data, and information capabilities. CGS will continue the development and data consolidation needed to transition to the NESDIS Common Cloud Framework.

Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering (SAE): SAE provides analysis based on emerging capabilities and user needs to identify the highest value approaches to the NESDIS enterprise architecture, including flight, ground, and related services, to meet NESDIS, NOAA, and National needs. SAE supports:

- **Architecture, Requirements, and Planning:** SAE leads and manages NESDIS' assessments of and planning for future enterprise architectures, undertaking quantitative assessments for objective analyses to evaluate relative value and benefits of future data sources and satellite architectures

- **Commercial Data Program:** Undertakes pilot projects to demonstrate the ability of the commercial sector to establish and sustain capabilities to meet NOAA's ongoing operational needs, and purchases commercial data to support those operational needs once a pilot project has successfully demonstrated the commercial sector's capability and readiness. Critical to the purchase of commercial data, NOAA will consistently evaluate the quality of the data offerings, assess the on-going impact of the commercial data on NOAA's mission objectives, and conduct cost-benefit analyses to determine appropriate amounts of data to be purchased in future years.

Construction

Satellite CDA Facility: To support its mission requirement to ensure that the control, health and safety of NOAA satellites can be maintained at all times, and that the satellites are available to provide timely and essential environmental data to a wide range of users, NESDIS operates and maintains CDA Stations at Fairbanks, AK, and Wallops, VA; NOAA Satellite Operations Facility at Suitland, MD; and the NESDIS Consolidated Back-Up facility at Fairmont, WV. These facilities provide power and cooling to the satellite ground systems uninterrupted 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Geostationary	Pos./BA	54	276,000	40	78,600	(14)	(197,400)
Systems-R	FTE/OBL	53	276,000	40	78,600	(13)	(197,400)

GOES-R Series (-$197,400, -13 FTE/ -14 Positions) - NOAA requests a planned reduction to the GOES-R Series program. The GOES-R Series transitioned into full operations after the launch of its final satellite, GOES-U, in June 2024, and its ensuing transition to GOES East on April 7, 2025. The remaining funds will support ground system sustainment activities such as obsolescence, cloud migration, and on-orbit anomalies to ensure successful satellite operations through the end of the program in 2036.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Polar Weather Satellites	Pos/BA	72	342,410	65	315,970	(7)	(26,440)
	FTE/OBL	66	342,410	65	315,970	(1)	(26,440)

Polar Weather Satellites (-$26,440, -1 FTE/ -7 Positions) – NOAA requests a decrease to continue the development of the Polar Follow On satellites, JPSS-3 and JPSS-4. FY 2026 funding will support the long-term storage and periodic testing of the JPSS-3 instruments and spacecraft and will continue integration and testing of the JPSS-4 instruments and spacecraft in preparation for its planned launch in FY 2028. Finally, NOAA will continue the sustainment of the globally distributed ground system supporting the Suomi NPP, NOAA-20, and NOAA-21 satellites.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Space Weather	Pos/BA	21	97,200	0	0	(21)	(97,200)
Follow On	FTE/OBL	18	97,200	0	0	(18)	(97,200)

Space Weather Follow On (-$97,200, -18 FTE/ -21 Positions) – NOAA requests a planned decrease, as SWFO-L1 transitions to full operations following its launch on the NASA IMAP mission as early as September 2025.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Common Ground Services	Pos./BA	77	114,000	81	90,353	4	(23,647)
	FTE/OBL	72	114,000	79	90,353	7	(23,647)

Common Ground Services Decrease (-$23,647, +7 FTE/ +4 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA will rebalance the portfolio to prioritize resources towards ongoing development of NCCF functionality. At this funding level, NOAA will prioritize realizing functionality of the NCCF, continue to leverage partner and commercial observations, and deliver enhanced products and services to support NOAA's weather mission. Funding will also support the migration of satellite data archive dissemination, operational legacy satellite data and algorithms, and science teams, among other NCCF core services. NESDIS will continue the ingest, migration, and dissemination of satellite and non-satellite data.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Geostationary	Pos./BA	32	285,000	48	385,000	16	100,000
Earth Orbit	FTE/OBL	31	285,000	47	385,000	16	100,000

Geostationary Extended Observations (+$100,000, +16 FTE/ +16 Positions) – NOAA requests an increase to restructure the GeoXO program into a focused, core weather mission. The resulting mission will meet essential observation needs to support weather forecasting, nowcasting, and severe storm warnings at a significantly reduced cost. FY 2026 funding will support the assembly and testing of the GOES-R Series flight spare Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI), to be ready for launch on the first GeoXO satellite. NOAA will also initiate the build of a lightning mapper instrument using parts previously procured within the GOES-R Series. FY 2026 funding will continue the development of the next generation imager with enhanced capabilities beyond those of the ABI; the development of the new hyperspectral infrared sounder instrument; the flight hardware production and testing of spacecraft and instrument engineering unit hardware; and the termination costs related to the ocean color, atmospheric composition, and advanced lightning mapper contracts as necessary. The requested resource levels are required for the GeoXO program to remain on schedule toward a first launch in 2032, providing continuity of observations from the GOES-R Series.

Restructuring the GeoXO program into a more streamlined, innovative, and cost-effective operation will require changes to the NOAA business model. To achieve its aims, NOAA will adopt commercial best practices. In FY 2026, NOAA will work with NASA to convert the imager, sounder, and spacecraft contracts from cost-plus to firm-fixed price. NOAA will also assume the role of acquisition agent and the novation of contracts to NOAA to create a more agile and cost-effective program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Low Earth Orbit	Pos./BA	16	78,500	17	125,000	1	46,500
	FTE/OBL	13	78,500	16	125,000	3	46,500

Near Earth Orbit Network (+$46,500, +3 FTE/ +1 Positions) – NOAA requests an increase to support the launch of QuickSounder in FY 2026 and initiate the development of the NEON Series 1 Sounder for Microwave-Based Applications (SMBA); continue formulation activities for the NEON Series 2 Sounder for Infrared-Based Applications (SIRBA) and the common spacecraft; and continue formulation and development activities to evaluate approaches for critical LEO observations. Understanding the opportunities and risks of commercial capabilities, including building spacecraft, launch vehicles, and ground services, is critical for developing and implementing a robust program to serve as the next generation of polar orbiting satellites providing continuous global data.

The requested increase is necessary to support the multiple projects underway that will provide microwave and infrared observations that are essential to numerical weather prediction models and weather forecasting. With these funds, NOAA will award development contracts for the Series 1 SMBA, procure instrument parts, and establish vendor staff for this series. The first launches for the first Series 1 microwave sounding missions will commence in the early 2030s. This will ensure that NOAA can maintain one primary and one secondary satellite in polar orbit to avoid any potential gaps in observation continuity of critical microwave and infrared sounding measurements that support accurate forecasts. Series 1 satellites will include next-generation instruments that will improve upon the capabilities of legacy programs and enable a more agile and resilient architecture.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Space Weather	Pos./BA	44	151,606	35	150,000	(9)	(1,606)
Next	FTE/OBL	36	151,606	35	150,000	(1)	(1,606)

Space Weather Next (-$1,606, -1 FTE/ -9 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction in order to support Administration priorities. NOAA continues to develop and deploy space weather observational capabilities and perform priority actions, including plans for contingency space weather observations by exploiting observations from NOAA partners and private sector data. SW Next provides critical data that are required by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center to provide warnings of incoming solar winds and other space weather phenomena.

With funds requested in FY 2026, NOAA will continue to execute a comprehensive space weather program plan. The SOLAR project will provide continuity of observations as NOAA's Space Weather Follow On program reaches the end of its design life. NOAA plans to include the following instruments on the SOLAR Project: coronagraph, magnetometer (MAG), Suprathermal Ion Sensor (STIS), Solar Wind Plasma Spectrometer (SWiPS), and X-Ray Irradiance sensor. These instruments are expected to allow for the detection, tracking, and characterization of CMEs, solar flares, and other solar activity, which provides critical information to accurately model, predict, and provide early warnings of solar radiation storms and geomagnetic storms on Earth to protect lives and property.

In FY 2026, NOAA plans to complete a preliminary design review for the SOLAR project and continue testing on the L5 coronagraph for the partnership with ESA.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	Pos./BA	40	66,900	43	48,000	3	(18,900)
	FTE/OBL	34	66,900	43	48,000	9	(18,900)

Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering (-$18,900, +9 FTE/ +3 Positions) – NOAA requests this reduction to support Administration priorities. Commercial Data Program (CDP) funding will be increased.

The CDP supports the Administration's initiative to leverage the strength and capabilities of the U.S. commercial sector. Through this program, NOAA will continue to purchase commercial data, including radio occultation, for operational use under the existing contract. NOAA also plans to initiate work on a new contract vehicle that will facilitate significantly increased purchases of commercially available data. NOAA continues to study and assess the quality and impact of available commercial Microwave Sounder (MWS) observations for the determination of MWS characteristics, eventually integrating MWS products developed by commercial vendors into the backbone system to improve weather forecasting. Additionally, NOAA will assess the commercial sector for potential pilots.

NOAA requests a decrease to the Joint Venture program. Partnerships in coordination with the major programs will continue as opportunities arise.

NOAA requests a decrease for Architecture, Requirements, and Planning. There is a reduced need for this activity due to other ongoing NOAA projects and program formulations.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Mission Support
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $327,217,000 and 709 FTE/ 859 positions for Mission Support.

In FY 2026, Mission Support will continue to provide the services that are essential to the safe and successful execution of NOAA's mission.

The Mission Support budget is organized into seven activities within the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) account.

- Executive Leadership provides centralized executive management as well as policy formulation and direction.
- Mission Services and Management includes such activities as financial reporting, budgeting, information technology, acquisition and grants, human resource services, and facilities management.
- IT Security leads priority cyber security initiatives.
- Payment to the DOC Working Capital Fund provides centralized services to NOAA's Line Offices and Staff Offices.
- Facilities Maintenance supports a centralized approach to addressing facilities maintenance and repair projects across NOAA.
- The Office of Space Commerce advocates for the U.S. Commercial Space Industry, both at home and abroad; regulates the U.S. Remote Sensing Industry; and established a space situational awareness (SSA) system for global commercial and civil space traffic coordination and spaceflight safety.
- Office of Education promotes NOAA products and services to the public and provides support for education activities across the agency.

The Mission Support budget is organized under one activity within the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC) account. Construction provides for restoration of capital assets including alteration or modification of properties.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Mission Support
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Department of Commerce Pay, Personnel Action Request, Benefits Direct Bill:
Department of Commerce's Pay, Personnel Action Request, Benefits Direct Bill provides transactional and corporate-wide services in the Human Resources (HR), Acquisition Services, Financial Management, and Information Technology functional areas. HR was the first functional area to transition to this model and NOAA was the first customer for these services starting in late FY 2016. NOAA continues to receive and pay for an increasing number of HR transactional and processing services to include Personnel Action Requests, payroll, employee separations and limited processing of compensation and benefits. NOAA/Office of Human Capital Services still provides all NOAA personnel with retirements and benefits counseling and processing services. NOAA continues to subscribe to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) USAStaffing talent acquisition application and service and continued its participation through FY 2024 to conduct full scale hiring.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/ NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	1,000	0	0	0	(1,000)
	FTE/OBL	0	1,000	0	0	0	(1,000)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$1,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activities: Executive Leadership, Mission Services and Management, IT Security, Payment to the DOC Working Capital Fund, Facilities Maintenance, Office of Space Commerce, and Office of Education

Goal Statement

The objectives of these Mission Support activities are to: 1) develop policies regarding the administration of NOAA programs with Federal agencies, the Congress, and private industry; and 2) develop and implement policy, planning, and program oversight.

Program Description

NOAA's Mission Support services are the backbone of NOAA's programs and mission. These services provide the planning, administrative, financial, procurement, information technology, human resources, and infrastructure services that are essential to the safe and successful execution of NOAA's mission.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Deliverables:

AGO

- Provide the capacity to support the Administration's acquisition and grants priorities
- Align acquisition resources to NOAA program requirements that result in contracts being awarded on time and that result in better value for the Government
- Increase AGO/Program Office engagement early in the acquisition and grants lifecycle

OCAO

- Continue implementation of the NOAA Asset Management Program to support data driven decision making and reporting
- Address highest priority repair needs to arrest the degradation of facilities condition across the portfolio

OCFO

- Continue to contribute materially accurate and timely NOAA financial reporting to DOC in support of annual unqualified opinion on the DOC consolidated financial statements
- Continue to deliver DOC Strategic Planning and Performance deliverables ahead of schedule

- Execute at least one major economic analysis and reporting product

OCIO

- Consolidation and reduce NOAA Information Systems
- Establish and fully implement Continuous Authorization to Operate (cATO) Program for all applicable information systems
- Optimize sustainable relationships with industry to continue to provide enhanced, cloud-based access to NOAA's open environmental data
- Secure NOAA's access to a radio frequency spectrum that fulfills mission requirements

OHCS

- Modernize a Full-Service HR Model for NOAA
- Mature use of HR IT tools and state-of-the-art information management practices for analysis of HR data to improve delivery of mission critical services
- Improve and expand HR IT Systems functionality and HR data analysis and reporting

OCR

- Sustain a model Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program and process EEO complaints of discrimination
- Conduct Alternative Dispute Resolutions to address complaints

WVPRP

- Maintain 24/7 advocacy and consultation services for individuals affected by workplace violence across the NOAA enterprise
- Develop mandatory annual SASH training and supplemental training to address other forms of sexual misconduct, stalking, domestic violence, and psychological safety

OSC

- Lead or influence space policy related decisions, processes, rulemakings, statements, or other governmental activities to advance the interests of U.S. commercial space
- Issue licenses for the operation of private remote sensing space systems and process license modification requests within regulatory timelines

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Executive Leadership

Executive Leadership supports the leadership and management of NOAA, and represents NOAA at the executive level with other Federal agencies, Congress, NOAA stakeholders, and private industry.

The Offices of the Under Secretary/Assistant Secretary and Deputy Under Secretary (USAO): These offices support NOAA's leadership. Program activities consist of formulating and executing policies for achieving NOAA objectives, responding to Executive Branch policy decisions, and exercising delegated authority in committing NOAA to courses of action. USAO also includes the following offices:

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA): This office serves as the primary liaison for NOAA with the members and staff of Congress. The office is responsible for the planning, direction, and coordination of legislative programs that are of immediate concern to the Office of the Under Secretary.

Office of Communications and External Affairs: This office is the principal point of contact for NOAA programs with the public and the news media. Its staff advises NOAA and other Departmental officials on all aspects of media relations and communication issues.

Office of International Affairs (OIA): This office coordinates NOAA and other leadership officials' relationships with international programs, as directed by the Office of the Under Secretary. The Director of the Office of International Affairs exercises a leadership role in establishing policies, guidelines, and procedures for NOAA's international programs.

Interagency Meteorological Coordination Office (IMCO): This office ensures Federal coordination functions for the Department pursuant to the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act (Public Law No. 115-25, Title IV, sec. 402). The IMCO serves as the administrative headquarters of the Interagency Council on Advancing Meteorological Services, an Executive Branch office chartered under the authority of the Director of Science and Technology Policy. This office is funded through an assessment of funds from NWS, OAR, and NESDIS.

Office of General Counsel (OGC): OGC provides legal advice, review, and representation on a host of complex matters arising from the fulfillment of NOAA's mission. NOAA OGC ensures NOAA management decisions are made with necessary consideration of proper legal requirements, procedures, and options.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Mission Services and Management

Mission Services and Management is the mission-enabling arm of NOAA that supports all operational activities and is essential to its success.

Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO): AGO provides the planning, solicitation, award, administration, and closeout of acquisition and financial assistance transactions annually in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (OCAO): OCAO provides oversight, technical expertise, and support services for the stewardship of NOAA's assets, facilities, and infrastructure. OCAO coordinates safety and occupational health, security, credentialing, and anti-terrorism risk protection, and ensures best business practices around records and financial controls.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO): OCFO serves as NOAA's principal financial manager and is responsible under the CFO Act to provide oversight necessary for NOAA to materially contribute to DOC's unmodified opinion on the audit of its consolidated financial statements. OCFO ensures NOAA financial statements and reports are accurate. It supports the financial management system, DOC's Business Application Solution, through reports development, subject matter expertise, internal and DOC change control board representation, and data analytics leadership. OCFO provides oversight, management, outreach and communication of the budget process, which includes coordinating the preparation of budget submissions, and allocating and controlling the execution of all budgetary resources. CFO oversees the NOAA Direct Bill process enabling the assessment of Line and Staff Offices for their proportionate share to consolidate costs for unique enterprise-wide programs or services. CFO oversees the Common Services account which provides resources for NOAA-wide activities and services provided through Memoranda of Understanding and/or Interagency Agreements. OCFO deploys best practices from strategic planning, economic analysis, enterprise performance and project management, as well as evaluation and evidence building to advance NOAA's mission.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO): OCIO provides the enterprise IT infrastructure that connects and manages networks, telecommunications, systems, and people to enable NOAA to provide data observation, ingestion, assimilation and modeling, processing, dissemination, and archiving capabilities at greater scales. The OCIO provides public access, at no cost to the user, to NOAA's open data on commercial cloud platforms through public-private partnerships. OCIO delivers stable, secure, high-speed network services to enable the broad missions of its stakeholder community extending across the contiguous U.S., Alaska and Hawaii, connecting remote field sites, major campuses, mobile platforms, data centers, and supercomputing facilities. OCIO leverages AI and cloud-based computing to increase the skill, resolution, and complexity of computer-based projections to understand and predict earth systems and to produce decision-support tools for the Nation. OCIO ensures the usability of Radio Frequency spectrum to radio users in the Department of Commerce.

