



NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Stewardship of living marine resources

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat. In FY 2017, NMFS will continue to increase the sustainability and economic value of our fisheries, improve the resiliency of our fishing communities and working waterfronts, protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and maintain and restore healthy coastal habitats for living marine resources. Examples of our proposed expanded efforts include increasing permitting and consultation capacity for commercial projects and other activities, funding to assist fishing communities with declared fishery disasters, and strengthening management and enforcement programs, especially those related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

NMFS also has jurisdiction over 130 threatened or endangered species. Given the number of species that have been petitioned or are under consideration for listing, more species will likely be added to the list in 2016 and 2017. NOAA is working with our partners on conservation measures and recovery strategies as well as to support economic development. This budget places an emphasis on ensuring we have the necessary resources to do so.



An endangered Hawaiian monk seal swims in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Unmanned aerial vehicle allows scientists to study killer whale health and reproduction while also offering a glimpse into the family life of these social animals

U.S. fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable. In the past decade, in partnership with the regional fishery management councils, interstate fishery commissions, and our stakeholders, and driven by the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA), the agency has essentially ended overfishing and made significant progress rebuilding domestic fish stocks. By preventing overfishing and rebuilding stocks, we are strengthening the value of fisheries to the economy and communities, and also ensuring that marine ecosystems are able to provide a sustainable supply of seafood for the nation now and in the future. These achievements demonstrate the strength of the U.S. science-based management model under the MSA and underscores the importance of ending overfishing as the key to both economic and environmental stability in this sector.

NMFS is at the forefront on using advanced technology to assist with data collection in the air and under the water. For example, using a small, remote-controlled hexacopter, scientists collected high quality photographs, as well as breath samples, from whales' spouts for the first time. The samples provide biological information on factors like family history, stress levels, and health condition. Developing cost-effective monitoring technologies throughout the Nation is critical to ensure that NOAA can manage species.

NOAA led a collaborative effort amongst four federal agencies and the five Gulf states (Trustees) to advance the Deepwater Horizon oil spill case—the largest marine oil spill in U.S. history—toward an unprecedented proposed settlement and restoration effort in terms of monetary and geographic magnitude. This funding will support significant long-term restoration for natural resources injured by the oil spill, including sea turtles, marine mammals, fish, deep sea corals, oysters, and coastal habitats. The proposed settlement will provide lasting and significant benefits to the people and environment of the Gulf of Mexico.



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





FY 2017 Budget Request Highlights



The FY 2017 President's Budget Request for NMFS is \$1,015,930,000. This request will allow NOAA to continue to support its core missions of managing productive and sustainable domestic fisheries and the recovery of protected species. Highlights of the FY17 Request include:

- **Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (+\$2.57M)** to strengthen NOAA's efforts to detect and deter IUU fishing through developing a seafood traceability program and increasing enforcement efforts with State and territorial partners. These efforts will enhance international cooperation and block the flow of IUU-caught fish into the global stream of commerce, including and, ultimately, into the U.S. market.
- **Domestic Seafood Production and Jobs through Aquaculture (+\$1.53M)** to conduct research and develop a regulatory process that enable safe and sustainable aquaculture development. This funding will increase the U.S.-sourced seafood supply, create jobs and increase trade opportunities by further developing a robust and sustainable U.S. marine aquaculture industry.
- **Ecosystem-based Solutions for Fisheries Management (+\$5.93M)** for the NMFS component of this cross-disciplinary and cross-line office (National Ocean Service) scientific initiative to fill information gaps in habitat science and connections to fisheries and protected species management. The funding will also provide economic information that can be used to better inform decision making to benefit stewardship and resilience of inshore ecosystems and the living resources and human communities that depend on them.
- **Increase Consultation and Permitting Capacity (+\$19.93M)** to increase consultation and permitting capacity related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and MSA Essential Fish Habitat. This funding will also support ESA recovery planning and implementation for the 20 coral species recently listed as threatened. The funding will allow NOAA to make progress in reducing the current consultation backlog and delays, and improve permitting and review timeframes for public and private development projects that benefit the nation's economy and create new jobs.
- **Species Recovery Grants (+\$16.01M)** to increase funding and cooperation with states and tribes to address high priority recovery and conservation actions for ESA listed species. Actions may include assessing and monitoring species status and trends, minimizing bycatch of listed species, conserving habitat, and educating and engaging the public in conservation.
- **Pacific Salmon (+\$2.34M)** to implement actions identified in ESA recovery plans, such as using better science to implement hatchery reforms identified through ESA Section 7 consultations, developing hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs), and restoring prioritized habitat. Salmon recovery is a shared responsibility that requires action at all levels of government and by all stakeholders and this request will enhance partnerships among Federal, state, local, and tribal entities to work towards restoring healthy salmon runs and securing the economic and cultural benefits they provide.
- **National Catch Share Program (+\$2.51M)** to support activities for developing of new catch share programs, as well as implementing operational efforts, after Council approval. Catch shares have shown they can effectively reduce the negative biological and economic impacts of the "race for fish," and when properly designed can eliminate overfishing and result in safer and more profitable fisheries while also addressing other social objectives.
- **Fisheries Disaster Assistance (+\$9.0M)** to address the underlying economic and environmental causes of fisheries disasters. NOAA will use the fund for activities that restore the fishery, increase ecosystem resilience, and reduce the likelihood of future fishery disasters.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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