

In addition, under the Research Support heading, the recommendation continues funding of \$2,400,000 for a telework project, and \$6,500,000 is for a certain critical infrastructure program.

The recommendation does not include a requested increase to the amount to be transferred to the working capital fund.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommendation includes \$39,607,000 for the Industrial Technology Services appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is the same as the request and \$245,153,000 below the current year.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program.—Recent economic downturns have had a devastating effect on the manufacturing sector. In an effort to ameliorate some of these negative effects, the Committee recommendation includes \$39,607,000 for this program in fiscal year 2004, which is \$27,007,000 above the request and \$66,393,000 below the amount in the current year. Federal support for the MEP program, combined with State and private sector funding, have translated into more jobs, more tax revenue, more exports, and a more secure supply source of consumer and defense goods in this country. The Committee understands that NIST has requested the National Association of Public Administration (NAPA) to conduct a study on the continued requirements of the MEP program.

Advanced Technology Program.—The Committee does not include funding for this program.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommendation includes \$62,590,000 for the construction and major renovations of the NIST campuses at Boulder, Colorado, and Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The Committee directs NIST to report to the Committees on Appropriations on the progress of these construction projects on a quarterly basis beginning with the second quarter of fiscal year 2004.

This account supports all NIST activities by providing state of the art facilities necessary to carry out the NIST mission.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommendation includes \$3,054,513,000 for the operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is \$116,221,000 below the current year, excluding supplemental amounts, and \$264,333,000 below the request.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommendation includes \$2,180,454,000 for the coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite, and other NOAA programs funded in this account. In addition, the agreement includes a transfer of \$79,251,000 from balances in the account entitled, "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries". The recommendation assumes

deobligations of \$17,000,000, as proposed. The Administration's request includes a proposal to transfer \$3,000,000 from prior year receipts relating to the coastal zone management program. The recommendation does not include this proposal.

The recommendation does not continue current year language regarding the conservation funding category. However, the Committee intends to meet the conservation funding level for fiscal year 2004, as established in Title VII of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2001.

The bill continues language to allow NOAA to retain gifts and contributions made under the Marine Sanctuary Program. The Committee continues to direct NOAA to fully utilize the authorities provided for this program, and include with the 2005 budget request a report summarizing all gifts and contributions made under this program.

Language is also included in the bill specifying the total amount of direct obligations available for each of the NOAA line offices and other related activities funded through this account. The Committee continues to take this action to provide greater clarity and accountability in budgeting and management for the diverse activities funded in this account. In addition, the bill also retains language regarding the practice of assessing NOAA line organizations, programs, projects, and activities, to support NOAA and line office overhead and programs over and above the amounts specifically provided, and regarding the funding and personnel in Executive Direction and Administration. The Committee reminds NOAA that administrative charges levied against certain activities assigned in the bill are limited to no more than five percent. The Committee recommendation continues to limit the administrative expenses of NOAA to \$243,000,000. NOAA is directed to submit a spending plan to the Committee for these expenses at a level of detail comparable to that of the tables included in this report. The plan shall be delivered not later than 60 days after the enactment of the Act.

In addition, language is also included regarding use of deobligations in excess of amounts estimated in the budget.

The Committee directs NOAA to comply with reprogramming and transfer requirements under sections 204 and 605 of this Act.

The following identifies the activities, sub-activities, and projects funded in this appropriation:

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee recommendation includes a total of \$363,239,000 for activities of the National Ocean Service (NOS) for fiscal year 2004, which is \$27,793,000 below the request and \$66,504,00 below the current year.

Mapping and Charting.—The recommendation includes \$62,393,000 for mapping and charting activities. The Committee provides \$20,450,000 to address the hydrographic survey backlog detailed in the National Survey Plan. The recommendation is consistent with the long-standing decision that at least 50 percent of hydrographic surveying should be contracted out to private companies. The Committee directs NOAA to report to the Committee within six months after the enactment of this Act on the progress being made to reduce the backlog.

Long-Term Vessel Charter.—In the current year, the Committee directed NOAA to lease or charter a purpose-built U.S. flag hydrographic survey vessel capable of performing the full scope of necessary hydrographic services, by no later than April 11, 2003. To date, no contract has been awarded. The Committee is aware that a total of \$14,000,000 is available from prior year funding for this purpose, of which the first year operational estimates are \$5,500,000, including administrative costs. The Committee would entertain a reprogramming of funds for this purpose, should requirements change from current estimates.

Tide and Current Data.—The Committee recommendation includes \$20,302,000 for this activity. The recommendation will enable NOS to implement and maintain the necessary quality controls for real-time tide and current data systems. Funding is included to continue implementation of the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) program and to continue the National Water Level Operation Network (NWLON) and expands efforts in the Great Lakes.

Ocean and Coastal Assessment.—Of the amounts provided under this heading, \$1,250,000 is for coastal ocean monitoring and prediction efforts for West Florida.

Coral Reefs.—The Committee recognizes and supports the work of NOAA and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) to protect and preserve coral reefs. Coral reefs are the most complex, species-rich and productive marine ecosystems. Reefs cover two-percent of the ocean's floor, yet they support one-third of all marine fish species and tens of thousands of other marine species, providing essential fish habitat for endangered and threatened species, and harboring protected marine mammals and turtles. Coral reef fisheries yield 6 million metric tons of fish catch annually, with one-quarter of total worldwide fish production occurring in developing countries with coral reefs. NOAA and the CRTF are developing and implementing coordinated efforts to map and monitor U.S. coral reefs, research coral reef degradation, reduce and mitigate coral reef degradation from pollution and other causes, and carry out strategies to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs internationally. The Committee recommendation continues funding at the fiscal year 2003 level.

