



National Marine Fisheries Service Stewardship of living marine resources.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) serves the Nation through stewardship of living marine resources. This stewardship is accomplished with a science-based approach to conservation and management and the promotion of healthy coastal and marine ecosystems.

NMFS is responsible for the management and conservation of fisheries within the U.S Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as marine mammals and endangered and threatened species within NMFS' jurisdiction. NMFS' mandate includes management of more than 449 federally-managed fish stocks along with invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other marine and coastal species and their habitats for commercial, recreational, and subsistence purposes. NMFS also supports international scientific research and policy development.

In FY 2012, NMFS released the Status of the Stocks Report for 2011 and reported a record number of stocks rebuilt, improving our Nation's fisheries. By the close of 2011, we had declared six more fish stocks rebuilt—the most in a single year—and overall results showed a decrease in the number of both overfished stocks and stocks experiencing overfishing. Between December 31, 2010, and December 31, 2011, the number of overfished stocks dropped from 48 to 45, and the number of stocks experiencing overfishing dropped from 40 to 36. These results underscore the strength of NMFS's science-based management process and clearly demonstrate that we are actively turning the corner on ending overfishing and rebuilding our Nation's fisheries.

NMFS worked with partners to open rivers and streams for fish and other species by removing barriers to fish passage while supporting infrastructure and energy projects that promote smart economic growth. Mitigating the impacts of dams and other obstacles, such as water supply and diversion structures, allows migratory fish populations to return to their spawning grounds. NMFS contributions opened more than 1,400 stream miles. Important examples include:

- The removal of the Great Works dam on the Penobscot River in Maine
- Mitigation for the relicensing of the Toledo Bend Hydro Project on the Sabine River in the Gulf of Mexico river basin
- Fish passage facilities at the Goose Creek Dam above Charleston, South Carolina
- Large-scale dam removal projects on Elwha and White Salmon rivers in Washington State

Commercial and recreational fishing industries depend on healthy and abundant fish stocks, and NOAA's science and management work has been vital to turning the corner on overfishing and getting fisheries onto a sustainable and profitable path. Our Nation's fisheries are a valuable component of the U.S. economy; commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than \$199 billion in sales and supported nearly 1.7 million jobs in 2011. However, in order to ensure that our fisheries remain profitable, we must complement these endeavors with habitat conservation measures that assure long-term viability of the fish populations and marine ecosystems.

In FY 2014, NMFS will continue to develop advanced technologies, increase the sustainability and economic value of our fisheries, improve the economic conditions for our fishing communities, protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and maintain and restore healthy coastal habitats for living marine resources. NMFS will also rebuild our Nation's fisheries through targeted investments in fisheries science to inform management.



For more information, please visit: www.noaa.gov





FY 2014 Budget Request Highlights

The FY 2014 President's Budget Request for NMFS is \$929.3M. This investment will allow NOAA to continue to support the recovery of protected species and rebuilding of fisheries. The increases and decreases noted below are program changes from the FY 2014 budget request.

- **Protected Resources Research and Management Programs (+\$1.9M)** This investment will restore NMFS' ability to more fully conserve and aid in recovery of protected species, including our ability to conduct ESA consultations and authorizations of proposed Federal actions.
- **Expand Annual Stock Assessments (+\$4.9M)** This request will increase the number of stocks with adequate assessments and includes design and implementation of new surveys for currently unreachable habitats. In addition, it will enable advanced sampling technologies, such as acoustic and optical remote sensing, and improved data processing efficiencies. A strong fishery stock assessment program is the foundation for successful management of commercial and recreational fisheries.
- **Species Recovery Grants (+\$15.0M)** This increases funding for states and tribes to address high priority recovery and conservation actions for ESA listed species. NMFS currently has jurisdiction over 94 threatened or endangered species, 66 species proposed for listing, and 20 species that are candidates for listing under the ESA.
- **Habitat Management and Restoration (+\$4.1M)** This increase will fund the restoration of an additional 500 acres and open 30 stream miles by FY 2015. The request supports implementation of larger-scale habitat restoration in targeted areas to support the recovery of protected species and rebuilding of fisheries. Competitively selected projects will also leverage substantial investments from local partners and create jobs.
- **Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF; -\$15.4M)** PCSRF's competitive grants process has awarded States and tribes an average of \$87M annually since its inception and leveraged over \$540M in total matching state funds, resulting in thousands of restored stream miles, removal of significant impediments to fish passage, and greater overall ecosystem health for listed salmonids.
- **Interjurisdictional Grants (+\$2.5M)** This request provides support to 38 States and territories to aid in the State/Federal management of U.S. fisheries, partnerships which are critical in meeting Federal fisheries conservation and management objectives for stocks occurring in both Federal and State waters.
- **Reducing Bycatch (+\$1.1M)** This request provides competitive grants for the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP), supports days at sea for observers to monitor bycatch, supports development of new fishing techniques and gear modifications to minimize bycatch, bycatch mortality, marine mammal and seabird interactions, and post-release mortality. In addition, the request increases the number of BREP projects whose results are incorporated into management systems from 3 to 7 in FY 2016.
- **American Fisheries Act (+\$1.7M)** This request supports core research and management in the Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery. The request restores the ability to provide real-time in-season management of the largest volume fishery in U.S. waters, and to maintain and monitor IT systems essential for the management of the fishery.
- **Fisheries Research and Management Programs (-\$0.7M)** This request will provide needed support for fisheries research and management to manage more than 446 stocks.
- **Survey and Monitoring Projects (+\$2.6M)** This request supports an increase to the percentage of fish stocks with adequate assessments. It supports fishery independent surveys for stock assessments and maintains scientific integrity of data collections for regional fisheries including red snapper, Alaska groundfish, West coast groundfish, Gulf of Maine/New England groundfish, Atlantic bluefin tuna, Atlantic herring, and mackerel.

NMFS supports the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

For more information, please visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/budget>