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Office of Human Capital Services (OHCS): OHCS provides consultative services, and policy and process guidance that facilitate the acquisition, development and retention of a highly skilled, motivated, and effective workforce capable of accomplishing the Agency's mission. OHCS provides strategic human capital planning, strategic recruitment and hiring, labor-management and employee relations, performance management and incentives, executive and employee support, leadership and career development, HR data analytics and forecasting, and HR information technology systems.

Office of Civil Rights (OCR): OCR at NOAA ensures compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Civil Rights laws, preventing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and pregnancy), national origin, age (40+), genetic information, disability, or pregnancy accommodation. OCR employs Alternative Dispute Resolution methods like mediation and facilitated discussions to resolve workplace conflicts efficiently and amicably.

Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Program (WVPRP): The Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Program prevents and responds to all forms of workplace violence for all NOAA employees, contractors, and affiliates, particularly focusing on sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH).

IT Security
The mission of the IT Security Program is to defend NOAA's data, networks, equipment, intellectual property, and personnel against a wide variety of adversaries ranging from nation states to lone-wolf attackers. OCIO implements NOAA's IT Security Program through a risk-based approach that emphasizes vulnerability management to achieve defense via a common prevention, response, and mitigation strategy to manage mission risk related to cyber security threats enhancing NOAA's ability to keep nearly 330 million Americans, as well as others, safe and informed of weather, environmental, and other events with widespread economic impact.

Payment to the Department of Commerce (DOC) Working Capital Fund (WCF)
The DOC WCF was established pursuant to 5 USC 607 (15 USC 1521) and provides the centralized administrative, legal, information technology, financial, and policy support needed to accomplish NOAA's overall mission. Unlike other DOC bureaus, the NOAA contribution to the WCF is provided by specific allocation within the NOAA appropriation.

Facilities Maintenance
Addressing deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R) backlog requirements is key to reducing the pressure on mission funding. NOAA will continue to review DM&R backlog requirements annually and prioritize them to ensure the most critical issues are corrected first.

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Office of Space Commerce

The Office of Space Commerce (OSC) serves a key role in coordinating the Executive Branch's activities surrounding the National Space Policy and the U.S. Space Priorities Framework. OSC is responsible for advocacy for the U.S. commercial space industry, both at home and abroad; regulation of the U.S. remote sensing industry; and space situational awareness (SSA) for global space traffic coordination and spaceflight safety. OSC promulgates and implements regulations pursuant to 51 U.S.C.§ 60121 et seq including issuing and modifying licenses to operate private remote sensing space systems; monitoring licensed systems for compliance with the law, regulation, and conditions of the license and investigating non-compliance; and monitoring availability of space-based remote sensing data made available by foreign sources.

Office of Education

The Office of Education supports NOAA's mission by working with students, educators, and the general public so they understand NOAA's science and can use it to make decisions. The Office contributes to scholarships, internships, and professional training for post-secondary students. The Office of Education oversees three programs. The Budget does not request funding for this program.

José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP): EPP provides financial assistance through competitive processes to students and postsecondary institutions that train students and conduct research in NOAA mission sciences. The Budget does not request funding for this program.

Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET): The NOAA B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, real-world hands-on learning focused on K–12 students and educators. B-WET serves seven regions of the country: California, Chesapeake, Great Lakes, Gulf of America, Hawaii, New England, and Pacific Northwest. The Budget does not request funding for this program.

Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program: The NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program is a competitive program that increases undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric sciences, research, technology, and education. Based on the FY 2026 Appropriations request of $4.515 billion, NOAA estimates it will have $4.515 million for the Hollings Scholarship Program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Executive Leadership	Pos./BA	139	31,743	138	28,230	(1)	(3,513)
	FTE/OBL	139	31,743	125	28,230	(14)	(3,513)

Realign Executive Leadership to Evolving NOAA Mission (-$3,513, -14 FTE/ -1 Positions) –These funds will continue to support the Offices of the Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Deputy Under Secretary leadership activities consisting of formulating and executing policies for achieving NOAA objectives, responding to Executive Branch policy decisions, and exercising delegated authority in committing NOAA to courses of action. These also include the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs to serve as the primary liaison for NOAA with the members and staff of Congress; Office of Communications and External Affairs as the principal point of contact for NOAA programs with the public and the news media; Office of International Affairs to coordinate NOAA and other leadership officials' relationships with international programs; and Office of General Counsel to provide legal advice, review, and representation on a host of complex matters arising from the fulfillment of NOAA's mission.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Mission Services and Management	Pos./BA	665	177,611	671	156,000	6	(21,611)
	FTE/OBL	654	177,611	539	156,000	(115)	(21,611)

Realign Mission Services to Evolving NOAA Mission (-$21,611, -115 FTE/ +6 Positions) –This reduction will be allocated as appropriate across NOAA's mission support-oriented offices. NOAA will reduce the budget of each office to ensure adequate support for such activities as financial reporting, budgeting, information technology, acquisition and grants, human resource services, and facilities to continue to support NOAA's Line Offices.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
IT Security	Pos./BA	20	16,393	21	15,438	1	(955)
	FTE/OBL	20	16,393	16	15,438	(4)	(955)

IT Security (-$955, -4 FTE/ +1 Positions) – This request will aggressively adapt and explore new processes and technologies for the functions within the Cyber Security portfolio as NOAA's mission areas and corresponding workforce are downsized. NOAA will adopt Continuous Authorization to Operate (cATO) and consolidation of NOAA information system boundaries. NOAA will take necessary action to reduce the risk of NOAA's ability to comply with 44 U.S.C. § 3554(a)(1)(A)(ii), providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Facilities	Pos./BA	2	6,000	1	6,250	(1)	250
Maintenance	FTE/OBL	2	6,000	1	6,250	(1)	250

Facilities Maintenance (+$250, -1 FTE/ -1 Position) – This request will support prioritized deferred maintenance and repair backlog requirements.

Department of Commerce
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Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Office of Space Commerce	Pos./BA	43	65,000	25	10,000	(18)	(55,000)
	FTE/OBL	31	65,000	25	10,000	(6)	(55,000)

Terminate Federal funding for Traffic Coordination System for Space (-$55,000, -6 FTE/ -18 Positions) – This request will eliminate funding for additional work on the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS). TraCSS was being developed as a U.S. public SSA capability to integrate government and commercial data and capabilities to provide alerts of potential in-space collisions to satellite operators.

Space Policy Directive-3 (SPD-3) stated a goal to "Provide U.S. Government-supported basic SSA data and basic STM services to the public." SPD-3 went on to state: "The United States should continue to make available basic SSA data and basic STM services (including conjunction and reentry notifications) free of direct user fees while supporting new opportunities for U.S. commercial and non-profit SSA data and STM services."

SPD-3 also stated that "To facilitate this enhanced data sharing, and in recognition of the need for DoD to focus on maintaining access to and freedom of action in space, a civil agency should, consistent with applicable law, be responsible for the publicly releasable portion of the DoD catalog and for administering an open architecture data repository. The Department of Commerce should be that civil agency." To implement this policy directive, DOC was tasked to make releasable portions of the catalog available to the public either directly or through a partnership with industry and/or academia. DOC was also tasked to assess whether statutory and regulatory changes are necessary to affect this change in responsibilities.

Under the prior administration, DOC was unable to complete a government owned and operated public-facing database and traffic coordination system. In the convening time, private industry has proven that they have the capability and the business model to provide civil operators with SSA data and STM services using the releasable portion of the DOD catalog. Furthermore, DOD Space Command confirmed that even after DOC completed its SSA system, USSPACECOM will continue to maintain the authoritative space catalog and will

remain the provider of SSA and space domain awareness data supporting national security issues in space, including classified data sharing and threat awareness in support of mission requirements.

The Administration confirms the intent of SPD-3 has been satisfied by supporting private industry to provide SSA services, including through offerings of both a free basic service as well as fee-based concierge services to civil operators. DOC will continue to monitor the use of SSA services by civil operators to determine whether additional policies are warranted to ensure space remains a safe domain to operate.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Office of Education	Pos./BA	18	35,450	0	0	(18)	(35,450)
	FTE/OBL	18	35,450	0	0	(18)	(35,450)

Terminate NOAA's Office of Education (-$28,789, -18 FTE / -18 Positions) – This request will eliminate funding for NOAA's Office of Education. This will terminate NOAA Education Program Base activities, the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program, and the José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP). This program change reflects the Administration's intent to streamline operations and ensure that resources are directed towards core mission requirements.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Construction

Goal Statement

The construction activity ensures that NOAA has safe and modern facilities to support its critical science, service, and stewardship mission. NOAA facilities support experts across the Nation, delivering critical services from highly specialized laboratories, state-of-the-science data assimilation, modeling and prediction centers, satellite operations facilities, ship and aircraft operations centers, weather forecast offices, and fisheries and ocean science centers to ensure lives, livelihoods, and lifestyles of every American are maintained and/or improved.

Program Description

NOAA's real property portfolio has more than 600 facilities, including 4,675 acres of land, including around 400 NOAA-owned facilities with an estimated replacement value of $5 billion. NOAA must support its mission cost-effectively and secure the safety and long-term sustainability for its employees and the Nation. Each facility requires financial investments for maintenance, repairs, and modernization to effectively sustain and evolve our science capabilities to support the current and future missions. Facilities analysis and construction planning activities are being utilized to enable NOAA to capture current and future mission requirements. NOAA endeavors to complete appropriate analyses, pre-design work, and design activities, as well as determine suitable acquisition strategies that make the actual construction phase as efficient and effective as possible. NOAA's facilities work includes the critical tasks of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning, special environmental studies, facilities condition surveys, and any other activities to help ensure the successful acquisition and completion of construction projects within budget and schedule.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Deliverables:

- Allocate $4.0 million for the repayment of the Judgment Fund for the La Jolla Settlement
- Prioritize funding for NOAA's capital investment facilities needs and deferred maintenance and repair backlog
- Continue conducting Business Case Analyses (BCA) and develop a program of requirements for the Southeast and Northeast Fisheries Science Centers based on recommendations from the Regional Footprint Studies
- Continue planning activities to refine the Northwest Regional Footprint Study opportunities to improve mission execution and initiate design once those planning activities are completed
- Begin construction of Northwest Fisheries Science Center Manchester Lab
- Continue construction of the Newport Pier and Charleston Pier projects

- Initiate projects on the property disposal List
- Begin lease procurements for expiring leases at Bayboro, FL and Gloucester, MA
- Coordinate with GSA to complete the final request for lease proposal for NOAA Headquarters lease re-compete or extension

NOAA Construction
Constructing new facilities and reinvesting in existing facilities in accordance with the NOAA Facilities Strategic Plan and compliance with the NOAA Facilities Council guidance is critical to sustaining and evolving mission capabilities. Conducting and effectively managing construction and repair projects on facilities that have major deferred maintenance issues corrects health and life safety issues, averts emergency repairs and associated costs, reduces energy costs through the creation of more efficient and sustainable building systems, brings facilities up to current safety, environmental and building code standards, and minimizes overall sustainment costs while ensuring NOAA facilities support assigned science missions.

In FY 2026, NOAA will support the following:

Project Name	FY 2026 Estimate
Capital Improvements: Deferred Maintenance and Repair (DM&R) Projects	$12,000
Leasehold Improvements	$12,500
Design	$1,000
Outfitting/Occupancy	$5,500
Disposal	$5,000
La Jolla California Contract Judgment Fund	$4,000
Total	**$40,000**

DM&R (PAC) - NOAA plans to prioritize its most critical projects within its extensive backlog of deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R). The capital improvements for DM&R projects are identified as those that extend the useful life of a facility, or significantly improve the efficiency of facility systems.

Leasehold Improvements - NOAA plans to invest in leasehold improvements projects with the highest priority execution needs. The funding will be used to execute improvements and conduct requirements validation for various projects.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Design - The funding requested will be used for design efforts for various projects including Strategic Initiatives in the Seattle, WA area, Northwest region, and Pacific Islands.

Outfitting/Occupancy – NOAA requests funding for the costs associated with new furnishings, fixtures, and normal equipment associated with a new construction, renovated, repaired, or newly leased facility project and the need to relocate or move equipment, furnishing, and IT system(s). This request is linked to construction and lease projects funded in previous years.

Disposal - NOAA plans to dispose of property in accordance with the Federal Management Regulation (41 CFR §102-75) unless otherwise authorized by legislation.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA	Pos./BA	8	65,810	3	40,000	(5)	(25,810)
Construction	FTE/OBL	8	65,810	3	40,000	(5)	(25,810)

NOAA Construction (-$25,810, -5 FTE/ -5 Positions) – This request will provide for maintenance and repair of NOAA facilities across the Nation as NOAA's footprint is reduced. NOAA's real property portfolio has more than 600 facilities, including 4,675 acres of land, including around 400 NOAA-owned facilities with an estimated replacement value of $5 billion. NOAA must ensure the portfolio is capable of supporting its mission in a cost-effective manner and secure safety and long-term sustainability for employees and the Nation. NOAA will invest in facilities consistent with NOAA's new workforce and real property plans.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

Executive Summary

For FY 2026, NOAA requests a total of $435,206,000 and 1,061 FTE/ 1,075 positions for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

OMAO manages a variety of specialized ships, aircraft, and uncrewed systems (UxS) that make up the NOAA Fleet and plays a critical role in the *in-situ* collection of oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data in support of NOAA's missions. The NOAA Fleet operates throughout the world supporting a wide array of NOAA missions including nautical charting, hurricane reconnaissance and research, and snow surveys. In addition, NOAA ships and aircraft provide emergency response capabilities. Following major natural and environmental disasters, NOAA ships and aircraft conduct emergency navigation hazard surveys that help ports reopen quickly and obtain aerial images of disaster-impacted areas. These surveys are often the only source of data providing critical information for first responders, disaster response, and residents.

NOAA ships range from large oceanographic research vessels capable of exploring the world's deepest oceans to smaller ships responsible for charting the shallow bays and inlets of the United States. NOAA aircraft range from high altitude jets, capable of penetrating hurricanes and forecasting atmospheric rivers, to aircraft well-suited for water resource management data collection and marine mammal surveys where slower airspeeds and low altitudes are essential. OMAO also owns and operates NOAA's corporate UxS assets and supports the transition of missions to UxS operations across the agency. OMAO is charged with the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of this NOAA fleet; developing annual Fleet Allocation Plans; conducting lifecycle maintenance; and providing centralized fleet management including: standard procedures, safety inspections, and medical services in partnership with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. OMAO also provides centralized coordination, support and guidance for uncrewed marine and aircraft systems across NOAA, and administers the NOAA-wide Diving and Small Boat Programs. OMAO is committed to maintaining a safe field environment through the coordination of training and certification of officers, crew members, and scientists in at-sea and airborne safety procedures.

OMAO staff includes civilians along with the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, one of the Nation's eight uniformed services. NOAA is authorized for 505 NOAA Corps officers, including flag officers. The NOAA Corps has the skills to plan, prepare, and execute the acquisition of environmental and scientific data on land, at sea, and in the air. It supports all NOAA Line Offices, NOAA Headquarters, and the Department, and commands the NOAA fleet.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects	Pos./BA	0	1,500	0	0	0	(1,500)
	FTE/OBL	0	1,500	0	0	0	(1,500)

Terminate NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects (-$1,500, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change removes funding for one-time congressionally directed projects provided in the FY 2024 enacted bill.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Marine Operations and Maintenance

Goal Statement

Optimize NOAA's observational platforms and unique workforce capabilities through continual development of our personnel's specialized skills. Attract, train and retain the skilled workforce required to maintain safe and efficient operations through employee focused organizational changes to optimize retention through quality of life and mission performance. Support present and future NOAA data collection requirements and priorities, maximize the service life of the NOAA Fleet through maintenance and repair and support NOAA's ship priorities through execution of the annual Fleet Allocation Plan (FAP), and increase utilization of the NOAA Fleet.