Aquatic Resources Initiative.—Of the amounts available under this heading, up to \$750,000 is for Bluegrass Pride, Inc.

Coastal Zone Management.—A total of \$70,518,000 is provided to assist coastal states in implementing this program. The Committee continues language in the current year regarding performance measures.

Marine Sanctuary Program.—A total of \$33,537,000 is provided for this program, which is \$5,000 below the current year and \$2,300,000 below the request. Under this heading, the recommendation includes \$750,000 for the activities of the Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission. This Commission was established to provide an ecosystem focus on the marine resources in the area, mobilize science and support marine resource committees, and establish a forum for coordination and consensus-building, in lieu of Federal designation of the area as a Marine Sanctuary. The Committee continues to believe that such a consensus-based ap-

proach is an innovative and novel way to promote marine conservation, the goal of the Marine Sanctuary Program.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec. Amount
Navigation Services	
Mapping & Charting:	
Mapping & Charting Base	37,943
Electronic Navigation Charts	2,000
Shoreline Mapping (aerial)	2,000
Address Survey Backlog/Contracts	20,450
Subtotal, Mapping and Charting	62,393
Geodesy Base	18,791
National Spatial Reference System	249
Height Modernization Study - NGS Implementation	248
Height Modernization Study - NC	1,000
Height Modernization Study - CA	1,000
Geodetic Survey- AL	1,000
Geodetic Survey- WI	3,000
S. Carolina Geodetic Survey	497
Subtotal, Geodesy	25,785
Tide & Current Data	14,077
PORTS	2,981
Great Lakes NWLON	1,500
Coastal Storms	994
NWLON	750
Subtotal, Tide & Current Data	20,302
Total, Navigation Services	108,480
Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment	
Ocean Assessment Program Base	10,608
Coastal Monitoring and Prediction	1,250
Sarasota Bay	250
Beaufort, NC	1,490
Oxford, MD	1,391
Pfiesteria Research and HAB Rapid Response	3,974
Coastal Services Center	18,201
Coastal Change Analysis	500
Harmful Algal Blooms	4,967
Lake Pontchartrain	2,000
Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative	1,000
Nat'l Coral Reef Institute - Florida	500
Coral Reef - Puerto Rico DNER	500
Coral Reef Program	13,427
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - NFWF	1,500
JASON Education and Outreach	2,500
Monterey Bay Watershed	500
South Florida Ecosystem	900
Coastal and ocean observing technologies	16,028
Subtotal, Ocean Assessment Program (OAP)	81,486
Response and Restoration	
Response and Restoration Base	5,000
Estuarine and Coastal Assessment	2,653
Estuary Restoration Act	1,192
Damage Assessment Program	5,166
Oil Pollution Act of 1990	994
Coastal Protection and Restoration Project	994

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec. Amount
Spill Response and Restoration Program	1,987
Aquatic Resources Environmental Initiative	4,968
Subtotal, Response and Restoration	22,954
Subtotal, Estuarine and Coastal Assessment	104,440
Coastal Ocean Science	
Coastal Ocean Program Base	10,591
ECO HAB	4,344
Hypoxia	1,085
South Florida Ecosystem	1,334
Subtotal, Coastal Ocean Science	17,354
Total, Ocean Resources Conserv. & Assess.	121,794
Coastal Management	
CZM Grants	68,518
CZMA Program Administration	2,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	15,000
Nonpoint Pollution Implementation Grants	9,936
Marine Protected Areas	3,974
Subtotal, Coastal Management	99,428
Marine Sanctuary Program Base	32,787
Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission	750
Subtotal, Ocean Management	33,537
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management	132,965
Total, National Ocean Service - ORF	363,239

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee recommendation includes \$545,072,000 for the operations of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which is \$131,250,000 below the current year and \$75,885,000 below the request.

Expand Stock Assessments.—The Committee recommendation includes \$16,890,000 for stock assessments, which is \$1,984,000 above the amount in the request and the same level as in the current year. Of the amounts provided, \$1,000,000 is for implementation of a West Coast in-season harvest data collection system, as in the current year.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council recently voted to change the Pacific Sardine Allocation Framework within the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan. In considering revisions to the Pacific Sardine Allocation Framework, the Secretary should take steps to prevent over-capitalization of the fleet and over-exploitation of sardine stocks.

Regulatory Streamlining.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of uniform standards for aquaculture facilities in the coastal and marine environments. The Committee understands that the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with its Federal partners, has developed a Code of Conduct for Aquaculture Development in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Committee encourages the agency to work with the states and the aquaculture industry to implement the standards prescribed. The Committee expects NOAA to report on its efforts to implement national guidelines for aquaculture practices by December 31, 2003.

Fisheries Observers.—The Committee is concerned that NMFS has not provided adequate observer coverage for the New England groundfish fishery and recommends \$17,028,000, which is \$3,262,000 above the current year, for fishery observers. The Committee expects NMFS to allocate sufficient funds to achieve 10 percent observer coverage in the directed fishery, and in the non-directed fishery to the extent practicable, by no later than May 1, 2004.

