



NOAA's National Ocean Service

Positioning America for the Future

Coastal watershed counties were home to 163.8 million people in 2010, approximately 52 percent of the United States population. This number is expected to increase by more than 15 million by 2020. Through the National Ocean Service (NOS), NOAA is the lead federal agency responsible for promoting sustainable, safe, and efficient use of our nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. NOS's science-based products and services are positioning America's coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems for the future of economic growth and environmental change.

NOS supports NOAA's mission to build resilient coastal communities and foster healthy oceans by focusing its attention in three interrelated areas:

Water Resources

In light of increasing threats to our coasts, NOAA's preparedness, response, recovery, and resiliency activities have become a national priority. From oil spills and marine debris, to hurricanes and harmful algal blooms, NOS provides world-class science and services in support of healthy coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems.



Satellite image of the August 2014 harmful algal bloom in Lake Erie. Credit: NOAA

Coastal Resources

Whether it is the nation's nautical charts, environmental monitoring, or socioeconomic tools, NOS and its partners integrate science and services to provide actionable intelligence. Knowledgeable decision makers, both public and private, are able to make informed choices on their use and stewardship of coastal resources to better address threats to coastal areas such as climate change, population growth, and port congestion.



Updating buoy sensors in Ft. Myers, Florida Credit: University of South Florida

Ocean Resources

NOS works to conserve marine areas and preserve economic benefits of special places through its coastal management and place-based conservation programs. NOS provides leadership for state and local coastal management efforts across the nation and is the primary conduit for data and services at NOAA to support informed coastal decision making. NOAA's national marine sanctuaries are America's primary instrument for place-based conservation of special marine places in offshore areas.



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





FY 2016 Budget Request Highlights

The FY 2016 President's Budget request for NOAA's National Ocean Service is \$573,960,000. NOS is positioning America to be more resilient in the face of higher intensity coastal storms, increased demands on the marine transportation system, changing sea levels leading to coastal flooding, and heightened offshore and coastal development. In FY 2016, NOS is proposing critical new investments in resilience of the Nation's coastal communities to extreme weather events, coastal inundation, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions. The program changes noted below are with respect to the FY 2016 Base (= FY 2015 Enacted + Inflationary Adjustments). Highlights include:

- **Regional Coastal Resilience Grants (+ \$45.0M).** NOAA will significantly expand the Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Program to more fully address a suite of resilience challenges facing all U.S. coastal regions—including extreme weather events, inundation, coastal hazards, and changing ocean and economic conditions due to climate change and other environment conditions—within a single, competitive grants program. This funding will help regional grantees implement strategies and resilience plans that enhance preparedness, recovery, and adaptation in the wake of extreme events and changing environmental conditions.
- **Ecosystem-Based Solutions for Coastal Resilience (+\$5.0M).** The NOS component of this integrated initiative (with the National Marine Fisheries Service) will help coastal planners integrate ecosystem-based solutions into hazard mitigation, resilient coastal development, and post-disaster rebuilding.
- **Capacity to Respond to Extreme Events (+ \$4.8M).** In response to increasing frequency and intensity of coastal inundation events, NOS is applying a wealth of data and information from sources across NOAA to improve coastal communities' decisions related to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from these events.
- **AmeriCorps Community Resilience Initiative Training (+\$2.0M).** NOAA will develop and administer a training program for a new AmeriCorps unit to support communities and tribes on vulnerability assessments, resilience program implementation, and coordination with federal resilience efforts.
- **Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, and Restoration: Arctic Spill Preparedness:** NOAA requests an increase of \$1,300,000 to improve oil spill response capacity in the Arctic. Among other activities, this investment will enable: improvement of models to predict oil movement and weathering in ice-covered waters, identification of sensitive ecological resources, better coordination with and preparedness of local communities, and increased research to fill science gaps.
- **Coastal Ecosystem Research and Development (+ \$4.0M).** NCCOS will expand its competitive grant program to fund extramural research and applied science that address coastal ocean issues including harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and coastal ecosystem assessment.

In addition to these increases, the FY 2016 Budget request maintains robust support for NOS's partnership-based approaches to generating coastal intelligence, improving the resilience of coastal and great lakes communities and economies, and employing place-based approaches to resource conservation.

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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