Program Description

Marine Operations and Maintenance supports centralized management for NOAA's research and survey vessels, which operate throughout the world supporting multiple missions including earth system assessments, fisheries research, nautical charting and ocean intelligence and surveillance. Given the diverse portfolio of NOAA Line Office Program priorities and responsibilities, a single vessel type cannot meet all of NOAA's missions. Thus, NOAA ships range from large oceanographic research vessels capable of exploring the world's deepest oceans, to smaller ships responsible for charting the shallow bays and inlets of the United States. Marine Operations is based in Newport, Oregon, and manages OMAO's three Marine Centers located in Norfolk, Virginia, Newport, Oregon, and Honolulu, Hawaii, and additional port offices around the country. It also supports marine operation activities in Headquarters, including the Small Boat program and the NOAA Diving Program.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

FY 2026 - FY 2030

- Improve retention and productivity of deployed crews through staffing models, training, and onboard technologies
- Continue implementing 2:1 rotational staffing model across the fleet consistent with industry
- Integrate the Fleet Maintenance Plan based on Material Condition Assessments for each vessel and developed through close collaboration with the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
- Conduct Ship Structure and Machinery Evaluations on the NOAA Fleet per ABS requirements
- Complete Operational Readiness Training for all ship personnel to uphold safety standards on all NOAA vessels

- Perform program funded and reimbursable Days at Sea as scheduled in the FAP
- Provide diver certification, technical advice, and standardized equipment support
- Provide on-site inspections and risk assessments for NOAA's small boats

Deliverables:

FY 2026

- Provide approximately 2,000 DAS to support all NOAA Line Offices
- Survey Square Nautical Miles in support of NOS hydrographic survey activities
- More detailed deliverables are determined on a project-by-project basis as documented in the FAP
- Meet annual ship schedules and milestones as outlined in the FAP
- Support for over 400 divers across NOAA
- Enhanced safety for NOAA's small boat operations

Explanation and Justification

In FY 2026, OMAO will provide approximately 2,000 DAS to support NOAA's highest-priority requirements. DAS may include OMAO base funded days, DAS funded by other NOAA Line Office programs, and DAS funded by agencies external to NOAA, as determined during the year of budget execution, based on the availability of vessels and funds. NOAA estimates base DAS annually determined by a variety of factors including maintenance, staffing, training, outfitting, fuel, and other costs necessary to support reliable and safe ship operations. Vessel operations depend on sufficient staffing to safely and effectively operate NOAA's missions. Each operational vessel requires approximately 27 professional mariners to achieve its optimum tempo. In FY 2026, NOAA will employ 425 professional mariners by the end of the year to support the FAP. In FY 2024, OMAO began incrementally transitioning NOAA's professional mariner workforce to a two to one rotational model to improve retention, promote adequate staffing for operations, and provide leave consistent with maritime industry standards. NOAA will be able to honor existing personnel rotation policies.

NOAA will also support planned maintenance requirements in FY 2026. As part of the preventative maintenance process, Marine Operations continues to implement a Material Condition Assessment (MCA) Program through close collaboration with the ABS. The MCA is an in-depth survey that will uncover additional maintenance items that have become apparent between major maintenance cycles. MCAs will funnel items directly into work packages for repair periods in order to correct deficiencies and ensure items are addressed before they impact fleet readiness. MCAs are conducted by Marine Operations engineering personnel

with assistance from NOAA's fleet inspection team and ship crews. Funds also support unscheduled maintenance costs, which can be attributed to the aging of NOAA's fleet. These costs can include unplanned maintenance requirements discovered while completing scheduled operational maintenance; scheduled repairs requiring more extensive work than planned initially; and urgent responses to machinery or equipment casualties. NOAA vessels must adhere to safety and emissions requirements and regulations established by a variety of organizations. The ABS certifies ships as seaworthy. OMAO adheres to ABS rules to design its maintenance program and conduct Ship Structure and Machinery Evaluations on the NOAA Fleet.

In addition to vessel management, Marine Operations and Maintenance supports the following activities:

NOAA Dive Program: The NOAA Dive Center provides diver certification, technical advice, and a standardized equipment program. The NOAA Dive Center, in cooperation with the NOAA Diving Control and Safety Board, issues safe diving standards and practices, according to the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers and the International Maritime Organization conventions. NOAA maintains approximately 411 divers who perform over 12,000 dives annually in support of NOAA's mission. Fleet divers help maintain NOAA's ships with tasks such as cleaning propellers and sea strainers, surveying hulls for damage, and installing transducers. NOAA divers' work also includes installation of observing systems such as tide gauges. Scientists trained as divers to study and describe the habitats and species that NOAA is mandated to protect and manage. These activities enable NOAA to meet requirements and mandates, enhance customer service and operational safety, and facilitate self-sufficiency at sea.

NOAA Small Boat Program: The Small Boat Program is designed to reduce risk, promote standardization, and enhance the safety of NOAA's small-boat operations. It enforces the policy of the safety program and ensures compliance through onsite inspections, risk assessments and marine incident investigations. NOAA maintains over 400 small boats, which are operated and funded within the Line Offices. The Small Boat Program provides technical and marine engineering assistance to Line Office field units as needed and to the NOAA Small Boat Safety Board to ensure compliance with the NOAA Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual requirements.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Marine Operations and Maintenance	Pos./BA	704	229,461	575	204,000	(129)	(25,461)
	FTE/OBL	688	229,461	567	204,000	(121)	(25,461)

Prioritize Marine Operations (-$25,461, -121 FTE/ -129 Positions) – NOAA will operate ships at optimum tempo to the extent feasible and provide approximately 2,000 Days at Sea for missions across NOAA. NOAA intends to use carryover, uncrewed systems, and other mechanisms to further maximize DAS as necessary in FY 2026. While a reduction from the FY 2024 funding level post-reprogramming, the FY 2026 Budget request is flat with FY 2024 enacted. OMAO completed 2,176 DAS in FY 2024.

OMAO will work with the NOAA Fleet Council to determine which missions will proceed and will support Administration priorities. Consistent with the Administration's budget request, NOAA will eliminate Days at Sea previously used to support terminated programs within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. NOAA also will use uncrewed systems as a force multiplier that makes missions more productive and efficient. For example, the productivity of hydrographic surveys will increase by up to 40 percent.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services

Goal Statement

Provide centralized aircraft systems operation, management and coordination of all airborne activity, support NOAA's airborne requirements and priorities through execution of the Aircraft Allocation Plan (AAP), and safely modify, maintain, and operate NOAA aircraft.

Program Description

NOAA's Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services provide scientists with airborne platforms equipped with comprehensive data collection systems that are capable of assessing severe weather, coastal and marine resources, and the dynamics of these complex systems to maintain their economic and maritime security. Among their missions, NOAA's diverse and versatile aircraft fly into hurricanes to best predict the track and intensity. They also collect snowpack measurements to forecast water supplies and spring flooding events, and air chemistry data critical to public health. NOAA aircraft are capable of carrying specialized sensors for coastal mapping and shallow-water bathymetric data collection, providing essential data for nautical charts and safe navigation.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Perform base funded, program funded and reimbursable flight hours as scheduled in the AAP

Deliverables:

FY 2026

- Approximately 2,553 flight hours to include an estimated 2,098 support and base funded hours and 455 program funded hours
- Other deliverables determined on a project-by-project basis as documented in project flight instructions

FY 2026 - FY 2030

- Meet annual aircraft schedules and milestones as outlined on the AAP

- Maintain NOAA aircraft to FAA standards of operations and continue to provide data to NOAA programs

Explanation and Justification

OMAO's Aircraft Operations Center, located at the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, FL, operates NOAA's aircraft fleet in support of NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in weather, oceans and coasts, and to assist in conserving and managing coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

The aircraft operate throughout the United States and around the world over open oceans, mountains, coastal wetlands, and the Arctic. Aircraft Operations Center provides capable, mission-ready aircraft and professional crews to safely meet NOAA's scientific and operational mission requirements and priorities by assisting with coastal mapping, flood prediction, hurricane prediction modeling, coastal erosion missions, oil spill investigations and air quality studies.

NOAA aircraft operate in some of the world's most demanding flight regimes, including flying into the eye of a hurricane and at low altitudes over mountainous terrain and open ocean areas. Each aircraft requires a minimum number of qualified NOAA Corps pilots to conduct operations safely and efficiently, relying on these personnel funded through the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps PPA. OMAO also ensures that contracted aviation operations are conducted safely by providing technical support, services, and equipment to NOAA Line Offices.

The AAP details the objective and duration of individual NOAA projects and identifies OMAO scheduled repair and maintenance periods on specific NOAA aircraft. Demands for time aboard NOAA aircraft are prioritized by the NOAA Fleet Council and outlined in the AAP.

These include:

- OMAO funded hours, which are dedicated to NOAA's scientific missions and are entirely funded by the Aviation Operations and Aircraft services PPA.
- Program funded hours, which may be funded by programs during the year of budget execution, based on funding and aircraft availability, and rely on OMAO's flight crews and maintenance for safe and efficient operations. Program-funded flight hours can support any NOAA mission approved by the Fleet Council, including hurricane surveillance and reconnaissance, and are established through Service Level Agreements with NOAA programs, and reimbursable agreements with other agencies

- Support hours, including training, calibration, and maintenance flights. These hours ensure the crew and aircraft can safely and accurately collect data in support of NOAA's scientific missions. Support hours have increased in recent years because the NOAA Corps has added more aviators to accommodate demand for airborne missions.

In FY 2026, funding will allow the Aircraft Operations Center to provide approximately 2,553 flight hours in support of NOAA scientific airborne activities. At this level of funding and flight hours, NOAA would prioritize hurricane reconnaissance, emergency response mapping, and coastal mapping missions that save lives, protect property, and support safe navigation and maritime trade, and continue to provide its specialized high-altitude jet in support of reduced atmospheric river observations during peak season. Consistent with the Administration’s budget request transferring NMFS functions to USFWS, NOAA will eliminate flight hours previously used to support marine mammal population assessments. In the event that these flight hours are still required they would be made available by reimbursable agreements as aircraft availability allows.

NOAA’s aging fleet requires periodic maintenance efforts to ensure the aircraft are in compliance with Original Equipment Manufacturer service instructions in order to maintain FAA standards of operations and be able to continue the critical mission support for the nation. As aircraft age, the amount of maintenance required increases as parts wear out and extra inspections are conducted to comply with FAA regulations. NOAA’s aircraft fleet also requires routine maintenance on major components and recurring inspections based on the number of hours flown and months of operation. Due to the cyclical nature of aircraft maintenance, recurring inspection needs are higher in FY 2026. Funding at this level will support 100 percent of planned maintenance requirements in FY 2026.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted			2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Aircraft Operations and Aircraft Services	Pos./BA	103	41,400	0	87	40,500	(16)	(900)
	FTE/OBL	97	41,400	0	84	40,500	(13)	(900)

Prioritize Flight Hours (-$900, -13 FTE/ -16 Positions) – This request will provide 2,553 flight hours prioritizing hurricane reconnaissance, emergency response mapping, and coastal mapping missions that save lives, protect property, and support safe navigation and maritime trade, and continue to provide its specialized high-altitude jet in support of atmospheric river observations during peak season. While a reduction from the FY 2024 funding level post-reprogramming, the FY 2026 Budget request is flat with FY 2024 enacted.

NOAA will support operational hurricane missions using the P-3s and some missions using the G-IV supporting hurricane forecasts up to four days out from landfall. NOAA will also support the highest priority lifesaving flood forecasting missions and shoreline mapping necessary for accurate nautical charting.

Consistent with the Administration's budget request, NOAA will eliminate flight hours previously used to support programs within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and marine mammal population assessments within the National Marine Fisheries Service. Specific missions conducted in FY 2026 and the associated flight hours will be determined by the NOAA Fleet Council.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations (AUTO)

Goal Statement

Execute NOAA missions with corporately owned and operated uncrewed systems (UxS) platforms. Transition NOAA missions onto UxS by developing, testing, and implementing new UxS platforms. Provide centralized uncrewed marine systems (UMS) services (commercial data buys from private sector UMS service providers) to support NOAA's operational and intelligence missions. Support uncrewed marine and aircraft system operations across NOAA by providing a center of technical expertise and coordinated policies, training, and acquisition.

Program Description

UxS technology encompasses a wide range of platforms, from very small uncrewed aerial drones, to large multi-million-dollar surface and underwater marine systems designed to operate and collect data in data sparse regions. UxS include Uncrewed Aircraft Systems, Uncrewed Marine Systems surface and underwater vehicles. The technology continues to evolve rapidly and is invaluable in supporting NOAA priorities such as mapping the U.S. EEZ, fishery assessments, and meteorological observations including hurricane research and surveillance missions.

To efficiently advance the use of this technology across NOAA, the UxS Operations Center centrally manages UxS platforms with standardized safety, training, and inspections. It strategically plans UxS acquisition and operations, consistent with NOAA's priorities and data needs, and supports the transition of UxS into operations. The UxS Operations Center serves NOAA missions through private sector contracts and NOAA owned, operated, and maintained UxS. The NOAA Uncrewed Systems Executive Oversight Board (co-chaired by OMAO and OAR) coordinates UxS activities across NOAA.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Operate NOAA-owned UxS and execute contracted UxS for NOAA's operational and research activities
- Continue to transition UxS into routine operations

- Develop UxS concepts of operations and establish staffing, training, and maintenance regimes
- Provide UxS operational support to NOAA from field locations including Gulfport, MS; Lakeland, FL; and Newport, OR
- Plan UxS platform and services acquisitions, and establish contracting vehicles within NOAA
- Provide UAS operational approvals, airworthiness inspections, standardization of training, and coordination of airspace approvals
- Train NOAA personnel to operate UxS
- Develop, maintain, and coordinate UxS policies to integrate the latest technology and security standards

Deliverables:

FY 2026 – FY 2030

- Four NOAA-owned and operated UxS
- Routine operations of UxS for weather, mapping, and fisheries missions
- Transition of NOAA UxS missions from research to routine operations
- Technical support of UxS projects in support of NOAA priorities
- UMS services missions executed through private sector contracts across priority NOAA mission areas
- A trained workforce, refined priorities, and mature concepts of operations to integrate UxS on Class B ships
- Sound oversight of the purchase and/or lease of proven UxS
- Safety and compliance with aviation and maritime regulations and policy

Explanation and Justification

The Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations program promotes the safe, efficient, and economical operation of UxS that NOAA uses to collect high-quality data for the agency's science, products, and services. Deploying UxS has the potential to increase economic security while accelerating high-growth industry clusters. UxS equips NOAA's ships and aircraft with additional capabilities to collect mission critical data more efficiently, in higher resolution, or more safely. They also allow NOAA to collect data from remote, inaccessible locations. NOAA currently uses UxS for seafloor mapping, ocean exploration, fishery stock assessments, earth system observations, emergency response, and hurricane surveillance. Often, emerging technologies struggle to move beyond the research stage because resources are unavailable for the final testing, development of concepts of operations, and other activities to integrate them into routine operations. The UxS Operations Center addresses this challenge through academic, intergovernmental, and private

sector partnerships, and efforts to conduct agency-wide data acquisition from UMS. Through this program, NOAA has identified and is operationalizing the most promising technologies and best practices to use UxS across the organization.

In FY 2026, the UxS Operations Center will regularly operate UxS for hydrography, hurricane, and ocean observations missions. This delivers on years of investment in research to finally collect critical data from UxS. The program will operate UxS to:

- Increase the productivity of a hydrographic survey by operating uncrewed surface vehicles both from shore and in tandem with a survey ship. With two Drix Uncrewed Surface Vehicles (USV) acquired by OMAO in 2023 and 2024, OMAO will fully operationalize the use of USVs for hydrographic missions, including simultaneous multi-USV operations in tandem with ships and independent operations from shore. Using uncrewed surface vehicles that are corporately-owned and operated by the UxS Operations Center, NOAA will be able to increase the productivity of hydrographic survey ships by up to 40 percent allowing surveys to cover an area much more efficiently while also conducting near-shore surveys independently of ships. Government-owned USVs are more cost effective than data buys for ocean mapping when operating more than 70 days per year

- Improve our understanding of low-altitude winds inside of hurricanes by operationalizing UAS launched from Hurricane Hunter aircraft. These air-launched small UAS can fly at lower altitudes than crewed aircraft safely can and provide a high-resolution picture of storm structure and air-sea interactions, improving situational awareness for hurricane forecasters. The FY 2026 funding allows for the air-launched UAS on approximately 10 percent of NOAA crewed aircraft hurricane flights

- Expand our knowledge of ocean intelligence by operating long-endurance buoyancy gliders to autonomously survey physical and biological oceanography in one region, feeding critical system information to fishery managers

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations	Pos./BA	17	21,495	23	21,677	6	182
	FTE/OBL	14	21,495	21	21,677	7	182

Expansion of UMS Fleet (+$182, +7 FTE/ +6 Positions) – This request will expand the Uncrewed Maritime System (UMS) fleet and dramatically increase the efficiency of NOAA's hydrographic mapping missions. To expand UMS operations, NOAA will reduce funds used to contract with private UMS operators including eliminating contracts which supported research by laboratories within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research while maintaining core research, development, testing and evaluation activities, including partnerships with academia, to continue to transition NOAA missions onto UxS. With this request, NOAA will be able to fully operate four UMS–expanding operations for NOAA's current UMS platforms and adding capacity to operate two more, making missions more productive and efficient and maximizing DAS.

