



FY 2005 Budget Highlights

National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), also known as "NOAA Fisheries," requests \$735.2 million (M) in FY'05, reflecting a net decrease of \$24.9M from the FY'04 Omnibus level. This will support the core operations of the NOAA programs.

FY 2005 Program Changes

Fisheries Research and Management Services

NOAA requests \$368.5 million for its fisheries research and management capabilities. As the agency implements measures to rebuild and sustain marine fisheries, conserve essential fish habitat, reduce bycatch, and improve the economic viability and jobs involving fishing and other uses of marine resources, the demands on current scientific resources are enormous.

Additional resources are essential to improve the collection, analysis, and modeling of comprehensive biological, environmental, and economic data on an ever increasing number of species. An increase of \$2.8 million is requested to expand and improve stock assessments to more adequately assess fish stocks around the country, thereby reducing the number of stocks with an unknown population status. An increase of \$1.0 million will be used to restore funds for fisheries oceanography activities, which examines basin-wide changes in atmospheric and oceanic circulation and their effects on marine populations. An increase of \$4.0 million will continue to support the lease and facility costs of the Sandy Hook, Kodiak, and Santa Cruz facilities. An additional \$1.2 million is needed for improving consideration of the social and economic impacts of fishery management decisions so critical to the long-term sustainability of living marine resources and the economic health of our coastal communities. A total increase of \$9.5 million will be used to expand and modernize observer data collections. With this request NOAA will have observers deployed in 43 fisheries, with adequate levels of observer coverage in approximately 29 fisheries.

To meet its stewardship responsibilities NOAA Fisheries must expand and refine its management processes to ensure the full benefits of sustained resources to be realized. NOAA Fisheries is proposing a \$1.5 million increase for Regulatory

Streamlining, an initiative designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory operations and decrease NOAA Fisheries' vulnerability to litigation. In the long term, regulatory streamlining will improve the rule-making process through increased use of information technology, data acquisition and analyses, and the possible use of a third-party quality assurance and audit system. A proposed increase of \$5.1 million will improve NOAA Fisheries ability to analyze the environmental impacts of regulatory alternatives and other actions impacting the marine environment. An increase of \$0.8 million to expand the operations of the eight regional fishery management councils to ensure that they can improve implementation of the many requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

Protected Resources Research and Management Services

NOAA requests a total of \$155.0 million for Protected Resources Science and Technology activities to support vital assessment, research, conservation, and recovery of protected species. This request includes \$1.0 million to expand and modernize protected resources stock assessments. Currently the population status of over 200 protected and at-risk marine species is unknown. The purpose of this request is to help ensure recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and to provide reliable, precise estimates of distribution and abundance of these species for resource managers.

An increase \$21.8 million is requested for Pacific salmon research, conservation, and recovery. Of this amount, \$15.1 million is specifically for the implementation of the Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion. Also, included within the Pacific salmon request is an additional \$2.0 million for Klamath Basin salmon research and habitat restoration. The remaining \$4.7 million restores funds requested, but not provided in the FY 2004 Conference. In addition to these funds, a \$10.9 million increase is requested in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund account for habitat restoration with states and Tribes on the West Coast, Idaho, and Alaska.

NOAA FY 2005 Budget	
National Marine Fisheries Service (OR&F)	FY 2005 Change (\$M)
<i>Fisheries Research and Management Services</i>	
Expand Stock Assessments/Strengthen Living Marine Resource Monitoring	\$2.8
Fisheries Oceanography	\$1.0
Climate Regimes and Ecosystem Productivity	\$0.5
NMFS Facilities Maintenance	\$4.0
Economics/Social Sciences	\$1.2
Observers	\$9.5
NMFS NEPA	\$5.1
Regulatory Streamlining	\$1.5
Regional Councils	\$0.8
Subtotal-Fisheries	\$26.4
<i>Protected Research and Management Services</i>	
ESA-Other Species	\$2.7
Protected Species Stock Assessments	\$1.0
Pacific Salmon	\$21.8
Dolphin Encirclement	\$1.1
Marine Mammal Protection	\$3.4
Recovery Plan Implementation	\$1.0
Recovery of Large Whales	\$1.0
Subtotal - Protected	\$32.0
Enforcement Services	
Vessel Monitoring System	\$5.3
Other Net Changes (Including Restorations & Realignments)	-\$62.8
Subtotal-ORF	-\$0.9
PAC	-\$20.5
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$10.9
Other Accounts	-\$16.2
TOTAL	-\$24.9

A \$1.0 million request will increase NOAA's capacity to plan for and implement recovery actions for ESA-listed species. This funding will allow NOAA Fisheries to complete plans for species that currently lack them, and fund some of the highest priority actions needed to prevent extinction or recovery.

Habitat Conservation

NOAA requests a total of \$46.3 million for Habitat Conservation to ensure that living marine resources have sufficient healthy habitat to sustain populations and to benefit the nation's fisheries by restoring their habitat.

Enforcement Services

NOAA requests a total of \$53.4 million for enforcement activities essential to ensuring that regulations are enforced and, as a result, the stocks are able to provide the long-term benefits of sustained yields. An increase of \$5.3 million is requested to support research and development efforts to expand the use of vessel monitoring system (VMS) around the country, which will provide additional, more effective enforcement capabilities by utilizing the latest satellite technologies.

NOAA Fisheries Performance	FY 01	FY 02	FY03	FY04	FY05
# of Overfished Major Stocks of Fish	46	45	43	43	42
# of Major Stocks with an Unknown Status	120	88	88	84	77
Percent Fishery Management Plans to Rebuild Overfished Major Stocks to Sustainable Levels	96%	90%	90%	96%	98%
# of Threatened Species with Lowered Risk of Extinction	2	2	5	5	6
# of Endangered Species with Lowered Risk of Extinction	3	6	6	6	7
# of Commercial Fisheries that have Insignificant Marine Mammal Mortality	2	6	6	8	8
# of Habit Acres Restored	1,530	5,820	11,020	14,780	19,280

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