Northern Right Whale Protection.—The Committee includes a total of \$12,621,000, which is \$2,685,000 above the fiscal year 2003 level and \$5,771,000 above the request, for North Atlantic right whale research, management activities, and Atlantic coastal States' implementation of cooperative Federal-State right whale recovery plans. Funding is included to assist NMFS and its partners to expedite right whale recovery in consultation with the Implementation Team and the Take Reduction Team. Priority should be given for efforts to reduce ship strikes, the leading cause of death of these whales. Of the amounts provided, \$685,000 is for lobster-gear replacement efforts by the NFWF. Of the amounts provided, \$800,000 is for the Center for Coastal Studies. Of the funding provided for the Center, the Committee expects the final funding allocation to be based on recommendations of the right whale program coordinator.

The Committee directs NMFS to continue efforts with regard to California Cooperative Fisheries Investigation cruises.

Chesapeake Bay.—The Committee expects NOAA to report to the Committee by no later than September 15, 2003, on the establish-

ment of an office in Virginia to better focus NOAA resources on Virginia issues in the Chesapeake Bay region, which was funded in fiscal year 2003.

Of the funding for Chesapeake Bay oyster research, \$1,000,000 is for oyster reef restoration efforts in Virginia.

Habitat Conservation and Management.—The Committee is deeply concerned that a significant percentage of habitat conservation grants made by NOAA are for restoration of Pacific coastal salmon habitat. The Committee reminds NOAA that it has included \$90,000,000 for this purpose under the “Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery” heading. Therefore, the Committee directs NOAA to emphasize other habitat restoration efforts under this heading, including Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes habitat restoration efforts.

Enforcement and Surveillance.—The Committee recommendation includes \$34,343,000 for enforcement and surveillance services, which is \$11,827,000 above the current year level and \$16,358,000 below the request.

NMFS Facilities Maintenance.—Of the amounts provided, \$325,000 is for additional costs related to the Santa Cruz laboratory.

Pacific Salmon Funding.—The Committee notes the lack of accountability and performance standards for resources distributed to restore endangered and threatened salmon through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The Committee continues to allow up to one percent of these amounts to be made available to NOAA to improve the measurement of program performance.

Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K).—The Committee understands that NOAA has refocused the S-K program to address the needs of fishing communities as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Committee directs NOAA to eliminate the duplication between this program and the program priorities funded in the accompanying NMFS table. Given the austere budget constraints that the Committee is operating within, the Committee expects NMFS to award S-K grants based on priorities and geographic areas that are not receiving funding from other NOAA programs.

The Committee directs NOAA to assign high priority to proposals for research and education efforts directed at the protection of high-risk consumers from naturally occurring bacteria associated with raw molluscan shellfish. Of the amounts available, no less than \$250,000 should be provided to the Gulf and Atlantic Foundation for their education efforts regarding *Vibrio vulnificus*.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Fisheries Research and Management Services	
Science and Technology - Base	73,729
AKFIN	3,179
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Base	2,087
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Bering Sea Fishermen's Association CDQ	150
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Crab Research	850
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities	175
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - NMFS Field Fishery Monitoring	300
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - NMFS Rockfish Research	350
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Rockfish Research/Crab	238
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - AK Crab, Scallop License Limitation	1,000
Alaska Groundfish Monitoring - Winter Pollock Survey	1,000
Alaskan Groundfish Surveys - Base	661
Alaskan Groundfish Surveys - Calibration Studies	240
American Fisheries Act - Base	3,525
Atlantic Herring and Mackerel	200
Bering Sea Pollock Research	945
Bluefin Tuna Tagging	550
Bluefish/Striped Bass - Base	700
Bluefish/Striped Bass - Rutgers	827
Chinook Salmon Research at Auke Bay	300
Climate Regimes and Ecosystems Productivity	2,000
Computer Hardware and Software	3,492
Cooperative Research - National Cooperative Research	2,750
Cooperative Research - NE Cooperative Research	3,750
Cooperative Research - NEC Cooperative Marine Education & Research	200
Cooperative Research - SE Cooperative Research	3,000
Driftnet Act Implementation/Base	1,800
Driftnet Act Implementation/Pacific Rim Fisheries	150
Driftnet Act Implementation/Science Observer Russian EEZ	250
Driftnet Act Implementation/State Participation - AK/WA	200

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Expand Stock Assessments - Improve Data Collection	16,890
Fish Statistics - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission	2,000
Fish Statistics - Economics & Social Sciences Research	3,220
Fish Statistics - National Fisheries Information System	4,000
Fish Statistics - National Standard 8	1,000
Fish Statistics Base	14,000
Fisheries Oceanography	1,000
GULF FIN Data Collection Effort	3,500
Gulf of Maine Groundfish Survey	567
Gulf of Mexico Consortium	2,732
Halibut Data Collection	447
Hawaii Stock Management Plan	500
Highly Migratory Shark Fishery Research Program	2,000
Horseshoe Crab Research	646
Information Analysis and Dissemination	21,351
Lobster Sampling	149
Magnuson Stevens Implementation off Alaska	2,000
MARFIN - Base	2,500
MARFIN - NE Activities	250
MARFIN Red Snapper	750
MarMap	850
Marine Environmental Research Institute	300
NAPA/NAS Management Review	300
New England Stock Depletion	994
NMFS Facilities Maintenance	4,000
Observers - Fishery Observers	3,944
Observers/Training - Atlantic Coast Observers	3,328
Observers/Training - East Coast Observers	400