FY 2026 is a pivotal year for UxS to strengthen UMS applications at NOAA and return on the public's previous investments in UxS research. NOAA's UxS Operations Center (UxSOC) currently supports basic operations for two UMS aboard NOAA ships. In FY 2026, NOAA will begin to expand specialized UMS capacity through onboarding and extensive training, and will use funds for operations, maintenance, travel, shipping, and data management. Since its inception in FY 2020, the UxS Operations Center has supported research and development for UxS. In FY 2023, NOAA achieved initial operating capability to use UMS for hydrography missions, and has been maturing its capabilities and concepts of operations in the new Class B vessels equipped with UMSs. NOAA has integrated UMS capabilities into the design of its new class B vessels, NOAA Ships *Surveyor* and *Navigator*.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

Goal Statement

Support and maintain a highly specialized uniformed workforce to operate NOAA's fleet of research vessels, aircraft, and uncrewed systems; and facilitate the scientific data collection that support NOAA's weather forecasts, fishery stock assessments, nautical charts, and other products and services critical to NOAA's mission and the Nation.

Program Description

The NOAA Corps is one of the Nation's eight uniformed services. It is a critical national asset and central to the safe and effective execution of NOAA's mission. Thus, NOAA relies heavily on the leadership, operational and technical expertise, and flexibility inherent in NOAA Corps officers for the planning, management, and execution of the agency's diverse mission. NOAA Corps officers command and staff NOAA's fleet of ships and aircraft; deploy, test, and manage NOAA's uncrewed systems; support all NOAA's line and staff Offices; and serve other government offices and the legislative branch. They manage and facilitate design of scientific projects, conduct diving operations, and serve in NOAA staff positions to advance NOAA's mission. This activity supports the actual cost of the NOAA Corps which includes officer salaries, benefits, retention incentives, accession, relocation, operational rotation tempo, training, promotions, separations, Tricare payments, and HR support for all NOAA Corps officers' programs, along with the civilian staff and infrastructure needed to sustain a uniformed service.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:

FY 2026 - FY 2030

- Balance recruitment, retirements, separation, and retention efforts to maintain an average annual strength of 336
- Coordinate assignment changes and permanent change of station moves for NOAA Corps officers
- Track and administer the medical requirements of active-duty officers
- Conduct workforce planning to support prioritized missions
- Temporarily assign officers from land assignments to ensure platforms are fully staffed

Deliverables:
FY 2026 – FY 2030

- 336 average annual strength of the NOAA Corps, including admirals
- Expert pilots, mariners, and uncrewed system operators to support ship, aircraft, and uncrewed system mission priorities
- Scientific expertise to support weather forecasting, research and modeling, assessment and management of living marine species, and charting and surveying
- Medical readiness of active-duty officers

Explanation and Justification

The NOAA Corps serves NOAA's critical weather, economic, and environmental intelligence missions through the command of NOAA's ship, aircraft, and uncrewed systems fleet and scientific expertise provided to NOAA's line and staff office programs. NOAA Corps officers offer a unique combination of scientific and operational expertise that allows them to serve as scientific collaborators while operating NOAA ships, aircraft, and uncrewed systems (UxS) in service to the Nation. The expertise of NOAA Corps officers enables safe operations, upholds scientific data integrity, and protects natural resources. NOAA Corps officers not only understand and can execute proper experimental design, they also understand the need to conduct missions to ensure consistent calibration of data collection instruments to yield high quality data series. NOAA Corps officers operate and manage NOAA's fleet of ships, aircraft and UxS; they also serve in positions of leadership and command across the Federal government, in essential positions in Congress, and in the military during times of war or national emergency.

Centrally managed within the NOAA Commissioned Personnel Center in Silver Spring, MD, the NOAA Corps provides a unique and valuable capability to the Nation, and NOAA Corps officers provide a responsiveness and flexibility inherent in a commissioned personnel system. These benefits are evident among NOAA Corps mariners, aviators and UxS operators. Commanding Officers of NOAA's hydrography ships serve as the Chief Scientists for these missions, having received this rare and specialized training as part of being a NOAA Corps officer. These officers conduct the charting and mapping work that feeds into nautical charts, enabling cost-effective shipping paths for commerce, defense, fishing, and other activities. Among pilots, NOAA Corps officers' breadth of experience both within NOAA and as inter-service transfers allows NOAA Corps aviators to access extreme altitudes or restricted geopolitical areas - enabling NOAA to capture data that other agencies and commercial pilots cannot. This capability is only obtained after years of training, making the loss of any mid-career aviator that much more impactful to the support of critical severe weather

research or other mission capabilities. Our pilots and ship captains also help test some of the most innovative weather and other sensing instruments and equipment aboard NOAA planes and ships. The commercial sector does not have this same ability. More information on the NOAA Corps can be found at https://www.omao.noaa.gov/noaa-corps/about-noaa-corps.

The quality of NOAA data depends on having enough NOAA Corps officers to safely operate data collection platforms, critical to hurricane and atmospheric rivers forecasts, flood and drought prediction efforts, safe and efficient navigation, management of living marine resources, and global ocean monitoring. Each ship and aircraft have minimum staffing requirements to safely and effectively accomplish mission and performance objectives. Aviators also have hourly flight-time limits, and all officers are limited in the number of days they can be deployed. That means the NOAA Corps strength directly impacts days at sea, flight hours, location, and flexibility of missions to meet NOAA's scientific goals. NOAA Corps strength levels and associated support costs are the primary drivers of NOAA Corps costs. The size of the Corps is measured by average annual strength, consistent with its authorizing language. Average annual strength reflects the average number of officers on board over the course of the year, measuring how reliably the Corps can meet its operational requirements.

Funds for retired NOAA Corps officers are appropriated in the mandatory NOAA Corps Commissioned Officers Retirement funds (see OMAO-23), and the Medicare Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund discretionary account (see OMAO-27).

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Comissioned Officer Corps	Pos/BA	365	66,300	357	63,500	(8)	(2,800)
	FTE/OBL	361	66,300	357	63,500	(4)	(2,800)

Prioritize the NOAA Corps (-$2,800, -4 FTE/ -8 Positions) –. This request sustains funding for the NOAA Corps. While a funding reduction from the FY 2024 funding level post-reprogramming, the FY 2026 Budget request is flat with FY 2024 enacted. This request provides the NOAA Corps with an average annual strength of 336, approximately equal to FY 2024 actuals.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: Marine and Aviation Capital Investments

Goal Statement

Acquire effective and efficient aircraft and ship platforms to support NOAA's prioritized airborne and at-sea data requirements and priorities, maintain NOAA's current fleet at a high state of readiness, and advance coastal and worldwide ocean survey and data collection through investment in new vessel construction. Plan and perform cyclic depot-level capital investments across the fleet, designed to maintain and extend the service life of NOAA's vessel and aircraft fleet and ensure that the required upgrades to aircraft and ship- board systems and mission equipment comply with safety requirements and the needs of the programs.

Program Description

The Marine and Aviation Capital Investments activity includes three major Programs: Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion, Vessel Recapitalization and Construction, and Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction. Each program plays a specific part in ensuring the continued health of NOAA's vessel and aircraft fleet to support NOAA's mission.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion
Schedule and Milestones:
FY2026 - FY 2030

- Perform phased overhauls, upgrades, and replacements of ship's systems through infrastructure improvement plans
- Restore and replace ship mission systems
- Address ship corrosion
- Develop and execute long-term maintenance plans to achieve the operational service life of all NOAA vessels
- Modify ships and aircraft to effectively deploy and recover uncrewed systems

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Deliverables:
FY 2026 - FY 2030

- Improved reliability of the fleet and reduce lost Days at Sea from unscheduled maintenance
- Continued capability of the NOAA Fleet
- Planned operational service life of all vessels
- Ship modifications to accommodate UxS platforms for mapping and fisheries missions

Vessel Recapitalization and Construction
Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2026

- Initial Operating Capability for the *Oceanographer*

Deliverables:
FY 2026

- Deliver Class A Ship *Oceanographer*

Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction
Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2026

- G550 #1: Conduct final operational testing and calibration of advanced instrumentation
- C-130J: Complete the Critical Design Review for the Mission Modifications
- C-130J: Award research and production contract for the Vertically Scanning Doppler Radar

Deliverables:
FY 2026

- G550 #1: Initial Operating Capability

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Explanation and Justification

FLEET CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY INFUSION

The Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion Program allows NOAA to plan and perform cyclic depot-level capital investments across the fleet, designed to maintain and extend the service life of NOAA's vessel and aircraft fleet. It ensures that the required upgrades to aircraft and ship-board systems and mission equipment comply with safety requirements and the needs of the programs. Aircraft and ships receive regular upgrades and replacements of mission support equipment and technology infusions such as data processing and storage capacity, multi-beam sonars and sensors. The program also supports uncrewed launch and recovery systems.

VESSEL RECAPITALIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION

NOAA's Fleet Plan, released in 2016, assesses NOAA's at-sea observational infrastructure needs through 2028 for carrying out its mission of protecting lives, livelihoods, and valuable natural resources for the American public. It identifies an integrated approach consisting of best management practices and long-term recapitalization levers to extend and sustain capabilities. The plan includes the critical long-term strategy of designing and constructing up to eight new ships specifically designed to meet NOAA core capabilities based on mission and activities. The Vessel Recapitalization and Construction program supports vessel acquisition, including instrumentation specific to NOAA missions, and major repair periods. This request ensures NOAA meets the Administration's maritime dominance goals, including EO 14269, to revitalize the American shipbuilding industry by making United States-flagged and built vessels and strengthening the maritime workforce. The program oversees these activities, which include a rigorous analysis of mission priorities, design, and alternative options to meet prioritized activities. Efforts will be made throughout the process to leverage design aspects of previous ship classes and to create standardization across the Fleet to meet multiple core mission activities.

AIRCRAFT RECAPITALIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION

NOAA's aircraft are vital national assets for collecting observational data and providing critical products and services to communities and industries around the country. Aircraft recapitalization is necessary for NOAA to keep its fleet of aircraft operational, and continue to provide essential services to the Nation, including accurate flood planning, hurricane and atmospheric rivers forecasting, and data used by the Nation's emergency managers. The Budget does not provide funding for this program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Aircraft Recapitalization	Pos./BA	6	7,000	0	0	(6)	(7,000)
and Construction	FTE/OB	6	7,000	0	0	(6)	(7,000)

Reduce Funds for Aircraft Recapitalization (-$7,000, -6 FTE/ -6 Positions) – This request does not provide funding for this program.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Corps Retirement Pay (Mandatory)
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	36,361	36,361
Plus: Adjustments	0	0	387	387
2026 Estimate	0	0	36,748	36,748

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
NOAA Corps	POS/BA	0	36,361	0	36,748	0	387
Retirement Pay	FTE/OBL	0	36,361	0	36,748	0	387
Total: NOAA Corps	POS/BA	0	36,361	0	36,748	0	387
Retirement Pay	FTE/OBL	0	36,361	0	36,748	0	387

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Corps Retirement Pay (Mandatory)
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	36,361	0	36,748	0	387
Total Obligations	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**36,748**	**0**	**387**
Adjustments to Obligations: Unobligated balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**36,748**	**0**	**387**
Financing from Transfers and Other:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**0**	**36,361**	**0**	**36,748**	**0**	**387**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Corps Retirement Pay (Mandatory)
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

Activity: NOAA Corps Retirement Pay (Mandatory)

Goal Statement

Provide payment of benefits to retired NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) Officers and their families.

Program Description

In FY 2023, there were 428 retired NOAA Corps officers receiving retired pay benefits, and 64 spouses or dependents of deceased retired officers, who are still eligible to receive benefits.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones:
- Transfer funds to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- Administer Healthcare funds for non-Medicare-eligible retirees, dependents, and annuitants

Deliverables:
- Benefits for retired NOAA Corps Officers and their families

Explanation and Justification

The retirement system for the uniformed services provides a measure of financial security after release from active duty for service members and their survivors. It is an important factor in the choice of a career in the uniformed services, and the legal mandate for rates to be paid is the same for all uniformed services, see 10 USC. Retired pay is an entitlement to NOAA Commissioned Corps officers under 33 USCA 3044, 33 USCA 3045, and 33 USCA 3046. Retired pay funds are transferred to the USCG, which handles the payments each year as adjusted pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Healthcare funds for non-Medicare-eligible retirees, dependents, and annuitants are administered by OMAO.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Corps Retirement Pay (Mandatory)
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

This line includes funding for the modernized retirement system, which includes matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions, continuation pay, and retirement itself. Public Law 114-92, the NDAA for FY 2016—provides the Secretary the authority to provide Thrift Savings Plan contributions for members of the uniformed services effective January 1, 2018. Public Law 114-92, as amended by P.L. 114-328, the NDAA for FY 2017—modifies section 356 of title 37 and the use of continuation pay for full TSP members. Members must have "completed not less than [eight] and not more than [twelve] years of service" and "[enter] into an agreement of not less than [three] additional years of obligated service." Continuation pay applies across the board to all military members who are in the modernized retirement system and is intended to help ensure retention after a member has the ability to acquire significant retirement benefits.

Legal authority for retirement of NOAA Corps officers is contained in 33 USCA 3044. Retired officers of the NOAA Corps receive retirement benefits that are administered by USCG, in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the USCG and NOAA, with funds certified by the Commissioned Personnel Center within OMAO.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Medicare Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contribution – NOAA Corps
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	0	0	2,223	2,223
Plus: Adjustments	0	0	306	306
2026 Estimate	0	0	2,529	2,529

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Medicare Eligible Retiree	POS/BA	0	2,223	0	2,529	0	306
Health Fund Contribution	FTE/OBL	0	2,223	0	2,529	0	306
Total: Medicare Eligible Retiree	POS/BA	0	2,223	0	2,529	0	306
Health Fund Contribution	FTE/OBL	0	2,223	0	2,529	0	306

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Medicare Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contribution – NOAA Corps
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

	2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	2,223	0	2,529	0	306
Total Obligations	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**2,529**	**0**	**306**
Adjustments to Obligations: Unobligated balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**2,529**	**0**	**306**
Financing from Transfers and Other:						
Net Appropriation	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**2,529**	**0**	**306**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Medicare Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contribution – NOAA Corps
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollars amounts in thousands)

Activity: Medicare-Eligible Retiree Healthcare Fund Contribution - NOAA Corps

Goal Statement

This account is NOAA's contribution to a health care accrual fund for NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps officers. The accrual fund pays for the future health care benefits for current officers once they retire and become Medicare-eligible, as well as for their dependents and annuitants.

Program Description

For FY 2026, payments to the accrual fund are estimated at $2,529.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Schedule and Milestones: (On-going)
- Contribute to healthcare accrual fund
- Provide healthcare benefits to eligible retired NOAA Corps Officers and their dependents and annuitants

Deliverables:
- Healthcare benefits of present, active-duty NOAA offices and their dependents and annuitants

Explanation and Justification

The FY 2003 NDAA requires all uniformed services, including NOAA, to participate in an accrual fund for Medicare-eligible retirees. Payments into this accrual fund will cover the future health care benefits of present, active-duty NOAA officers and their dependents and annuitants.

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For expenses necessary for activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

5 USC 5348	15 USC 1514	16 USC 3645	33 USC 1952	51 USC 6061
5 USC 4703	15 USC 1517	16 USC 4101 et seq.	33 USC 2706	
7 USC 1622	15 USC 1537-40	16 USC 4701 et seq.	33 USC 2712	
10 USC 1072	15 USC 8511-8521	16 USC 5001 et seq.	33 USC 2801 et seq.	
10 USC 1116	16 USC 6804 note	16 USC 8206	33 USC 3001 et seq.	
10 USC 1409	16 USC 46a	196 USC 4732	33 USC 3402	
10 USC 2311	16 USC 661 et seq.	31 USC 1105	33 USC 3501	
10 USC 8931	16 USC 757a et seq.	31 USC 6401	33 USC 3601	
12 USC 1715m	16 USC 1361	33 USC 706 et seq.	33 USC 3703	
15 USC 313	16 USC 1431 et seq.	33 USC 883 a-i et seq.	33 USC 4001	
15 USC 313a	16 USC 1447a et seq.	33 USC 891 et seq.	33 USC 4213	
15 USC 313b	16 USC 1451 et seq.	33 USC 893 et seq.	42 USC 8902-05	
15 USC 313 note	16 USC 1456a	33 USC 1121 et seq.	42 USC 9601 et seq.	
15 USC 325	16 USC 1456-1	33 USC 1141	43 USC 1347e	
15 USC 330b	16 USC 1467	33 USC 1251 note	43 USC 3102	
15 USC 330e	16 USC 1531 et seq.	33 USC 1321	44 USC 1307	
15 USC 1511 b-e	16 USC 1801 et seq.	33 USC 1441-44	49 USC 44720	

Government Organization and Employees

5 USC 5348 - Crews of Vessels
"...the pay of officers and members of crews of vessels excepted from chapter 51 of this title by section 5102(c)(8) of this title shall be fixed and adjusted from time to time as nearly as is consistent with the public interest in accordance with prevailing rates and practices in the maritime industry."

