

**FY 2008 Appropriations for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric  
Administration (NOAA)**

[NOAA's FY08 "Blue Book"](#)

*(numbers are in millions)*

NOAA	FY 2007 Joint Resolution	President's FY 2008 Request	% change FY07 vs FY08 Request	House	Senate	Omnibus
<b>Line Offices (ORF)</b>						
<b>National Ocean Service</b>	493.1	436.8	-11.4%	456.7	532.1	467.9
<b>National Marine Fisheries</b>	667.2	704.6	5.6%	710.7	763.1	708.6
<b>Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Research</b>	338.9	358.4	5.7%	415.7	428.2	387.9
<b>National Weather Service</b>	746.8	807.8	8.2%	810.6	819.1	805.3
<b>NESDIS</b>	177.7	157.8	-11.2%	157.8	172.2	179.1
<b>Within OAR:</b>						
<b>Climate Research (ORF):</b>						
Labs & Joint Institutes	47.0	50.4	7.2%	53.3	53.5	53.5
Competitive Research Program	130.0	133.3	2.5%	172.3	140.0	130.1
"Congressionally Directed Projects"	0	0			1.1	1.1
<b>Total, Climate Research:</b>	184.0	192.8	4.8%	236.4	216.7	205.5
<b>Weather &amp; Air Quality Research (ORF):</b>						
Labs & Joint Institutes	36.0	44.2	22.8%	44.2	46.0	46.0
Phased-Array Radar	3.0	2.9	-3.3%	2.9	2.9	2.9
Competitive Research Program	n/a	n/a		n/a	NEW: 10.0	0
"Congressionally Directed Projects"	0	0			8.8	3.2
<b>Total, Weather &amp; Air Quality Research:</b>	39.0	47.2	21.0%	47.2	70.3	52.1
<b>Within NWS:</b>						
Local Warnings & Forecasts — Base		637.9			591.5	579.0
USWRP/THORPEX		6.0			6.0	5.9

NOAA	FY 2007 Joint Resolution	President's FY 2008 Request	% change FY07 vs FY08 Request	House	Senate	Omnibus
Space Environment Center		6.2				
Advanced Hydrological Prediction Services		6.0			6.0	5.9
Aviation Weather		4.6			4.6	4.5
Central Forecast Guidance		53.2			46.7	52.0
Cooperative Observer Network (PAC)		4.2			4.2	4.1
AWIPS (PAC)		12.8			12.7	12.4
NEXRAD (PAC)		8.4			8.4	8.1
Radiosonde Replacement (PAC)		4.0			4.0	3.9
<b>Within NESDIS:</b>						
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems		105.2			104.4	101.9
Data Centers & Information Services		52.6			67.8	77.2
National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS)		331.3			331.3	
NOAA Education Program		19.4			42.4	34.0
<b>Total, NOAA</b>	<b>3,895.10</b>	<b>3,815.4</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>4,003.1</b>	<b>4,214.8</b>	<b>3,896.0</b>

### **Detail on Omnibus Bill, signed by President 12/26/07 (12/31/07):**

President Bush signed the 2008 omnibus appropriations bill into law on December 26. The bill contains funding for all federal agencies and programs except the Department of Defense. At the end of a protracted period of negotiation, the President largely prevailed in holding overall spending to his top line request of \$933 billion for FY 2008 with the help of a core group of Republicans. The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman David Obey (D-WI), indicated that Congress had to restore funding and "fill some of the unacceptable holes" in the President's budget request within an overall budget that essentially freezes discretionary spending. To do this, funding for many of the programs and initiatives supported by the research and university community were reduced significantly below the levels recommended earlier this year.

The omnibus appropriations act provides nearly \$6 million for the National Academy of Sciences to establish a climate change study committee and summit on global climate change. It

also directs NOAA to enter into an agreement with the NAS to initiate a study on acidification of the oceans.

### **Detail on Senate markup (6/29/07):**

On June 28, 2007, the Senate Appropriations Full Committee marked up the FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, which includes funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill is scheduled to go to the Senate floor sometime in July. **UPDATE: The Senate passed the bill Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

On the House side, due to the turmoil over how to handle member earmarks, the House CJS bill has been marked up at Subcommittee, but not yet at Full Committee. The current schedule is for the House Appropriations Full Committee to mark up CJS on July 11 (adding earmarks), with House floor consideration the week of July 16 (**UPDATE: The bill passed July 26<sup>th</sup>**). Overall, the House and Senate versions of the CJS bill each contain significantly (over \$2 billion) more funding than what was requested by the Administration. President Bush has indicated his intent to veto Congressional spending bills that exceed his budget proposals, so these bills—as good as they both are for science programs—are far from a "done deal."

For NOAA, the Committee is recommending a budget of \$4.2 billion for FY 2008. This is \$400 million more than the President's budget request level, and an increase of about 8 percent over the FY 2007 level. Of NOAA's six major line items, two would see large boosts under the Senate bill. Oceanic and Atmospheric Research would see its budget grow to \$438.6 million, up from the \$398 million enacted in FY 2007. The National Ocean Service would receive \$635.9 million, up from \$516.6 million in FY 2007. Funding for the remaining line items would include:

- \$763.3 million for the National Marine Fisheries Service;
- \$927.2 million for the National Weather Service, up 6 percent over the FY 2007 level; and
- \$1.01 billion for the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, up from \$952 million in FY 2007.