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Observers/Training - Hawaii Longline Observer Program	2,981
Observers/Training - N. Pacific Marine Resources Observers	1,875
Observers/Training - N. Pacific Observer Program	650
Observers/Training - West Coast Observers	3,850
PACFIN Catch Effort Data	2,981
Pacific Highly Migratory Species Research	750
Recreational Fishery Harvest Monitoring RECFIN	3,450
Red Snapper Monitoring and Research	4,968
Reducing Bycatch	2,800
SEAMAP	1,400
VA Trawl Study	375
West Coast Groundfish	5,440
Subtotal, Science and Technology	233,736
Conservation and Management - Base	8,527
Alaska Near Shore Fisheries	994
American Fisheries Act - Base	2,174
American Fisheries Act - N. Pacific Council	499
American Fisheries Act - State of Alaska	499
Anadromous Grants	2,086
Columbia River Hatcheries - Monitor, Evaluation and Reform	1,700
Columbia River Hatcheries and Facilities	12,000
Driftnet Act Implementation/State Participation - AK/WA	199
Fisheries Management Programs	27,657
Halibut/Sablefish	1,200
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2,590
Interstate Fish Commissions - 3 Commissions	750
Interstate Fish Commissions - Atlantic Cooperative Management	7,300
Management of George's Bank	478
NEPA - NMFS -Document Streamlining	5,500

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Pacific Salmon Treaty - Base	5,576
Pacific Salmon Treaty - Chinook Salmon Agreement	1,832
Refine EFH Designations	497
Regional Councils	15,000
Regulatory Streamlining and Modernization	1,000
Yukon River Chinook Salmon - Base	994
Yukon River Chinook Salmon - Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Assoc	499
Subtotal, Conservation and Management	99,551
Total, Fisheries Research and Management Services	333,287
Protected Resources Research and Management Services	
Science and Technology - Base	8,986
Antarctic Research	1,540
Atlantic Salmon Research	705
Columbia River Endangered Species Studies	299
Conservation and Recovery with States	994
Dolphin Encirclement	3,000
Dolphin/Yellowfin Tuna Research	248
Endangered Species Act - Atlantic Salmon	1,706
Endangered Species Act - Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles & Other Species	3,477
Endangered Species Act - Other Species	2,682
Endangered Species Act - Pacific Salmon Recovery	15,450
Endangered Species Act - Right Whale Activities	4,968
Endangered Species Act - Right Whale Activities NE Consortium	500
Endangered Species Act - Sea Turtles	5,216
Hawaiian Monk Seals	820
Hawaiian Sea Turtles	290
Marine Mammal Protection - Base	7,120

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Marine Mammal Protection - Ice Seals	248
Marine Mammal Protection - Alaska Harbor Seal Research	826
Marine Mammal Protection - Manatee-New College	250
Marine Mammal Strandings	4,000
NEPA - Hawaii Sea Turtle Research	3,000
Protected Species Management - Base	1,340
Protected Species Management - Bottlenose Dolphin Research	750
Protected Species Management - N Pacific Southern Resident Orca Population	746
Rancho Nuevo Sea Turtles	350
Recovery of Endangered Large Whales	994
Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan - Alaska Sea Life Center	2,700
Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan - Base	4,968
Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan - N. Pacific Universities MM Consortium	800
Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan - Univ of AK Gulf Apex Predator	500
Steller Sea Lions - Endangered Species Act	850
Subtotal, Science and Technology	80,323
Conservation and Management Services - Base	8,820
Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan	397
Chinook Salmon Management	149
Cook Inlet Beluga	149
Endangered Species Act - Atlantic Salmon	497
Endangered Species Act - Pacific Salmon Recovery	20,368
Endangered Species Act - Right Whale Activities	5,653
Endangered Species Act - Right Whale Cooperative State Plans	1,500
Native Marine Mammals - Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission	497
Native Marine Mammals - Alaska Harbor Seals	149
Native Marine Mammals - Aleut Pacific Marine Resources Observers	124
Native Marine Mammals - Beluga Whale Committee	224
Native Marine Mammals - Bristol Bay Native Association	50

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Protected Species Management - Base	7,063
Protected Species Management - California Sea Lions	745
Protected Species Management - NFWF Species Management	1,500
Protected Species Management - State of Maine Salmon Recovery	1,200
Southeastern Sea Turtles	298
State of Maine Recovery Plan	149
Subtotal, Conservation and Management Services	49,532
Total, Protected Resources Research and Management Services	129,855
Sustainable Habitat Management - Base	5,820
Bay Watersheds Education and Training Program	2,484
Oxford	994
Blue Crab Research Consortium	900
Chesapeake Bay Multi-Species Management	500
Chesapeake Bay Oyster Research	2,500
Chesapeake Bay Studies	3,500
Connecticut River Partnership	298
Coral Reef	11,000
Habitat Conservation	9,218
Subtotal, Sustainable Habitat Management	37,214
Fisheries Habitat Restoration - Base	7,876
Fisheries Habitat Restoration - Bronx River Restoration	1,000
Pinellas County Environmental- Fisheries Habitat Restoration	1,500
Subtotal, Fisheries Habitat Restoration	10,376
Total, Habitat Conservation Research Management Services	47,590
Driftnet Act Implementation/Base	1,375
Enforcement and Surveillance - Base	17,081
Enforcement and Surveillance - Cooperative Agreements w/States	2,484
Enforcement and Surveillance - Vessel Monitoring System	7,400
Enforcement and Surveillance - Cooperative Agreements w/States	6,000
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service - ORF	545,072

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities	House Rec.
Enforcement and Surveillance - Base	17,081
Enforcement and Surveillance - Cooperative Agreements w/States	2,484
Enforcement and Surveillance - Vessel Monitoring System	7,400
Subtotal, Enforcement	28,340
Enforcement and Surveillance - Cooperative Agreements w/States	6,000
Subtotal, Partnerships in Enforcement	6,000
Total, Enforcement and Surveillance Services	34,340
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service - ORF	545,072

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee recommendation includes \$306,443,000 for the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research line office, which is \$65,878,000 below the current year level and \$60,058,000 below the amount in the request.