5 USC 4703- Demonstration Projects
"…the Office of Personnel Management may, directly or through agreement or contract with one or more agencies and other public and private organizations, conduct and evaluate demonstration projects."

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Agriculture

7 USC 1622 - Distribution and Marketing of Agricultural Products

"The Secretary ... is directed and authorized: ...

(a) to determine the needs and develop or assist in the development of plans for the proper assembly, processing, transportation, storage, distribution, and handling of agricultural (fish) products.

(f) to conduct and cooperate in consumer education for the more effective utilization and greater consumption of agricultural products (fish)...

(g) to collect and disseminate marketing information... for the purpose of ... bringing about a balance between production and utilization of agricultural (fish) products.

(h) to inspect, certify, and identify the class, quality, quantity and condition of agricultural (fish) products ...

(m) to conduct ... research ... to determine the most efficient ... processes for the handling, storing, preserving, protecting...of agricultural (fish) commodities ..."

(h) - Duties of Secretary relating to agricultural products; penalties

"Whoever knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit any official certificate, memorandum, or other identification, with respect to inspection, class, grade, quality, size, quantity, or condition, issued or authorized under this section or knowingly cause or procure, or aid, assist in, or be a party to, such false making, issuing, altering, forging, or counterfeiting, or whoever knowingly shall possess, without promptly notifying the Secretary (of Commerce) or his representative, utter, published, or used as true, any such falsely made, altered forged, or counterfeited official certificate, memorandum, mark, identification, or device, or whoever knowingly represents that an agricultural product has been officially inspected or graded...when in fact such commodity has not been so graded or inspected shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

Armed Forces

10 USC 1072 Medical and Dental Care

"…The term "uniformed services" means the armed forces and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and of the Public Health Service."

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10 USC 1116 Determinations of Contributions to the Fund

"At the beginning of each fiscal year after September 30, 2005, the Secretary of the Treasury shall promptly pay into the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury--(1) the amount certified to the Secretary by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (c), which shall be the contribution to the Fund for that fiscal year required by section 1115; and (2) the amount determined by each administering Secretary under section 1111(c) as the contribution to the Fund on behalf of the members of the uniformed services under the jurisdiction of that Secretary."

10 USC 1409 - Retired pay multiplier

"(4) Modernized retirement system.-(A) Reduced multiplier for full tsp members .-Notwithstanding paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), in the case of a member who first becomes a member of the uniformed services on or after January 1, 2018, or a member who makes the election described in subparagraph (B) (referred to as a "full TSP member")- (i) paragraph (1)(A) shall be applied by substituting "2" for "2½"; (ii) clause (i) of paragraph (3)(B) shall be applied by substituting "60 percent" for "75 percent"; and (iii) clause (ii)(I) of such paragraph shall be applied by substituting "2" for "2½". (B) Election to participate in modernized retirement system .-Pursuant to subparagraph (C), a member of a uniformed service serving on December 31, 2017, who has served in the uniformed services for fewer than 12 years as of December 31, 2017, may elect, in exchange for the reduced multipliers described in subparagraph (A) for purposes of calculating the retired pay of the member, to receive Thrift Savings Plan contributions pursuant to section 8440e(e) of title 5. (C) Election period.- (i) In general .-Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), a member of a uniformed service described in subparagraph (B) may make the election authorized by that subparagraph only during the period that begins on January 1, 2018, and ends on December 31, 2018. (ii) Hardship extension .-The Secretary concerned may extend the election period described in clause (i) for a member who experiences a hardship as determined by the Secretary concerned. (iii) Effect of break in service .-A member of a uniformed service who returns to service after a break in service that occurs during the election period specified in clause (i) shall make the election described in subparagraph (B) within 30 days after the date of the reentry into service of the member."

10 USC 2311 Assignment and Delegation of Procurement Functions and Responsibilities

(a) In General.--Except to the extent expressly prohibited by another provision of law, the head of an agency may delegate, subject to his direction, to any other officer or official of that agency, any power under this chapter.

(b) Procurements For or With Other Agencies.--Subject to subsection (a), to facilitate the procurement of property and services covered by this chapter by each agency named in section 2303 of this title for any other agency, and to facilitate joint procurement by those agencies--

(1) the head of an agency may delegate functions and assign responsibilities relating to procurement to any officer or employee within such agency;

(2) the heads of two or more agencies may by agreement delegate procurement functions and assign procurement responsibilities from one agency to another of those agencies or to an officer or civilian employee of another of those agencies; and
(3) the heads of two or more agencies may create joint or combined offices to exercise procurement functions and responsibilities.

10 USC 8931 – National Oceanographic Partnership Program
The Secretary of the Navy shall establish a program to be known as the "National Oceanographic Partnership Program."

Banks and Banking

12 USC 1715m - Mortgage Insurance for Servicemen [NOAA Corps]
This section authorizes payment of Federal Housing Administration (FHA) home mortgage insurance premiums to NOAA Corps Officers.

Commerce and Trade

15 USC 313 - Duties of Secretary of Commerce [National Weather Service]
"The Secretary of Commerce...shall have charge of the forecasting of weather,...issue of storm warnings,...weather and flood signals,... gauging and reporting of rivers,...collection and transmission of marine intelligence...,...reporting of temperature and rainfall conditions..., the display of frost and cold-wave signals, the distribution of meteorological information..., and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States, or as are essential for the proper execution of the foregoing duties."

15 USC 313a - Establishment of Meteorological Observation Stations in the Arctic Region
"... The Secretary of Commerce shall ... take such actions as may be necessary in the development of an international basic meteorological reporting network in the Arctic region of the Western Hemisphere..."

15 USC 313b - Institute for Aviation Weather Prediction
"The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall establish an Institute for Aviation Weather Prediction. The Institute shall provide forecasts, weather warnings, and other weather services to the United States aviation community.…"

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15 USC 313d – National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program
"The Under Secretary, through the National Weather Service and other appropriate weather and climate programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish a National Integrated Drought Information System to better inform and provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce drought related impacts and costs."

15 USC 313 note - Weather Service Modernization Act (a)
As part of the budget justification documents submitted to Congress in support of the annual budget request for the department of Commerce, the Secretary shall include a National Implementation Plan for modernization of the National Weather Service for each fiscal year following fiscal year 1993 until such modernization is complete. The Plan shall set forth the actions, during the 2-year period beginning with the fiscal year for which the budget request is made, that will be necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the Strategic Plan.

15 USC 325 - Spending Authority for the National Weather Service
"...Appropriations now or hereafter provided for the National Weather Service shall be available for: (a) furnishing food and shelter...to employees of the Government assigned to Arctic stations; (b) equipment and maintenance of meteorological offices and stations, and maintenance and operation of meteorological facilities outside the United States... (c) repairing, altering, and improving of buildings occupied by the National Weather Service, and care and preservation of grounds...(d) arranging for communication services... and
(e) purchasing tabulating cards and continuous form tabulating paper.

15 USC 330b - Duties of Secretary relating to Weather Modification Activities or Attempts - Reporting Requirement
"The Secretary shall maintain a record of weather modification activities, including attempts, which take place in the United States and shall publish summaries thereof from time to time as he determines."
(a) "All reports, documents, and other information received by the Secretary under the provisions of this chapter shall be made available to the public to the fullest practicable extent."

15 USC 330e - Authorization of Appropriations relating to Weather Modification Activities or Attempts - Reporting Requirement
This section provides funding authority to support the reporting requirements specified in this chapter.

15 USC 1511b - United States Fishery Trade Officers
"For purposes of carrying out export promotion and other fishery development responsibilities, the Secretary of Commerce…shall appoint not fewer than six officers who shall serve abroad to promote United States fishing interests. These officers shall be knowledgeable about the United States fishing industry, preferably with experience derived from the harvesting,

processing, or marketing sectors of the industry or from the administration of fisheries programs. Such officers, who shall be employees of the Department of Commerce, shall have the designation of fishery trade officers."

15 USC 1511c - NOAA Estuarine Programs Office
"... The Estuarine Programs Office shall develop, coordinate, and implement the estuarine activities of the administration with the activities of other Federal and State agencies. There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration not to exceed $560,000 for fiscal year 1989, and $600,000 for fiscal year 1990."

15 USC 1511d - Chesapeake Bay Office
The Secretary of Commerce shall establish, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an office to be known as the Chesapeake Bay Office…which shall provide technical assistance on processes impacting the Chesapeake Bay system, its restoration and habitat protection; develop a strategy to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement; and coordinate programs and activities impacting the Chesapeake Bay, including research and grants.

15 USC 1511e - Office of Space Commercialization
"There is established with the Department of Commerce an Office of Space Commercialization" which shall "promote commercial provider investment in space activities…assist United States commercial providers in [their efforts to] conduct business with the United States Government, [act] as an industry advocate within the executive branch…, ensure that the United States Government does not compete with United States commercial providers…, [promote] the export of space-related goods and services, [represent] the Department of Commerce in the development of United States policies…and [seek] the removal of legal, policy, and institutional impediments to space commerce."

15 USC 1514 - Basic Authority for Performance of Certain Functions and Activities of Department
"Appropriations are authorized for the following activities of the Department of Commerce:

(a) furnishing to employees...and their dependents, in Alaska and other points outside the continental United States, free emergency medical services...and supplies;
(b) purchasing, transporting, storing, and distributing food and other subsistence supplies for resale to employees...and their dependents, in Alaska and other points outside the continental United States at a reasonable value...; the proceeds from such resales to be credited to the appropriation from which the expenditure was made;
(c) ...establishment, maintenance, and operation of messing facilities, by contract or otherwise, in Alaska and other points outside the continental United States..., such service to be furnished to employees...and their dependents,...
(d) reimbursement...of officers or employees in or under the Department...for food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies furnished by them in emergencies for the temporary relief of dislocated persons in remote localities;

(e) providing motion-picture equipment and film for recreation of crews of vessels..., for recreation for employees in remote localities..., and for training purposes;
(f) erecting, altering, repairing, equipping, furnishing, and maintaining...such living and working quarters and facilities as may be necessary to carry out its authorized work at remote localities not on foreign soil where such living and working accommodations are not otherwise available."

15 USC 1517 - Transfer of Statistical or Scientific Work

"The President is authorized, by order in writing, to transfer at any time the whole or any part of any office, bureau, division, or other branch of the public service engaged in statistical or scientific work, from the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the United States Postal Service, or the Department of the Interior, to the Department of Commerce; and in every such case the duties and authority performed by and conferred by law upon such office, bureau, division, or other branch of the public service, or the part thereof so transferred, shall be thereby transferred with such office, bureau, division, or other branch of the public service, or the part thereof which is so transferred. All power and authority conferred by law, both supervisory and appellate, upon the department from which such transfer is made, or the Secretary thereof, in relation to the said office, bureau, division, or other branch of the public service, or the part thereof so transferred, shall immediately, when such transfer is so ordered by the President, be fully conferred upon and vested in the Department of Commerce, or the Secretary thereof, as the case may be, as to the whole or part of such office, bureau, division, or other branch of the public service so transferred."

15 USC 1537 Needs Assessment for Data Management

"Not later than 12 months after October 29, 1992, and at least biennially thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall complete an assessment of the adequacy of the environmental data and information systems of NOAA."

15 USC 1538 – Notice of reprogramming

(a) In general

The Secretary of Commerce shall provide notice to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, not less than 15 days before reprogramming funds available for a program, project, or activity of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in an amount greater than the lesser of $250,000 or 5 percent of the total funding of such program, project, or activity if the reprogramming-
(1) augments an existing program, project, or activity;
(2) reduces by 5 percent or more (A) the funding for an existing program, project, or activity or (B) the numbers of personnel therefor as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in an existing program, project, or activity.

(b) Notice of reorganization
The Secretary of Commerce shall provide notice to the Committees on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Science, Space, and Technology, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate not later than 15 days before any major reorganization of any program, project, or activity of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

15 USC 1539 – Financial Assistance
(a) Processing of applications
Within 12 months after October 29, 1992, the Secretary of Commerce shall develop and, after notice and opportunity for public comment, promulgate regulations or guidelines to ensure that a completed application for a grant, contract, or other financial assistance under a nondiscretionary assistance program shall be processed and approved or disapproved within 75 days after submission of the application to the responsible program office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
(b) Notification of applicant
Not later than 14 days after the date on which the Secretary of Commerce receives an application for a contract, grant, or other financial assistance provided under a nondiscretionary assistance program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Secretary shall indicate in writing to the applicant whether or not the application is complete and, if not complete, shall specify the additional material that the applicant must provide to complete the application.
(c) Exemption
In the case of a program for which the recipient of a grant, contract, or other financial assistance is specified by statute to be, or has customarily been, a State or an interstate fishery commission, such financial assistance may be provided by the Secretary to that recipient on a sole-source basis, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
(d) "Nondiscretionary assistance program" defined
In this section, the term "nondiscretionary assistance program" means any program for providing financial assistance—
(1) under which the amount of funding for, and the intended recipient of, the financial assistance is specified by Congress; or
(2) the recipients of which have customarily been a State or an interstate fishery commission.

15 USC 1540 – Cooperative Agreements
"The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, may enter into cooperative agreements and other financial agreements with any nonprofit organization to (1) aid and promote scientific and educational activities to foster public understanding of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its programs; and (2) solicit private donations for the support of such activities."

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15 USC 8511-8521 – United States Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement
In conducting research, the Under Secretary shall prioritize improving weather data, modeling, computing, forecasting, and warnings for the protection of life and property and for the enhancement of the national economy.

Conservation

16 USC 6804 note – John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act
(b)EVERY KID OUTDOORS PROGRAM.—
"(1)ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall jointly establish a program, to be known as the 'Every Kid Outdoors program', to provide free access to Federal land and waters for students and accompanying individuals in accordance with this subsection.

16 USC 46a - Marine Fisheries Program Authorization Act
This Act authorizes NMFS fisheries programs not otherwise authorized by law, including research to reduce entanglement of marine mammals in fishing gear, development of habitat restoration techniques, restoration of Chesapeake Bay, and conservation of Antarctic living marine resources.

16 USC 661 et seq.- Declaration of Purpose; Cooperation of Agencies; Surveys and Investigations; Donations
"...the Secretary of the Interior is authorized (1) to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto, and in carrying out other measures necessary to effectuate the purposes of said sections; (2) to make surveys and investigations of the wildlife of the public domain, including lands and waters or interests therein acquired or controlled by any agency of the United States; and (3) to accept donations of land and contributions of funds in furtherance of the purposes of said sections."

16 USC 757a et seq.- Anadromous, Great Lakes, and Lake Champlain Fisheries
The Act authorizes cooperative agreements with States "that are concerned with the development, conservation, and enhancement of [anadromous] fish" (section 757a(a)).

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16 USC 1361 - Congressional Findings
"The Congress finds that - (1) certain species and population stocks of marine mammals are, or may be, in danger of extinction or depletion as a result of man's activities;"

"The Secretary is authorized to make grants, or to provide financial assistance in such other form as he deems appropriate, to any Federal or State agency, public or private institution, or other person for the purpose of assisting such agency, institution, or person to undertake research in subjects which are relevant to the protection and conservation of marine mammals, and shall provide financial assistance for, research into new methods of locating and catching yellow-fin tuna without the incidental taking of marine mammals."

16 USC 1431 et seq. - Findings, Purposes, and Policies [The National Marine Sanctuaries Act, as amended]
(b) Purposes and Policies

"The purposes and policies of this title are -

(1) to identify and designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment which are of special national significance;
(2) to provide authority for ... conservation and management of these marine areas ...
(3) to support, promote, and coordinate scientific research on, and monitoring of, the resources of these marine areas...
(4) to enhance public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and wise use of the marine environment;
(5) to facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities;
(6) to develop and implement coordinated plans for the protection and management of these areas...;
(7) to create models of, and incentives for, ways to conserve and manage these areas..."
(8) to cooperate with global programs ...; and
(9) to maintain, restore, and enhance living resources ..."

16 USC 1447a et seq. - Regional Marine Research Programs
Authorizes NOAA/EPA and Governors of certain states to appoint members to a number of regional marine research boards. Each board is to develop a comprehensive four year marine research plan and "the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall administer a grant program to support the administrative functions of each Board."

Authorization for the Boards expires on October 1, 1999. The authorization for appropriations expired at the end of fiscal year 1996.

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16 USC 1451 et seq. - Findings, Purposes, and Policies [Coastal Zone Management Act]
Establishes a voluntary partnership between the Federal Government and coastal States. It also establishes the National Estuarine Reserve Research program, in which the Secretary of Commerce may designate an estuarine area as a national estuarine research reserve in consultation with governor of affected state.

16 USC 1456a – Coastal Zone Management Fund
"(b) (1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a fund, to be known as the 'Coastal Zone Management Fund', which shall consist of amounts retained and deposited into the Fund under subsection (a) of this section and fees deposited into the Fund under section 1456 (i) (3) of this title"

16 USC 1456-1 – Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program
Amends the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program to protect important coastal and estuarine areas. Requires related property acquisition grants to coastal states with approved coastal zone management plans or National Estuarine Research Reserve units. Authorizes appropriations.

16 USC 1467 – Establishment of the Digital Coast
(a)ESTABLISHMENT
(1)IN GENERAL
The Secretary shall establish a program for the provision of an enabling platform that integrates geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices to address coastal management issues and needs. Under the program, the Secretary shall strive to enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and coastal economic growth and development by helping communities address their issues, needs, and challenges through cost-effective and participatory solutions.

16 USC 1531 et seq. – Congressional Findings and Declaration of Purposes and Policy
The purposes of the Act are "to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in [the statute]" (section 1531(b)).

16 USC 1801 et seq, - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
The primary purpose of the Act is "to take immediate action to conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the coasts of the United States (section 1801(b)(1))."

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16 USC 3645 - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery

"(A) For salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, and salmon research, including the construction of salmon research and related facilities, there is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, $90,000,000 to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subparagraph shall be made available as direct payments. The State of Alaska may allocate a portion of any funds it receives under this subsection to eligible activities outside Alaska."

Amended in PL109-479 Section 302(d) as follows: Section 16(d)(2)(A) of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, as transferred by paragraph (1), is amended—

(1) by inserting "sustainable salmon fisheries," after "enhancement,";
(2) by inserting "2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009," after "2003"; and
(3) by inserting ''Idaho,'' after ''Oregon,''.

16 USC 4101 et seq. – Interjurisdictional Fisheries

"The purposes of this chapter are - (1) to promote and encourage State activities in support of the management of interjurisdictional fishery resources, and (2) to promote and encourage management of interjurisdictional fishery resources through their range" (3) to promote and encourage research in preparation for the implementation of the use of ecosystems and interspecies approaches to the conservation and management of interjurisdictional fishery resources throughout their range."

16 USC 4701 et seq. **-** Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control

Establishes an interagency Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, of which the Administrator of NOAA is a co-chair. The task force's responsibilities include developing and implementing "a program for waters of the United States to prevent introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information."

16 USC 5001 et seq. - Purpose of Convention

"It is the purpose ... to implement the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, signed in Moscow, February 11, 1992."

16 USC 8206 – America's Conservation Enhancement Act

(a) In general

The Director, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service

and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

Customs Duties

19 USC 4732 – United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation
(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Trade Representative, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration may detail, on a reimbursable basis, one employee of each such respective agency to the Office of the United States Trade Representative to be assigned to the United States Embassy in Mexico to carry out the duties described in subsection (b).

Money and Finance

31 USC 1105 - Budget Contents and Submission to Congress
(a) On or after the first Monday in January but not later than the first Monday in February of each year, the President shall submit a budget of the United States Government for the following fiscal year. Each budget shall include a budget message and summary and supporting information.

Amended in PL108-447 (FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act) as follows: "*Provided further,* That beginning in fiscal year 2006 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, 10 United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition and construction program having a total multiyear program cost of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such program for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years."

31 USC 6401 - Grant Reporting - Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2019
To modernize Federal grant reporting and other purposes.

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Navigation and Navigable Waters

33 USC 706 et seq. - Department of Commerce; Current Precipitation Information; Appropriation
"There is authorized an expenditure as required,..., for the establishment, operation, and maintenance by the Secretary of Commerce of a network of recording and non-recording precipitation stations, known as the Hydroclimatic Network, whenever...such service is advisable..."

33 USC 883a et seq. - Surveys and Other Activities
"...the Secretary...is authorized to conduct the following activities:

(1) Hydrographic and topographic surveys;
(2) Tide and current observations;
(3) Geodetic-control surveys;
(4) Field surveys for aeronautical charts;
(5) Geomagnetic, seismological, gravity, and related geophysical measurements and investigations, and observations ..."

33 USC 883b - Dissemination of Data; Further Activities
"...the Secretary is authorized to conduct the following activities:

(1) Analysis and prediction of tide and current data;
(2) Processing and publication of data...;
(3) Compilation and printing of nautical charts...;
(4) Distribution of nautical charts..."

33 USC 883c - Geomagnetic Data; Collection; Correlation, and Dissemination
"To provide for the orderly collection of geomagnetic data...the Secretary ... is authorized to collect, correlate, and disseminate such data."

33 USC 883d - Improvement of Methods, Instruments, and Equipments; Investigations and Research
"...the Secretary ... is authorized to conduct developmental work for the improvement of surveying and cartographic methods, instruments, and equipments; and to conduct investigations and research in geophysical sciences..."

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33 USC 883e - Cooperative Agreements for Surveys and Investigations; Contribution of Costs Incurred by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
"(1) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with, and to receive and expand funds made available by... for surveys or investigations... or for performing related surveying and mapping activities... and for the preparation and publication of the results thereof."

"(2) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to establish the terms of any cooperative agreement entered into ... including the amount of funds to be received ... which the Secretary determines represents the amount of benefits derived ... from the cooperative agreement."

33 USC 883f - Contracts with Qualified Organizations
"The Secretary is authorized to contract with qualified organizations for the performance of any part of the authorized functions of the National Ocean Survey..."

33 USC 883h - Employment of Public Vessels
"The President is authorized to cause to be employed such of the public vessels as he deems it expedient to employ, and to give such instructions for regulating their conduct as he deems proper in order to carry out the provisions of this subchapter."

33 USC 883i - Authorization of Appropriations
"There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate ships, stations, equipment, and facilities and for such other expenditures, including personal services at the seat of government and elsewhere and including the erection of temporary observatory buildings and lease of sites therefore as may be necessary..."

33 USC 891 et seq. - Fleet Replacement and Modernization Program
"The Secretary is authorized to implement... a 15-year program to replace and modernize the NOAA fleet."

33 USC 893 et seq. - Research, Development, and Education
"The Administrator….shall establish a coordinated program of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric research and development….that shall focus on the development of advanced technologies and analytical methods that will promote United States leadership in ocean and atmospheric science and competitiveness in the applied uses of such knowledge."

33 USC 1121 et seq - National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020
(a)FINDINGS - The Congress finds and declares the following:

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(1)The national interest requires a strategy to—
(A) provide for the understanding and wise use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the environment;
(B) foster economic competitiveness;
(C) promote public stewardship and wise economic development of the coastal ocean and its margins, the Great Lakes, and the exclusive economic zone;
(D) encourage the development of preparation, forecast, analysis, mitigation, response, and recovery systems for coastal hazards;
(E) understand global environmental processes and their impacts on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and
(F) promote domestic and international cooperative solutions to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues.

33 USC 1141 Young Fisherman's Development Act
To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen.

33 USC 1251 note - Water Pollution Prevention and Control
Through the National Shellfish Indicator Program, authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of EPA, to establish and administer a 5-year national shellfish research program for the purpose of improving existing classification systems for shellfish growing waters using the latest technological advancements in microbiology and epidemiological methods.

33 USC 1321 **-** Oil and Hazardous Substances [Clean Water Act]
Authorizes the recovery of damages to natural resources in the event of an oil spill in waters of the United States. This authority has been delegated to several Federal agencies, including the Department, pursuant to an Executive Order.

33 USC 1441 **-** Monitoring and Research Program [Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act]
Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with other agencies, to initiate a comprehensive and continuing program of monitoring and research regarding the effects of the dumping of material into ocean waters or other coastal waters where the tide ebbs and flows or into the Great Lakes or their connecting waters.

33 USC 1442 - Research Program Respecting Possible Long-range Effects of Pollution, Overfishing, and Man-induced Changes of Ocean Ecosystems
Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other agencies, to … "initiate a comprehensive and continuing program of research with respect to the possible long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and man-induced changes of ocean ecosystems."

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33 USC 1443 - Regional Management Plans for Waste Disposal in Coastal Areas
Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to assist the Environmental Protection Agency in assessing "the feasibility in coastal areas of regional management plans for the disposal of waste materials."

33 USC 1444 - Annual Report
Requires the Secretary of Commerce to provide Congress with an annual report on the Department's activities to monitor ocean dumping and research the long-range effects of pollution on ocean ecosystems.

33 USC 1952 – NOAA Marine Debris Program

a) Establishment of Program

There is established, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a Marine Debris Program to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety.

33 USC 2706 - Natural Resources [NOAA Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Cost Reimbursement]
"...the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration acts as trustee of said marine environment and/or resources, shall be deposited in the Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund ... for purposes of obligation and expenditure in fiscal year 1991 and thereafter, sums available in the Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund may be transferred, upon the approval of the Secretary ..., to the Operations, Research, and Facilities appropriation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

33 USC 2712 – Use of Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
Amends Section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund Act by: "(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:''(B) not more than $15,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be available to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere for expenses incurred by, and activities related to, response and damage assessment capabilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.''

33 USC 2801 et seq. - National Coastal Monitoring Act
"The purposes of this chapter are to -

(1) establish a comprehensive national program for consistent monitoring of the Nation's coastal ecosystems;
(2) establish long-term water quality assessment and monitoring programs for high priority coastal waters that will enhance the ability of Federal, State, and local authorities to develop and implement effective remedial programs for those waters;

(3) establish a system for reviewing and evaluating the scientific, analytical, and technological means that are available for monitoring the environmental quality of coastal ecosystems;
(4) establish methods for identifying uniform indicators of coastal ecosystem quality;
(5) provide for periodic, comprehensive reports to Congress concerning the quality of the Nation's coastal ecosystems;
(6) establish a coastal environment information program to distribute coastal monitoring information;
(7) provide state programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) with information necessary to design land use plans and coastal zone regulations that will contribute to the protection of coastal ecosystems; and
(8) provide certain water pollution control programs authorized under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) with information necessary to design and implement effective coastal water pollution controls."

33 USC 3001 et seq.- NOAA Corps Officers
There shall be in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a commissioned officer corps.

33 USC 3402 – Coordinated National Ocean Exploration Program
The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with other Federal ocean and undersea research and exploration programs. To the extent appropriate, the Administrator shall seek to facilitate coordination of data and information management systems, outreach and education programs to improve public understanding of ocean and coastal resources, and development and transfer of technologies to facilitate ocean and undersea research and exploration.

33 USC 3501 – Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration
Directs the President to establish a coordinated federal program to develop an ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States that enhances ecosystem approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, establishes research and mapping priorities, supports the siting of research and other platforms, and advances ocean and coastal science. Requires a plan for an integrated ocean and coastal mapping initiative within NOAA. Authorizes appropriations.

33 USC 3601 – Reauthorization of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act
The purposes of this chapter are to—
(1) establish a national integrated System of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the National Ocean Research Leadership Council and at the regional level by a network of regional information coordination entities, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and

ocean observation, technologies, and data management and communication systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to—
(A) support national defense, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach training and education;
(B) promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare; and
(C) enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;
(2) improve the Nation's capability to measure, track, explain, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes; and
(3) authorize activities to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, modeling systems, and other scientific and technological capabilities to improve our conceptual understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments, and to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.

33 USC 3703 – Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring
the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council to: (1) coordinate federal activities on ocean acidification and establish an interagency working group; and (2) develop a strategic plan for federal research and monitoring on ocean acidification. Requires specified ocean acidification programs in NOAA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Authorizes appropriations.

33 USC 4001 **-** Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2017
The President, through the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Science and Technology Council, shall establish an Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. The Task Force shall consist of a representative from—the Department of Commerce (who shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force) among others.

33 USC 4213 – Rights and Obligations of the Foundation
(f) Consultation with NOAA – The Foundation shall consult with the Under Secretary during the planning of any restoration or remediation action using funds resulting from judgments or settlements relating to the damage to trust resources of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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The Public Health and Welfare

42 USC 8902-8905 - Acid Precipitation Program
Authorized the Administrator of NOAA to serve as co-chair of a task force to prepare a comprehensive research plan for a program to study the causes and effects of acid precipitation. Also authorizes the Administrator of NOAA to serve as the director of a related research program.

42 USC 9601 et seq. (CERCLA)
Through associated regulations and delegations, authorizes the Administrator to provide technical assistance to the Administrator, EPA, for hazardous waste response under CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan and authorizes the Administrator to act as a natural resource trustee with authority to bring a cause of action for damages resulting from an injury to, destruction of or loss of resources under NOAA's jurisdiction.

Public Lands

43 USC 1347e - Safety and Health Regulations
Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce in cooperation with other Federal entities, to conduct studies of underwater diving techniques and equipment "suitable for protection of human safety and improvement of diver performance…."

43 USC 3102 – National Landslide Preparedness Act
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the ''National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''program'')— (1) to identify and understand landslide hazards and risks; (2) to reduce losses from landslides; (3) to protect communities at risk of landslide hazards; and (4) to help improve communication and emergency preparedness, including by coordinating with communities and entities responsible for infrastructure that are at risk of landslide hazards.
(3) there is authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $1,000,000 to carry out this section.

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Public Printing and Documents

44 USC 1307 - Sale and Distribution of NOAA Nautical and Aeronautical Products
"All nautical and aeronautical products created or published ... shall be sold at ... prices ... the Secretary of Commerce shall establish annually ... so as to recover all costs attributable to data base management, compilation, printing, and distribution of such products."

Transportation

49 USC 44720 - Meteorological services
The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce on providing meteorological services necessary for the safe and efficient movement of aircraft in air commerce. In providing the services, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Administrator and give complete consideration to those recommendations.

"To promote safety and efficiency in air navigation to the highest possible degree, the Secretary shall -(1)observe, measure, investigate, and study atmospheric phenomena, and maintain meteorological stations and offices...(2) provide reports to the Administrator (3)cooperate with persons engaged in air commerce in meteorological services...(4)maintain and coordinate international exchanges of meteorological information... (5) participate in developing an international basic meteorological reporting network...(6)coordinate meteorological requirements in the United States to maintain standard observations...;(7)promote and develop meteorological science.

National and Commercial Space Programs

51 USC 60601 – Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act
(a)FINDINGS.—
(1) SPACE WEATHER.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to space weather:
(A) Space weather phenomena pose a significant threat to ground-based and space-based critical infrastructure, modern technological systems, and humans working in space.
(B) The effects of severe space weather on the electric power grid, satellites and satellite communications and information, aviation operations, astronauts living and working in space, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts.
(C) Space-based and ground-based observations provide crucial data necessary to understand, forecast, and prepare for space weather phenomena.

(D) Clear roles and accountability of Federal departments and agencies are critical for efficient and effective response to threats posed by space weather.
(E) Space weather observation and forecasting are essential for the success of human and robotic space exploration.
(F) In October 2015, the National Science and Technology Council published a National Space Weather Strategy and a National Space Weather Action Plan seeking to integrate national space weather efforts and add new capabilities to meet increasing demand for space weather information.
(G) In March 2019, the National Science and Technology Council published an updated National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the United States to space weather.
(2)ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to the role of Federal agencies on space weather:
(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides operational space weather monitoring, forecasting, and long-term data archiving and access for civil applications, maintains ground-based and space-based assets to provide observations needed for space weather forecasting, prediction, and warnings, provides research to support operational responsibilities, and develops requirements for space weather forecasting technologies and science.

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31 U.S.C. 720, as amended January 3, 2019, requires the head of a federal agency to submit a written statement of the actions taken or planned on Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with the agency's first request for appropriations made more than 180 calendar days after the date of the report.

The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act, passed on January 3, 2019 (P.L. 115-414), requires each agency to include, in its annual budget justification, a report that identifies each public recommendation issued by GAO and the agency's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) which has remained unimplemented for one year or more from the annual budget justification submission date. In addition, the Act requires a reconciliation between the agency records and the OIGs' Semiannual Report to Congress.

Section 1. Recommendations for which action plans were finalized since the last appropriations request.