The Committee supports NOAA's efforts to provide national and international leadership on critical environmental issues, and to address the environmental research and development needs of internal NOAA customers, States, industry, and other Federal agencies. The Committee strongly urges NOAA to prioritize research efforts that have truly operational benefits.

In recognition of current resource limitations the Committee is forced to operate within, the Committee directs NOAA to review the continued requirements for twelve separate research laboratories, six of which are located in Boulder, Colorado. The Committee directs NOAA to submit a laboratory consolidation plan to the Committee by March 15, 2004.

Climate Research.—The Committee recommendation includes \$158,460,000 for climate research efforts, which is \$6,782,000 below the current year and \$26,322,000 below the request.

The Committee recommendation includes funding for the Climate Change Research Initiative, including funding for the Atmospheric Brown Cloud initiative.

Of the amounts provided under the climate research heading, \$2,900,000 is for the Analytical Center for Climate and Environmental Change to enhance existing capabilities.

The Committee recommendation includes \$500,000 to expand efforts of the Cooperative Sensor Development Laboratory in cooperation with the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory.

The Committee expects funding for the International Research Institute Climate Prediction program to be continued at no less than the current year level.

National Sea Grant Program.—The Committee recommendation includes \$61,961,000 for the National Sea Grant program, which is \$1,941,000 above the current year and \$4,561,000 above the request.

Within the amounts provided, \$2,981,000 is for zebra mussel research in accordance with the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act; \$1,941,000 is for fisheries extension programs; and \$2,980,000 is for oyster disease research, including \$993,000 to continue the Gulf of Mexico initiative on oyster-related human health risks.

Great Lakes Research.—The Committee recommendation includes \$500,000 to expand the efforts of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the University of Notre Dame to conduct pro-active environmental assessments of new ionic liquids.

Ballast Water Demonstrations.—The Committee recommendation includes \$1,825,000 for this program. The Committee expects special attention to be given to the concerns of the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.

Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems.—The Committee continues to support the establishment of an integrated interagency ocean and coastal observing system that will provide critical infor-

mation to a wide variety of users of ocean and coastal information and services. Adequate predictive capability is a prerequisite for the development of sound policies at the national and regional levels, policies ranging from maritime commerce to public health, from fisheries to safety of life and property, and from climate change to national security. In the current year, NOAA was directed to work with the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop an interagency plan for research, technology demonstration, and, ultimately, implementation of an integrated ocean observing network, and to provide a report to the Committee. The Committee understands that this report may not be completed until July 30, 2003, one month after the Committee's deadline.

To ensure that regional coordination and technical support are available for the development of integrated regional systems with a national observing focus, the Committee recommends that funding be coordinated within one Federal agency. Therefore, the Committee has provided a total of \$16,028,000 for the ocean and coastal observing program. The Committee allows up to three percent of the funding to be used by NOAA for data management functions. The Committee expects NOAA to limit participation in the program to entities of the National Federation of Regional Associations. The Committee expects NOAA to review applications for the following programs, and provide grants if warranted: Center for Integrated Marine Technologies, Alliance for Coastal Technologies, Center for Coastal Ocean Observation and Analysis, Coastal Marine Research and Monitoring Program, Carolina Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction, Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System, Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology, Center for Integrative Coastal Observation, Research and Education, Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, and Southeastern Coastal Ocean Observing Program.

Bill language is included requiring an equal match of Federal funding from non-Federal sources, including State and local government agencies, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the public.

OFFICE OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec. Amount
Laboratories & Joint Institutes - Climate Research	
Aeronomy Laboratory (Colorado)	8,100
Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (Florida)	5,954
Air Resources Laboratory (CO, ID, NC, NV, TN)	3,498
Climate Diagnostic Center (Colorado)	2,589
Climate Monitoring and Diagnostic Laboratory (Colorado)	5,978
Environmental Technology Laboratory (Colorado)	241
Forecast Systems Laboratory (Colorado)	155
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (New Jersey)	14,137
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Washington)	8,668
Subtotal, Laboratories & Joint Institutes	49,320
Climate & Global Change Program	
Climate and Global Change - Base	45,951
Aerosols - Climate Interaction	2,000
Variability Beyond ENSO	1,000
Climate Forcing Agents	1,000
Accelerating Climate Models - IRI	2,086
Subtotal, Climate & Global Change Program	52,037
Climate Observations & Services	
Climate Reference Network	3,038
Climate Data & Info and CLASS in PAC	1,000
Baseline Operations	2,686
Regional Assessments, Education and Outreach	3,732
Climate Change Assessments	646
Weather-Climate Connection	938
Carbon Cycle, including ABC	9,300
Ocean Observations/Ocean Systems	10,857
ARGO -Related Costs	11,077
Climate Modeling Center (GFDL)	4,968
Global Climate Atmospheric Observing System	3,974

OFFICE OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec. Amount
Climate and Environmental Change	2,900
Arctic Research Initiative (SEARCH)	1,987
Total, Climate Research	158,460
Weather & Air Quality Research	
Laboratories & Joint Institutes	
Aeronomy Laboratory (Colorado)	2,130
Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (Florida)	4,188
Air Resources Laboratory (CO, ID, NC, NV, TN)	2,194
Climate Monitoring and Diagnostic Laboratory (Colorado)	175
Environmental Technology Laboratory (Colorado)	6,858
Forecast Systems Laboratory (Colorado)	7,269
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (New Jersey)	3,157
National Severe Storms Laboratory (Oklahoma)	7,558
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Washington)	270
Space Environmental Center (Colorado)	5,298
Subtotal, Laboratories & Joint Institutes	39,097
U.S. Weather Research Program	3,781
Tornado Severe Storm Research	1,001
Total, Weather & Air Quality Research	43,879
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	
Laboratories & Joint Institutes	
Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (Florida)	3,475
Environmental Technology Laboratory (Colorado)	452
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (Michigan)	5,450
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (Michigan)	2,549
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (Michigan)	820
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Washington)	7,652
Subtotal, Laboratories & Joint Institutes	20,398

OFFICE OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec. Amount
National Sea Grant College Program	
National Sea Grant College Program Base	56,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species/Zebra Mussel Research	2,981
Gulf of Mexico Oyster Initiative	993
Oyster Disease Research	1,987
Subtotal, National Sea Grant College Program	61,961
Aquatic Ecosystems - Canaan Valley Institute	4,272
Arctic Research	1,703
Great Lakes Toxicity	500
Cooperative Sensor Development Lab for Oceans, and Climate	500
NISA/Ballast Water Demonstrations	1,825
Total, Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	91,159
High Performance	12,945
Total, NOAA Research - ORF	306,443

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee recommendation includes \$713,791,000 for the operations of the National Weather Service (NWS) for fiscal year 2004, which is \$19,516,000 above the current year and \$24,240,000 below the request.

Local Warnings and Forecasts.—The Committee recommendation includes \$578,571,000 for local warnings and forecasts, which is \$14,141,000 above the current year and \$6,077,000 below the request. Of this amount, \$4,272,000 is a transfer from the “Oceanic and Atmospheric Research” heading for tsunami mitigation efforts.

Within the amounts provided, \$2,500,000 is to fund the second year of a seven-year initiative to improve the accuracy and timeliness of aviation warnings and forecasts.

Pacific Island Nations Weather Offices.—The Committee recommendation includes \$3,550,000 for the costs of the operations of five Micronesian weather service offices located at Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Koror, and Majuro, as proposed. The Committee understands that the Department of the Interior will no longer reimburse NOAA for the costs of services provided under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) as the COFA agreement expires in 2003.

Hurricane Research.—The Committee recommendation includes \$2,000,000 for the development and implementation of a strong, coherent and united research agenda focusing on hurricane loss reduction with the International Hurricane Research Center. The Committee directs NOAA to work with the Center to forge an integrated multi-year, multi-disciplinary cooperative research effort.

The Committee recommendation includes sufficient funding to continue operations of the Huntsville, Alabama center.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Operations and Research	
Local Warnings and Forecasts	
Local Warnings and Forecasts Base	508,578
Tsunami Mitigation (moved from OAR)	4,272
Alaska Data Buoys	1,689
Southern California Data Buoys	596
Sustain Coop. Observer Network (11,000 stations)	1,890
Hurricane Research Program	2,000
Susquehanna River Basin Flood System	1,300
Aviation Forecast	37,850
Pacific Island Compact	3,550
Facilities Physical Security	1,000
Subtotal, Local Warnings and Forecasts	562,725
Advanced Hydrological Prediction Services	6,058
Aviation Weather	2,500
WFO Maintenance	4,968
Weather Radio Transmitters Base	2,220
Transmitters - Kenmerer and Dubois, WY	100
Subtotal, Weather Radio Transmitters	2,320
Total, Local Warnings and Forecasts	578,571
Central Forecast Guidance	44,102
Total, Operations and Research	622,673
Systems Operation & Maintenance (O&M)	
NEXRAD	40,340
Huntsville Center	2,000
ASOS	8,148
AWIPS	37,570
NWSTRG Backup - CIP	3,042
Total, Systems Operation & Maintenance	91,100
Total, National Weather Service - ORF	713,773

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION
SERVICE

The Committee recommends \$146,334,000 for the operational and research and development programs of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), which is \$3,310,000 below the current year and \$3,983,000 below the request.

Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing & Enforcement.—The Committee recommendation includes \$1,224,000 for this program, as proposed. The Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is responsible for licensing and regulating the U.S. commercial remote sensing space industry, pursuant to the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, as amended, and other applicable legal authorities. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State are responsible for determining the conditions necessary to protect national security and foreign policy concerns, respectively. NOAA, in coordination with other affected agencies and in consultation with industry, as appropriate, is responsible for developing, publishing, and periodically reviewing the licensing regulations and associated timelines governing U.S. commercial remote sensing space systems.

NESDIS Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	
Satellite Command and Control	35,218
Product Processing and Distribution	23,618
Subtotal,	58,836
Product Development, Readiness & Application	
Product Development, Readiness & Application	19,374
Coral Reef Monitoring	750
Joint Center/Accelerate Use of Satellites	1,491
Subtotal, Product Development, Readiness & Application	21,615
Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing & Enforcement	1,224
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	81,675
Archive, Access & Assessment	27,577
Archive, Access & Assessment/Climate Database	16,748
GOES Data Archive Project	500
Subtotal, Archive, Access & Assessment	44,825
Coastal Data Development	4,598
Regional Climate Centers	2,981
Environmental Data Systems Modernization	12,255
Total, NOAA's Data Centers & Information Services	64,659
Total, Nat'l Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service -	146,334

PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Committee recommendation includes \$201,844,000 for the Program Support line office, which is \$29,564,000 above the current year and \$30,698,000 below the request.