Report Number	Report Title	Issue Date	Rec. Number	Recommendation	Action(s) Planned	Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	Target Completion Date	Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	1	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS Identifies the NCCF effort as a program or project in accordance with DAO 208-16.	NESDIS will develop a management control approach for NCCF that is in accordance with Department of Commerce guidelines aligned with DAO 208-16.	Complete	02/28/2025	Complete
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management	08/27/2024	2	We recommend the NOAA Administrator	The NESDIS established an Independent Review Board (IRB) to assess the	In-progress	07/31/2025	In-progress

	controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system			direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS Implements appropriate, formal management controls for the NCCF as described in the DOC Acquisition Agile Program and Project Management Guidebook, including a formal lifecycle cost estimate; cost, schedule, and technical performance baselines; and performance measurement against those baselines.	NCCF development and started its independent review of the NCCF development at the end of July 2024. The NESDIS-level IRB will finalize its independent review of the NCCF against the DOC Acquisition Agile Program and Project Management Guidebook by late August 2024. OCS will use the independent review findings to inform the maturation of the formal management controls for the NCCF and the implementation strategy to align cost, schedule, and technical performance baselines of the NCCF investment.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common	08/27/2024	3	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS Delivers official requirements to OCS for development of the NCCF.	We concur. NESDIS will define and deliver requirements for the development of the NCCF. The top-level requirements contained within the [in-baseline process] NESDIS Ground Enterprise (NGE) objectives document are based on clear architectural and operational baselines that define the NCCF. This	In-progress	07/31/2025	In-progress

	ground system				NGE objectives document provides clear traceability of NCCF-relevant requirements within the objectives document to NCCF functional requirements. Those NCCF (NGE) requirements provide well-defined scope, thresholds, and objectives for OCS development processes.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	4	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS directs OCS to comply with all aspects of NESDIS requirements management policy, including establishment of a requirements management board to oversee requirements and creation of a requirements management plan for the NCCF.	NESDIS will comply with all aspects of NESDIS requirements management policy. The NESDIS enterprise requirements will be managed through an existing configuration control board that controls requirements baselines. NESDIS will establish and manage a lower level requirements configuration control board for NCCF and document the process in a requirements management plan.	In-progress	07/31/2025	In-progress
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security	08/27/2024	5	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of	NESDIS will evaluate federal criteria governing IT investment reporting to ensure the NCCF complies with relevant statutes, regulations, and	In-progress	07/31/2025	In-progress

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	threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system			Operations to ensure NCCF financial, project, and performance data is reported to OMB via the Federal IT Dashboard, in accordance with federal budget guidance.	guidance. This analysis will ensure differential categorization of IT investment for mission delivery vs. standard IT investments, in accordance with OMB guidance. NESDIS will continue monitoring and developing cloud computing reporting guidance and ensure submissions evolve to accurately capture all relevant aspects of the IT portfolio.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	6	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS updates the NESDIS penetration testing process to ensure: a. Penetration testers have adequate access to examine all system components. b. Penetration test findings are documented in POA&Ms in the security system of record. c. Penetration tests are	6a - As part of the formulation for Rules of Engagement for penetration testing, the penetration testers are only excluded from out of bounds areas that may have a real-world mission impact via black listed IP address ranges. Their access to equipment depends on a variety of factors including if it is an on-site penetration test or off-site remote test, or whether it's a black box, gray box, or white box test. NESDIS will ensure that future penetration testers have access pertinent to the type of test being conducted; request timely status reports; and that	Closed	09/30/2025	Closed

				conducted prior to the creation of the SAR that supports the annual authorization process. d. The SAR includes penetration test results and any testing limitations that testers encountered.	any concerns are reported so they can be addressed before the end of the test. All relevant NESDIS penetration testing documentation will be updated to reflect any changes, and all personnel will be informed of the changes. 6b - NESDIS will ensure that any findings, including open or closed, minor or critical, will be reported to the Authorizing Officials during the systems' official Security Control Assessment (SCA) Brief. Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&Ms) will be created for any remaining open issues and reported in Cyber Security Assessment and Management (CSAM) system within 1 week (7 days) of the finding(s). The NESDIS Penetration Testing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be updated to reflect the above changes and ensure relevant personnel are briefed. 6c - NESDIS will ensure penetration tests are scheduled prior to the SCA by aligning			

					schedules and informing stakeholders that the Security Assessment Report (SAR) takes into account the previous Penetration Test and is not dependent on a future Penetration Test. 6d - We concur. NESDIS is given a penetration test report that covers all aspects of the test. NESDIS will ensure that processes and procedures are updated to cover any limitations to the test that were found, and if any impediments were encountered by the PenTest team while trying to exploit the system. SAR reports have the penetration test results in them, however they are usually from the previous penetration test. Moving forward we will ensure that scheduling and activities are aligned and they are documented correctly.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to	08/27/2024	7	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS Includes root cause analysis and	OCS as the system owner will ensure consistent steps in the POA&M process to demonstrate root cause analysis and reporting closure of POA&Ms through the established organizational processes.	Closed	09/30/2025	Closed

	implement a cloud-based common ground system			closure as part of the POA&M process.				
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	8	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS conducts an after-action review to determine the root cause(s) of the security weaknesses detailed in the OIG penetration test report and creates POA&M(s) to resolve the root cause(s).	NESDIS conducted meetings and developed plans with system stakeholders to discuss findings, and to mitigate them as well as establish official POA&Ms listed in CSAM. All but one POA&M have been remediated successfully, checked for compliance and closed. The remaining open POA&M is currently in work and is dependent on partner schedules to complete. Most findings identified by the OIG were closed within a week. The others were closed in a timely manner with sufficient compliance artifacts. NESDIS will ensure that the root cause is addressed by conducting an After-Action Review after the penetration test with system stakeholders, and that any changes are incorporated into the penetration test policies and procedures. This will ensure that whatever caused the finding(s) is solved and that system personnel are properly	In-progress	09/30/2025	In-progress

					educated and trained to recognize these types of issues before they are elevated into real security concerns.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	9	We recommend the NOAA Administrator direct the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary of Operations ensure NESDIS migrates the NCCF cloud system to a FedRAMP® approved high-impact cloud platform or provides the equivalent protection.	Since the initial assessment of the NESDIS cloud platform by the OIG, NESDIS has found through continual assessments and analysis of the AWS documentation and consultations with AWS senior assessors, that the NCCF provides equivalent protection to that of the NIST High Security Baseline. Through the assessment and Authorization process NESDIS will ensure the NCCF continues to provide equivalent protections to a high impact cloud platform. By the target implementation date, the NCCF will be assessed at the 800-53 r5 controls which will demonstrate it meets the high impact cloud baseline.	In-progress	09/30/2025	In-progress
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the	08/27/2024	10	Revises NCCF security documents to ensure security controls align with the high-impact	NESDIS will ensure all high impact controls are implemented in accordance with the requirements identified in the NIST 800-53 as amended and any related	In-progress	09/30/2025	In-progress

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	success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system			security requirements.	AWS Customer Responsibility Matrix documents. By the target implementation date, the NCCF will be assessed at the 800-53 r5 controls which will demonstrate it meets the high impact cloud baseline.			
OIG-24-034-A	A lack of program management controls and attention to it security threatens the success of NOAA's effort to implement a cloud-based common ground system	08/27/2024	11	Updates the NCCF's analysis of alternatives to include moving to a multi-region architecture and document a risk and cost-based decision on how NESDIS will meet the NCCF's availability requirements.	NESDIS will review and update its analysis of alternatives to include moving to a multi-region architecture and document the cost-based decision(s) on NESDIS' ability to meet availability requirements.	In-progress	09/30/2025	In-progress
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	1	We recommend the NOAA Administrator ensure that the National Weather Service assesses the extent to which tropical cyclone watches and warnings provide adequate advance notice to the public commensurate with NHC capabilities and emergency	NOAA will conduct discussions internally and with external users about the feasibility and effectiveness of providing tropical cyclone wind and storm surge hazard information at longer lead times. NOAA will create an annotated bibliography of tropical social science research to assess emergency management and public needs associated with tropical cyclone watches and	In-Progress	May 2025: Continue discussions with customers and partners about the feasibility and effectiveness of providing tropical cyclone wind and storm surge hazard information at longer lead times. • October 2025: Complete annotated bibliography on tropical cyclone information needs.	In-Progress

				manager requirements and revises those products as warranted	warnings. If NOAA determines there is a deficiency in lead times for tropical cyclone forecast and hazard information, NOAA will explore extending the lead time of existing hazard information and/or creating new products/services that could meet these requirements. The NWS will continue working toward extending operational tropical cyclone track and intensity forecasts from 5 days to 7 days. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) has been making these forecasts internally to verify their performance before considering them for operational implementation.		• May 2026: Consider possible extension of tropical cyclone watch/warning lead times for wind and storm surge hazards depending on the results of the above. • May 2028: Possible extension of operational tropical cyclone forecasts to day 7.	
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	2	We recommend the NOAA Administrator ensure that the Assesses its tropical cyclone forecast verification process to a) determine how best to measure performance excluded by current methodology, b)	NOAA is taking a multi-faceted approach to evaluate the effectiveness of tropical cyclone watches and warnings. To partially address Recommendation 2a, NWS has begun to specifically verify tropical cyclone track and intensity forecasts when land-based watches or warnings are in effect. NOAA will also begin an annual review of tropical	In-Progress	May 2025: NHC will implement seasonal verification of tropical cyclone track and intensity forecasts for situations when land-based watches or warnings are in effect. • March 2026: NOAA will establish a process to annually review tropical cyclone	In-Progress

				determine how best to verify tropical cyclone watches and/or warnings to better understand their effectiveness at protecting life and property, and c) implement process improvements as warranted. National Weather Service	cyclone related forecast metrics and propose new metrics for testing and evaluation. Additionally, NWS and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) have an ongoing collaboration to support a longitudinal based public survey to understand perceptions, comprehension, and protective action decisions with respect to tropical cyclone products. This survey will allow for trend analysis and the identification of risk communication gaps. NWS also has a project underway to develop quick response survey mechanisms to measure societal response to events. This process will be applied across hazards including those associated with tropical cyclones. Combined, these efforts will provide yearly societal insights on improvements needed, which can then be brought forward to the NWS Tropical Roadmap team annually for implementation consideration. Actions to address these recommendations are also tied to broader efforts		verification metrics and consider possible new metrics for evaluation. • October 2028: NOAA will identify outcomes and metrics that could best align with hazards to support improved decision-making. • October 2030: Based on its identification of outcomes and metrics, NWS will implement tropical cyclone verification improvements as warranted.	

					to address Recommendation 7: "Establishes clear goals, desired outcomes, and reporting mechanisms for SBES initiatives intended to elicit action to reduce the loss of life and damage to property." and Recommendation 8: "Evaluate how to integrate collection of socioeconomic data to align with NOAA's institutional observations requirements process."			
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	3	We recommend the NOAA Administrator ensure that the National Weather Service Develops and implements an oversight plan to monitor aircraft scheduling effectiveness, using the initial daily reconnaissance request sent to CARCAH as the baseline.	The NWS will work with United States Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC's) Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH) to enact a formal plan to track unmet requirements and effectiveness of reconnaissance flight schedules. As part of this process, the NWS will work with CARCAH to develop metrics to track data collection gaps. With the data collected the NWS will work with NOAA and AFRC flying units to determine if additional guidance is needed regarding aircraft scheduling for the National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP)	In-Progress	May 2025: Implement a formal plan to track unmet requirements and develop metrics to track data collection gaps and assess scheduling effectiveness during the 2025 hurricane season. • May 2026: Work with CARCAH, NOAA/OMAO, and the AFRC to document any scheduling deficiencies and resource constraints. • May 2026: Based on the findings of the items above, in combination with metrics and findings	In-Progress

					to define mission frequency and overall effectiveness. As part of this process, the NWS will meet annually with NOAA/Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) and the AFRC to document any scheduling deficiencies and propose updates to the NHOP on an annual basis as necessary.		from Recommendation 4, determine if additional guidance is needed regarding aircraft scheduling for the 2026 NHOP	
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	4	We recommend the NOAA Administrator ensure that the National Weather Service Specifies aircraft collection times critical to the forecast and warning production cycle in the NHOP.	In combination with findings from Recommendation 3, NOAA will specify aircraft data collection time windows to maximize impact on both model forecasts of tropical cyclone track, intensity, structure, and hazards and the use of aircraft data by forecasters in their analysis and forecast process. The plan will also include studies to determine optimal scheduling for future planned observing systems to be integrated on reconnaissance aircraft. Based on the results of these studies, aircraft collection frequency and times in the NHOP will be adjusted, if necessary, on an annual basis..	In-Progress	• May 2025: Based on current operational requirements, specify additional guidance regarding aircraft scheduling for the 2025 NHOP if warranted. • December 2026: Develop modeling plan • December 2027: Undertake modeling studies • May 2028: Based on the findings of the above, propose any necessary changes to the NHOP to update aircraft data collection times.	In-Progress

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OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	5	We recommend the NOAA Administrator ensure that the National Weather Service Establishes a process with NOAA/OMAO and the AFRC to resolve observed aircraft scheduling deficiencies with an emphasis on meeting NHC requirements and documents the outcomes of these engagements.	During the 2025 hurricane season, NOAA will develop improved metrics and tracking of NHC requirements and scheduling deficiencies that result in these requirements not being met. NHC will meet annually with NOAA/OMAO, AFRC, and Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH) to discuss ways to resolve scheduling deficiencies and develop strategies to meet current and future requirements. As a result of these discussions, updates to the NHOP will be proposed as necessary.	In-Progress	• May 2025: NHC will implement improved metrics and tracking of NHC requirements and scheduling deficiencies for the 2025 hurricane season. • January 2026: NHC will meet with NOAA/OMAO, AFRC, and CARCAH to discuss ways to resolve scheduling deficiencies identified during the 2025 hurricane season. • May 2026: NHC will propose any necessary modifications to the NHOP to modify any scheduling deficiencies identified for the 2026 hurricane season.	In-Progress
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	6	We recommend the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere ensures the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations Implements and	The NOAA Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project (HFIP) was initiated in 2007 and chartered under a Terms of Reference which established a project team, with executive oversight provided by the cross-LO Hurricane Executive Oversight	In-Progress	03/31/2026	In-Progress

				maintains an HFIP executive governance agreement to formalize organizational roles, responsibilities, and goals for hurricane forecasting and warning improvement.	Board (HEOB) chaired by the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and NWS Assistant Administrators. Since transitioning to a program as established under Section 104 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 within the NWS/ Office of Science and Technology Integration (OSTI), HFIP has prioritized data assimilation and hurricane modeling to address mandates to improve tropical cyclone rapid intensification and track prediction. The HFIP has worked with other NOAA programs, such as the Hurricane Supplemental program, as well as users and stakeholders, to prioritize projects that address the incorporation of risk communication within hurricane forecasting products and services, including for storm surge and other hazards. To more seamlessly align model development with upstream and downstream components of the value chain, including integration of social science into			

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					hurricane forecasting products and services, NOAA is in the process of 1) implementing a more comprehensive project structure to facilitate improved and more holistic planning and execution, as well as oversight across the enterprise from funding programs within NWS, OAR, NESDIS and other LOs as appropriate, and 2) formalizing the HEOB structure to include additional stakeholders across NWS, OAR, and NESDIS to fully realize HFIP objectives across the forecast value chain, including observations, modeling, data assimilation, ensemble prediction, verification, AI applications, SBES, and enhanced products and services.			
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	7	We recommend the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere ensures the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations Establishes clear goals, desired outcomes, and	In order to reduce the loss of life and damage to property, NOAA must effectively inform the decisions of its partners and the public. Efforts are currently underway to determine the best method for measuring how well NWS tropical cyclone products and services inform decisions and the greatest areas for	In-Progress	• December 2025: Complete prototype of post-event evaluation toolkit that can be used to conduct case studies that can support the development of goals, outcomes, and metrics. • December 2025: NOAA will establish	In-Progress

				reporting mechanisms for SBES initiatives intended to elicit action to reduce the loss of life and damage to property.	growth. This type of metric is challenging to develop given the complexity of human nature and variables beyond NOAA's control. However, there are short- and long-term steps to establish clear goals, outcomes, and reporting mechanisms. In the shorter term, NOAA will continue to leverage existing social, behavioral and economic sciences (SBES) research, success metrics from other disciplines, and Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) initiatives to explore internal metrics for documenting informed decision making. In the long term, NOAA requires robust longitudinal data on individual and group decision making during weather events to formalize reporting metrics. As stated above in the response to Recommendation 2, many established SBES initiatives are focused on this type of data collection, such as the development of an agent-based model for flood hazards, documenting emergency management workflows, and utilizing		a roadmap to measure public perception, response, and impacts, resources permitting. • May 2026: Establish proofs of concept for qualitative, internal metrics that can be tested and iterated upon through a case study approach. • September 2028: Implement and use NWS Connect (a suite of online tools that facilitate decision support between NWS and partners) to document and track partner needs and design valuable metrics in alignment with community outreach and education activities.	

					post-event evaluation methods to build a human response database. Ongoing and planned SBES NWS and OAR research and data collection in these areas will lead to a better understanding of the factors that influence how people make decisions about weather. This will allow for more robust, developed metrics going forward.			
OIG-25-007-A	NOAA Should Assess Opportunities to Improve Hurricane Forecasts and Warnings	1/6/2025	8	We recommend the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere ensures the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations Evaluates how to integrate collection of socioeconomic data to align with NOAA's institutional observations requirements process.	NOAA and the NWS are working to identify, collect, store, and share social, behavioral, and economic data to better understand the needs of the partners and communities we serve, as well as the impacts of weather events. NOAA OAR Weather Program Office (WPO) and the NWS SBES Program co-manage the Societal Data Insights Initiative that will develop a platform to integrate, analyze, store, and share SBES data. In addition, OAR WPO has been working collaboratively with NWS to prioritize research projects that collect the necessary data to support such efforts. These data will be available internally	In-Progress	September 2025: Update the NWS Outreach and Education Event System tool to better integrate additional layers of SBES data into planning community engagement and outreach activities, and develop a dashboard for reporting defined metrics to better understand and quantify the impact of NWS products and services.	In-Progress

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					and externally to support SBES research efforts and inform NWS operations, products, and services. NOAA and the NWS are seeking to identify opportunities for accessing data from trusted sources and only collecting data that is missing or unavailable to support all weather hazards and how we develop relationships and communicate with partners and the public.			
OIG-25-012-I	The National Weather Service Should Further Strengthen Its Protection of Essential Operational Technology	2/27/2025	1	We recommend that the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator ensure the NWS Director implements the following: Review NWS OT systems to ensure that they (a) securely store credentials, including hashes; (b) have debugging disabled where appropriate; and (c) do not use default passwords.	The OT system's Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) personnel have opened two (2) plans of actions and milestones (POA&Ms) to mitigate Recommendation 1 (a) and (c). Additionally, the mitigations to address Recommendation 1 (b) were applied in July 2024, upon initial identification by the OIG team.	In-Progress	6/30/2025	In-Progress
OIG-25-012-I	The National Weather	2/27/2025	2	We recommend that the Under	NWS staff took-action in September 2024 to	In-Progress	9/30/2026	In-Progress

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	Service Should Further Strengthen Its Protection of Essential Operational Technology			Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator ensure the NWS Director implements the following: Remove insecure protocols such as HTTP and telnet and follow OMB requirements to encrypt internal traffic.	disable Telnet on system B once it was identified as present. System B's IT Modernization project (continue through FY 2026) will continue to ensure we address internal sites using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) by either a) migrating the site to HTTPS or b) decommissioning the site, following OMB requirements to encrypt internal traffic.			
OIG-25-012-I	The National Weather Service Should Further Strengthen Its Protection of Essential Operational Technology	2/27/2025	3	We recommend that the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator ensure the NWS Director implements the following: Follow NIST's Secure Software Development Framework when developing new systems to ensure that internet access is limited.	Follow the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Secure Software Development Framework when developing new systems to ensure that internet access is limited.	Complete	6/12/2025	Complete
OIG-25-012-I	The National Weather Service Should Further	2/27/2025	4	We recommend that the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and	System B addressed the vulnerability scanning deficiency immediately upon identification by the OIG team in July 2024	In-progress	2/16/2026	In-progress

	Strengthen Its Protection of Essential Operational Technology			Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator	with validation of 100 percent coverage during annual continuous monitoring assessment and authorization (A&A) activities in November 2024. System D has opened a POA&M to address the vulnerability scanning deficiencies. Additionally, the system has deployed NOAA's Big Fix System (NBFS) to mitigate residual risks of operation.			

Section 2. Implementation of GAO public recommendations issued no less than one year ago that are designated by GAO as 'Open' or 'Closed-Unimplemented.'

Open Recommendation(s) the Department has decided not to implement

Report Number	**GAO-25-106236**
Report Title	CLIMATE CHANGE: Improved Data and Performance Management Would Strengthen U.S. Support to the Indo-Pacific
Issue Date	12/6/2024
Recommendation Number	6
Recommendation	The Administrator of NOAA should ensure that the Director of the CRCP establishes procedures for the officials who manage the performance of climate activities to develop activity plans that identify external or internal factors that could affect achieving results and associated mitigation strategies.
Reason for the Decision not to Implement	In accordance with 16 U.S.C. § 6401 et. seq., recent executive orders, and Administration priorities, NOAA CRCP has not funded, nor plans to fund these types of projects.

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Open Recommendation(s) the Department plans to implement.

Report Number	Report Title	Issue Date	Rec. Number	Recommendation	Target Implementation Date	Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)
GAO-21-560	Sexual Assault and Harassment: NOAA Has Made Substantial Progress in Prevention and Response, But Could Further Improve Its Processes	9/27/2021	1	The administrator of NOAA should ensure that future updates to the agency's sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response policy are consistent with all relevant legal requirements.	8/30/2025	Yes – Clarification is needed to close	Yes
GAO-21-560	Sexual Assault and Harassment: NOAA Has Made Substantial Progress in Prevention and Response, But Could Further Improve Its Processes	9/27/2021	2	The administrator of NOAA should implement a mechanism requiring oversight by senior agency leaders of all disciplinary actions involving misconduct related to sexual assault and sexual harassment before such actions are finalized.	8/30/2025	Yes – Clarification is needed to close	Yes
GAO-21-560	Sexual Assault and Harassment: NOAA Has Made Substantial Progress in Prevention and Response but	9/27/2021	5	The Administrator of NOAA should ensure the agency provides more information to specific individuals and the larger	8/30/2025	Yes – GAO is waiting on a status update	Yes

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	Could Further Improve Its Processes			NOAA workforce about how the agency is responding to allegations of sexual assault and sexual harassment, as appropriate, such as regularly updating individuals on the status of their cases and by annually developing summary-level information for the workforce about the number, type, and resolution of cases.			
GAO-22-104449	Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	6/15/2022	1	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should document and define what a national HAB and hypoxia program would entail, including identifying the program's resource needs.	December 2025	No – NOAA needs to publish the National Assessment	No

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GAO-22-104449	Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	6/15/2022	2	The Administrator of NOAA and the Administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should develop performance measures to assess the working group's efforts, including the extent to which the recommended goals from the Research Plan and Action Strategy have been achieved.	December 2025	No – NOAA needs to publish the National Assessment	No
GAO-22-104449	Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	6/15/2022	5	The administrator of NOAA and the administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should develop a national goal for the group focused on efforts to prevent HABS and hypoxia.	December 2025	Yes	No
GAO-22-104449	Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	6/15/2022	6	The Administrator of NOAA and the administrator of EPA, in collaboration with the members of the working group, should coordinate	December 2025	No	No

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IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF GAO AND OIG RECOMMENDATIONS

				the development of a more comprehensive body of information on the costs and benefits of mitigation, control, and prevention actions for use by state, local, and tribal governments.			
GAO-23-105961	Emergency Alerts: NOAA Should Take Additional Actions to Help Ensure Tsunami Alerts Reach the Public at Risk.	5/16/2023	2	The NOAA administrator, in collaboration with FCC and FEMA, should clarify and document the agencies' responsibilities and a decision-making process for determining how to use IPAWS to deliver tsunami alerts to EAS.	12/31/2025	No - NOAA will continue to meet with FCC and FEMA to document agency roles and responsibilities along with a decision-making process. NOAA recognizes recent changes in public alerting at FCC and FEMA and looks forward to greater engagement and consideration of changes that may be necessary to effectively warn the public of tsunamis through EAS.	Yes
GAO-19-653	MARINE DEBRIS: interagency committee members are taking action, but additional steps could enhance the federal response.	9/25/2019	3	The chair of the interagency committee, in coordination with member agencies, should develop and implement a process to analyze the effectiveness of the interagency committee's	7/14/2025	Yes	Yes

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IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF GAO AND OIG RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations designated by GAO as "Closed-Unimplemented for the past 5 years (2015-2019). Future reports will cover a one-year period.

Nothing to report.

Section 3. Implementation of OIG public recommendations issued no less than one year for which Final Action has not been Taken or Action Not Recommended has been Taken

Report Number	Report Title	Issue Date	Rec. Number	Recommendation	Target Implementation Date	Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not recommended taken	Closure Request Pending (Yes/No)
OIG-21-027-I	OMAO Must Define and Implement a Disciplined Requirements Management Process to Ensure Future Acquisitions Meet User Needs	5/21/2021	1	That the NOAA Deputy Under Secretary for Operations ensure that OMAO develop and regularly update a long-range vessel acquisition plan that lays out the dependencies between fleet objectives, funding, inventory, technology, and sustainment costs, among others and supports program milestone requirements.	06/30/2025	OMAO is working to implement this recommendation.	No
OIG-20-006-A	NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Needs to Improve the Planning and Governing of Its Ship Fleet Recapitalization Effort	11/12/2019	1	That the Director of NOAA Corps and OMAO develop a detailed contingency plan to reduce the risks associated with delays. The plan should address (a) capability and capacity gaps and (b) the cost of maintaining aging ships and utilizing alternatives.	06/30/2025	OMAO is working to implement this recommendation.	Yes

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OIG-22-022-A	The Success of NOAA's Next-Generation Satellite System Architecture Depends on Sound Requirements Management Practices	6/8/2022	1	That the NOAA deputy Under Secretary for operations update policies and procedures to ensure user observation requirements are validated in advance of next-generation satellite system acquisitions.	11/03/2025	the draft requirements validation plan is under revision in NESDIS and extended to 9/30/25The draft requirements validation plan was sent for NESDIS leadership approval but was sent back for revision.	Yes
OIG-22-022-A	The Success of NOAA's Next-Generation Satellite System Architecture Depends on Sound Requirements Management Practices	6/8/2022	4	That the NOAA deputy Under Secretary for operations assign responsibility and design a process for determining the relative priority of each NOAA user observation requirement.	04/30/2025	Yes	Yes
OIG-22-022-A	The Success of NOAA's Next-Generation Satellite System Architecture Depends on Sound Requirements Management Practices	6/8/2022	5	That the NOAA deputy Under Secretary for operations ensure that NESDIS standardizes requirement priority definitions for next-generation programs, to include information about the extent to which its programs contribute to meeting NOAA user observation requirements.	04/30/2025	Working to implement	Yes

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OIG-22-022-A	The Success of NOAA's Next-Generation Satellite System Architecture Depends on Sound Requirements Management Practices	6/8/2022	6	That the NOAA deputy Under Secretary for operations ensure that NESDIS revises policies and procedures for assigning requirements to next-generation satellite programs.	09/30/2025	Working to implement	Yes
OIG-23-028-A	The GEOXO program: cost and schedule baselines are established, but NOAA should evaluate plans for the central satellite mission and revise its approach to performance gains to provide the best overall value	08/02/2023	1	Update GEOXO's central satellite plans to align with the expected availability level to determine cost and performance tradeoffs.	12/31/2025	Working to implement	Yes
OIG-23-028-A	The GEOXO program: cost and schedule baselines are established, but NOAA should evaluate plans for the central satellite mission and revise its approach to performance gains to provide the best overall value	08/02/2023	2	The program will reassess the need for the Central satellite, and its launch date at Key Decision Point – C (KDP-C), when we understand the preliminary reliability of the design and have more information about Congressionally-approved resources for the program. We propose responding to the	December 2025	Working to implement	Yes

				recommendation 90 days following KDP-C: This would be December 2025 given the current plan for KDP-C to be completed in the 4th quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Please note that enacted FY 2024/2025 funding levels may change the KDP-C date.			
OIG-24-018-I	Independent Program Evaluation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Pandemic Relief Program	5/21/2024	1	Continue to use, update, and monitor the dashboard.	4/30/2025	NOAA concurs. NOAA Fisheries will continue to use the dashboard to monitor execution of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act funds, and have implemented a similar tool in other program areas.	No

Section 4. Discrepancies between this report and the semiannual reports submitted by the Commerce Office of Inspector General or reports submitted by the GAO

Nothing to report.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
Description of Tribal Consultations

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

While NOAA's tribal consultation efforts do not relate to the FY 2026 budget submission, NOAA's recent engagement in tribal consultation focused on funding provided through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).[1]

Summary Description of Tribal Consultations:

- NOAA revised and updated its existing NOAA policies and guidance documents
  - NOAA incorporated comments received under the Federal Register Notice[2] for the NOAA Tribal Consultation Handbook and Indigenous Knowledge guidance documents and has published these documents.[3]
  - Collectively, these documents have served as a reference and the foundation of NOAA's work to build and strengthen our relationships with Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders.

Summary Description of Tribal Input: NOAA garnered input from tribal leaders or representatives on the opportunities and decisions that the IRA funding provided and engaged interested Tribal Nations in a dialogue about this funding. NOAA received comments regarding how the agency administers funding under Section 40001 of the IRA, including:

- Tribal Nations provided comments concerning constraints on the amount of time and expertise they have available for locating and applying for funding, coordinating opportunities, leveraging resources, administration, planning, design, implementation, and reporting.
- Tribal Nations provided comments on how NOAA administers and executes funding.
- Tribal Nations provided comments on the priorities and project types that should be considered for funding.
- Tribal Nations recommended that NOAA consider priorities to better meet the needs of Tribal Nations, including but not limited to applicant eligibility, flexible funding opportunities that support science, capacity building, and project implementation, and fisheries needs including habitat restoration and hatcheries.

[1] https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/IRA_Tribal_NOAA_Executive_Summary_and_Response_060523_508_0.pdf
[2] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/24/2021-25629/review-and-comment-of-national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration-tribal-consultation-policy-and
[3] https://www.noaa.gov/legislative-and-intergovernmental-affairs/noaa-tribal-resources-updates

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; PL 117-58) signed on November 15, 2021, provided a total of $2.96 billion to NOAA over FY 2022 to FY 2026. As required, NOAA has submitted spend plans for each relevant IIJA provision for FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025. The FY 2026 IIJA spend plan is presented herein.

The FY 2026 budget proposes to cancel $537.4 million of NOAA's IIJA advance appropriation. The cancellation does not include amounts provided in Provision 13 for permitting. In developing the FY 2026 IIJA spend plan, NOAA sought to ensure consistency with, and support, Trump Administration priorities. With the $4.0 million provided through the IIJA Provision 13, in FY 2026, NOAA will support permitting activities and projects supporting the President's agenda for Unleashing American Energy.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Enacted, 2025	123	123	549,983	549,983
Plus: Inflationary adjustments to base	0	0	0	0
Plus: Technical adjustments to base	(108)	(108)	(545,983)	(545,983)
2026 Estimate	15	15	4,000	4,000

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison by program		2024 Actual		2025 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease from 2025 Enacted	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
ORF									
National Ocean Service	Pos/BA	13	235,327	15	232,537	0	0	(15)	(232,537)
	FTE/Obl	18	210,996	15	232,537	0	0	(15)	(232,537)
National Marine Fisheries Service	Pos/BA	60	181,357	60	179,373	15	4,000	(45)	(175,373)
	FTE/Obl	58	222,475	60	179,373	15	4,000	(45)	(175,373)
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	Pos/BA	26	36,019	25	36,555	0	0	(25)	(36,555)
	FTE/Obl	24	37,488	25	36,555	0	0	(25)	(36,555)
National Weather Service	Pos/BA	2	47,924	2	50,498	0	0	(2)	(50,498)
	FTE/Obl	2	47,236	2	50,498	0	0	(2)	(50,498)
National Environmental Satellite, Data, & Info Service	Pos/BA	0	5,669	0	5,675	0	0	0	(5,675)
	FTE/Obl	2	5,966	0	5,675	0	0	0	(5,675)
Mission Support	Pos/BA	19	8,542	21	8,000	0	0	(21)	(8,000)
	FTE/Obl	13	6,771	21	8,000	0	0	(21)	(8,000)
Office of Marine & Aviation Operations	Pos/BA	0	2,942	0	2,945	0	0	0	(2,945)
	FTE/Obl	7	2,302	0	2,945	0	0	0	(2,945)
Total ORF	Pos/BA	120	517,780	123	515,583	15	4,000	(108)	(511,583)
	FTE/Obl	124	533,234	123	515,583	15	4,000	(108)	(511,583)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison by program		2024 Actual		2025 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease from 2025 Enacted	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
PAC									
Oceanic and Atmospheric	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research	FTE/Obl	2	49,592	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Weather Service	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/Obl	0	45,191	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Environmental Satellite, Data, & Info Service	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/Obl	0	743	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PAC	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/Obl	2	95,526	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCSRF									
National Marine Fisheries	Pos/BA	0	34,366	0	34,400	0	0	0	(34,400)
Service	FTE/Obl	0	34,366	0	34,400	0	0	0	(34,400)
Financing	Pos/BA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE/Obl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Pos/BA	122	552,146	123	549,583	15	4,000	(108)	(545,583)
	FTE/Obl	126	663,126	123	549,583	15	4,000	(108)	(545,583)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024 Actual		2025 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease from 2025 Enacted	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Direct Discretionary Obligation	120	533,234	123	515,583	15	4,000	(108)	(511,583)
Direct Discretionary Obligation	2	95,526	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Discretionary Obligation	0	34,366	0	34,400	0	0	0	(34,400)
Total Obligations	**122**	**663,126**	**123**	**549,983**	**15**	**4,000**	**(108)**	**(545,983)**
Adjustments to Obligations:								
Deobligations	0	(2,309)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, SOY ORF	0	(190,749)	0	(174,599)	0	0	0	174,599
Unobligated Balance, SOY PAC	0	(95,745)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, SOY PCSRF		0		0		0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, EOY ORF	0	176,206	0	174,599	0	0	0	(174,599)
Unobligated Balance, EOY PAC	0	1,617	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unobligated Balance, EOY PCSRF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Budget Authority	**122**	**552,146**	**123**	**549,983**	**15**	**4,000**	**(108)**	**(545,983)**
Financing from Transfers and Other:								
Transfer from USDA to ORF	0	(2,163)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriation	**122**	**549,983**	**123**	**549,983**	**15**	**4,000**	**(108)**	**(545,983)**

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Provision 13: Consultations and Permitting

Description

NMFS will strategically allocate funds to address consultation and permitting requests for infrastructure projects supporting the President's agenda for Unleashing American Energy. Completing these consultations and authorizations depends on labor, so funding to carry out this activity will be used on staff.

Explanation and Justification

Line Office	PPA	FY 2026 Amount ($000)
NMFS	Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	$4,000
Total Provision 13		$4,000