Corporate Services.—The Committee recommendation includes \$87,263,000 for Corporate Services of NOAA, which is \$17,832,000 above the current year level and \$6,693,000 below the request. Of the amounts provided, the Committee includes \$2,000,000 for the Program Planning and Integration Office, as requested.

Due to funding constraints, the Committee recommendation does not include funding for E-government and IT security program increases.

The Committee recommendation includes \$15,229,000 for the Commerce Administrative Management System, as proposed.

Facilities.—The Committee recommendation includes \$3,204,000 for Maintenance, Repairs, and Safety, the same as in the current year and \$11,746,000 below the request.

Project Planning and Execution.—The Committee recommendation includes \$9,936,000 for this account, the same as the current year and \$4,614,000 below the request.

Grant Making Process.—The Committee appreciates the efforts NOAA has taken to improve the grant making and notification processes.

Marine Operations & Maintenance.—The Committee recommendation includes \$83,174,000 for the operations and maintenance of NOAA's fleet, which is \$8,113,000 above the current year and \$6,500,000 below the request.

The recommendation includes \$2,500,000 for additional days at sea for the West Coast and \$600,000 for the vessel AGATE PASS.

Aviation Operations.—The Committee recommendation includes \$18,267,000 for the aviation operations of NOAA, which is \$2,569,000 above the current year and the same as the request.

Office Relocations.—The Committee directs the Department to submit quarterly reports providing details of all office moves, openings, reductions and closings. The Committee expects to be notified of office relocations 30 days prior to such relocations.

Pribilof Island Cleanup.—The Committee recommendation includes \$7,949,000 for Pribilof Island cleanup, which is the same as the current year and \$2,051,000 below the request. In 2000, Congress passed the Pribilof Islands Transition Act, which created the framework under which NOAA was to complete the environmental cleanup of the property that is currently or was formerly owned on the islands, and to complete the transfer of that property to the designated local entities.

Minority Serving Institutions.—The Committee continues to support NOAA's efforts with minority serving institutions.

PROGRAM SUPPORT Operations, Research and Facilities (Dollars in thousands)	House Recom.
Corporate Services	
Under Secretary and Associate Offices	
Under Secretary and Associate Offices Base	25,219
Program Planning and Integration	2,000
Subtotal, Under Secretary and Associate Offices	27,219
Policy Formulation and Direction	
Policy Formulation and Direction Base	29,815
CAMS	15,229
Minority Serving Institutions	15,000
Subtotal, Policy Formulation and Direction	60,044
Total, Corporate Services	87,263
NOAA Maintenance, Repairs and Safety	3,204
Total, NOAA Maintenance, Repairs and Safety	3,204
Environmental Compliance	1,987
Pribilof Islands Cleanup	7,949
Total, Project Planning and Execution	9,936
Total, Facilities	13,140
Marine Operations & Maintenance	
Marine Services Base (Data Acquisition)	68,797
AGATE PASS (Coastal YTT) Operations	350
UNOLS (Days at Sea - West Coast)	2,500
Subtotal, Marine Services (including base)	71,647
Fleet Planning and Maintenance	
Fleet Planning and Maintenance	11,277
AGATE PASS (Coastal YTT) Maintenance	250
Subtotal, Fleet Planning and Maintenance	11,527
Total, Marine Operations and Maintenance	83,174
Aircraft Services	17,273
Aircraft Services	994
Total, Aircraft Services	18,267
Total, Marine Operations & Maint.and Aviation Oper.	101,441
Total, Program Support - ORF	201,844

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

The recommendation includes a programmatic level of \$794,059,000 for fiscal year 2004, which is \$48,340,000 below the request and \$39,963,000 below the current year, excluding supplemental appropriations. The Committee recommendation assumes \$7,000,000 from prior year deobligations. This account funds capital assets acquisition activities, including system and land acquisition, marine sanctuary and estuarine reserve construction, aircraft and vessel systems, and equipment.

The recommendation does not continue current year language regarding the conservation funding category; however, the Committee intends to meet the conservation funding level for fiscal year 2004, as indicated in Title VII of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2001.

The following distribution reflects the activities funded within this account:

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELP).—The Committee recommendation includes \$7,000,000 for the land acquisition program, which is \$30,422,000 below the current year and \$7,000,000 above the request. Bill language is continued to require an equal match for all Federal funds provided for this program. The Committee supports the efforts of NOAA to ensure the viability of this program. This program is intended to protect those coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic value.

Marine Sanctuaries Construction.—The Committee recommendation does not provide for any new construction or acquisition of property. The funding provided is for necessary exhibits as defined in the request. The Committee urges NOAA to continue to work with non-governmental organizations, the public, and other governmental agencies on certain exhibits.

National Marine Fisheries Service.—The Committee recommendation includes \$5,000,000 for the aquatic resource program.

The Committee expects that NMFS, within existing resources, will build the sea water system in the Santa Cruz NMFS facility.

Construction.—The Committee notes that the final five-year facilities plan requested by the Committee has not yet been provided. The Committee remains concerned that NOAA has not taken necessary efforts to propose consolidation of existing facilities or disposal of certain facilities, and expects that the plan will address these concerns.

Geostationary Systems.—The Committee recommendation includes \$277,554,000 to continue post-launch requirements for GOES I-M; and to continue procurement of GOES -N series satellites, instruments, ground systems, and necessary systems support to maintain continuity, as proposed.

Polar Orbiting Systems.—The Committee recommendation includes \$391,083,000, as proposed. The recommendation includes language to continue the cost-sharing arrangement with the Department of Defense for the National Polar Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS).

The Committee directs the Department of Commerce to submit a spending plan for all NOAA satellite programs prior to obligation

of funds provided for fiscal year 2004. The Committee continues to expect the Department to inform the Committee regarding any deviation from the spending plan, in accordance with the guidelines contained in Section 605 of this Act.

Gulfstream IV.—The Committee provides \$4,600,000 for the Gulfstream IV aircraft to support remote-sensing equipment including installation, testing, and certification. When combined with \$8,400,000 provided in fiscal year 2003, a total of \$13,000,000 is available for a complete upgrade of the instrumentation aboard the aircraft. This instrumentation upgrade will enable NOAA to improve storm-tracking forecasts, as proposed.

WP-3D Navigation Upgrade.—The Committee recommendation includes the full amount requested, \$1,645,000, for the engineering, design and installation of updated systems on one of the two WP-3D aircraft.

Turbo Commander Replacement.—The Committee recommendation includes the full amount requested, \$1,550,000, to extend the platform required for the NWS Airborne Snow Survey program.

Aircraft Regulatory and Safety Upgrades.—The Committee recommendation includes \$1,000,000 to satisfy Federal Aviation Administration and International Civil Aviation Organization safety regulations.

Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
Systems Acquisition / Construction	
Camp Salmen	500
Goleta	250
Sand Hill Bluff	200
Elkhorn Slough	400
San Pablo Bay	250
Royal River	250
Glatfelter	500
Monomoy River	300
Gunning Island	350
North Hempstead	200
East Hampton	300
Kelly's Island	400
Whiskey Island	300
Aquidneck	375
Third Beach	375
Starvation Cove	300
Buffalo Bend	300
Bainbridge Island	300
Maury Island	300
Lake Superior	600
Crow's Nest	250
Subtotal, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	7,000
Conservation Institute	1,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve	3,377
Subtotal, NERRS Acquisition/Construction	4,377
Marine Sanctuaries Construction Base	4,967
Total NOS - PAC	16,344
NMFS	
Systems Acquisition / Construction	
Aquatic Resources	5,000
Southeastern Regional Office	1,100
Phase III - Galveston Laboratory Renovation - NMFS	2,000
Total, NMFS - PAC	8,100

Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (Dollars in thousands)	House Rec.
OAR	
Systems Acquisition	
Comprehensive Large Array Data Stewardship System	2,881
Research Supercomputing	10,484
Subtotal, OAR Systems Acquisition	13,365
NWS	
Systems Acquisition	
ASOS	5,092
AWIPS	14,134
NEXRAD	12,000
NWS WFO	2,870
Radiosonde Network Replacement	6,989
Weather and Climate Supercomputing	18,285
Weather and Climate Supercomputing Back-up	7,148
All Hazard National Warning Radio	5,500
Subtotal, NWS Systems Acquisition	72,018
WFO Construction	10,000
Geostationary Systems	277,554
Polar Orbiting Systems	391,083
CIP - single point of failure	2,800
AMNH	1,000
G-IV Instrumentation Upgrades	4,600
Required Regulatory Upgrades to Aircraft	1,000
Turbo Commander Replacement	1,550
WP-3D Navigation Upgrade	1,645
Subtotal, OMAO Fleet Replacement	4,195
Total, PS - PAC	9,795
Subtotal Line & Staff Office Direct Obligations, PAC	801,059

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

The Committee recommendation includes \$90,000,000, which is the same as the current year and the request, for salmon restoration grants. Of the amounts provided to the State of Washington, \$4,000,000 is for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and other State and Federal agencies for purposes of implementing the State of Washington's Forest and Fish report, and \$1,600,000 is for the purchase of mass marking equipment used at federal hatcheries in Washington State to promote selected fisheries and protect threatened and endangered species.

The Committee notes that the authorization for this program has expired. The Committee recommendation provides funds according to the most recent authorization. The Committee would entertain a reprogramming of funds under this heading, should new authorization language be enacted, to include the State of Idaho.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee notes that an appropriation is not necessary to support loan programs under the fisheries finance program account. The Committee recommendation will support up to \$59,000,000 to finance fishing capacity reduction loan programs, including individual fishing quotas, reconditioning of fishing vessels for the purpose of reducing by-catch or reducing capacity in an overfished or over-capitalized fishery, and the purchase of assets sold at foreclosure instituted by the Secretary.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommendation includes \$44,662,000 for costs of managing the Department of Commerce, the same amount as in the current year and \$12,529,000 below the request. The recommendation includes language designating \$1,621,000 and 11 full-time equivalents for the legislative affairs function of the Department.

The recommendation does not include the transfer of \$1,668,000 for the costs associated with the White House Liaison and External Affairs Offices nor \$485,000 for the Government Performance and Results Act from the Advances and Reimbursement (A&R) fund to this heading, as proposed. The recommendation also does not include \$993,000 to establish a Renovations Project Management Office, nor does it include \$4,157,000 for E-Government Initiatives, as proposed.

This appropriation provides for the Office of the Secretary and for staff offices of the Department, which assist in the formulation of policy, management, and administration.

Office Relocations.—The Committee continues to direct the Department to submit quarterly reports providing details of all office moves, openings, reductions and closings, and the costs associated with all moves. The Committee reminds the Department of the requirements to submit reprogramming notifications under section 605 of the Act.

Seafood Inspection Program.—The Department is considering an appeal of NOAA's May 20, 2003, decision to designate the work of