The Committee bill includes substantial funding to implement the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's recommendations for greater stewardship of oceans by focusing on research, education, observation and exploration. As part of this effort, the Committee is providing support for more peer-reviewed, transparent granting opportunities by increasing and establishing new competitive research programs. For example, the Committee provided an additional \$31.6 million under the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) by increasing the competitive grant activities for "Climate research," "Marine Aquaculture Research" and "Aquatic Invasive Species Research," and creating *two new competitive programs* with "Weather and Air Quality Research" and "Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research." According to the Committee report, the appropriators' overall recommendation for NOAA contains in excess of \$425 million for open, competitive funding--funds that are not at the expense of basic science operations and research requested by the Bush Administration, and are in addition to further increases the Committee made to several ocean-related programs such as

Sea Grant, Ocean Exploration, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems program.

The Committee is recommending \$60 million for Sea Grant, an increase of nearly 10 percent over last year's level and \$5 million more than the President's budget request level. In addition, the Committee directs NOAA to increase the program's state-wide partnerships and the program's competitive, national grant programs.

The bill would increase funding for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), a program identified by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative as a top priority for U.S. ocean management. The Senate bill would set aside \$47 million for IOOS--less than the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative recommendation of \$138 million but more than the White House request of \$14 million. For the first time, the program is not included as an earmark but as a competitive grants program.

The Committee rejects the Bush Administration's proposal to merge the Ocean Exploration and National Undersea Research Program. Instead, Ocean Exploration would receive \$20 million, and the National Undersea Research Program would get \$15 million. The White House budget asked for a combined \$27.8 million for the two programs. Ocean mapping and charting would receive \$94 million. The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program would get \$49 million and be included as a competitive program, not an earmark.

The Competitive Research Program for climate change would receive \$140 million, while new programs in competitive Weather and Air Quality research and Ocean Research would each receive \$10 million.

For the new weather research program, the Committee says the funding (\$10 million) is provided to allow NOAA to design, conduct, and administer a competitive, peer-reviewed grant process for the purposes of weather research. The Committee directs NOAA to focus these funds to cooperatively work with universities from coastal states on the topics of coastal weather, severe weather, and hurricanes. Within the National Weather Service, the U.S. Weather Research Program is funded at \$6 million.

For the new Ocean Research Program, the Committee says the funding (\$10 million) is to further encourage competitive, peer-reviewed research within the ocean science community. NOAA is directed to work with the coastal and Great Lakes universities to implement and administer grants focusing on the ocean's role in climate change as encouraged by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

NOAA's Education programs are funded at a total of \$42.4 million--\$23 million more than the President's budget request--with \$15.4 million targeted for the Educational Partnership Program/Minority Serving Institutions.

Senate appropriators also said they were "extremely concerned" with management of NOAA's satellites, adding their voices to a growing chorus of congressional discontent on that issue. Specifically, the Committee "believes that continuous oversight by Congress is necessary given

NOAA's track record" and directs the agency to provide quarterly reports to appropriators on satellite program staffing plans, budgets and technical risks.

Zeroing in on the agency's highest profile satellites, the long-delayed National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, the Committee is skeptical that the Administration will follow through on promises to resurrect climate sensors cut or scaled back during a budget review last year. Specifically, the Committee worries that "instead of paying for this vital investment through increased funding, the administration will instead try to do things on the cheap or better yet, redirect funds away from NOAA's other programs."

The Senate panel also asked NOAA for a report, including costs, on its plans to replace the aging QuikSCAT satellite, which the agency uses to help formulate its two- and three-day hurricane forecasts. The eight-year-old satellite is now four years beyond its planned life expectancy, and Hurricane Alley lawmakers in the House and Senate have expressed frustration over a lack of information on NOAA's contingency plans in case the satellite fails.

### **Detail on House markup (6/19/07):**

The House Appropriations Committee has postponed the full committee mark up of the FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill due to the ongoing turmoil over how to handle member earmarks. Under the agreement between House Democrats and Republicans, the earmarks for the CJS bill are to be added by the full committee before the bill is debated on the House floor. That meeting is not yet scheduled.

The House Subcommittee recommended \$4.0 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for FY 2008. This amount is \$190.5 million above the President's budget request and \$92.2 million above the FY 2007 enacted level. The Subcommittee is proposing to split this increase with about half going to the programs within the Operations, Research and Facilities account and the other half going for procurement and acquisition of satellites, surface weather observation equipment for weather and climate programs, construction of buildings, and acquisition of fleet and aircraft capabilities.

The Subcommittee has made climate change research a key priority as evidenced by its proposal to increase the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) by \$57.3 million above the budget request and target much of that increase for climate change research. The competitive research program for climate change within OAR is proposed to be increased by \$20 million over the request level of \$128 million. The Subcommittee is also proposing to provide an additional: \$3 million for supercomputing to support research on abrupt climate change; \$10 million to sustain NOAA's Argo float program; \$10 million for upgrading the Tropical Atmospheric Ocean array; and \$1.3 million for the U.S. global climate observing system. The Subcommittee is recommending \$6 million to enable the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Climate Change Study Committee to study, investigate, and report on important issues related to global climate change and to make recommendations regarding steps to be taken and strategies to be adopted in response to climate change. Other than climate change research, the only other OAR programs to see an increase over the President's request were the National Sea Grant College Program and the invasive species program.

Other programs called out in the Subcommittee's recommendations include:

- National Marine Sanctuaries Program -- +\$14.2 million over the budget request;
- National Sea Grant College Program -- +2.5 million (for a total of \$57.4 million);
- NOAA Education -- +\$7.0 million for climate change education (for a total of \$26.3 million);
- NWS Local Warnings and Forecasts -- +\$2.8 million for NWS staffing;
- Ocean Exploration and Research (formerly NURP and OE) is funded at the request level of \$27.7 million;
- Acquisition and construction activities associated with the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program -- +\$30 million; and
- NPOESS -- +\$23 million for the restoration of climate sensors for the NPOESS satellite system.

In general, NOAA received a substantial overall boost with the Subcommittee's record-setting recommendation of \$4 billion for FY 2008. Most programs – such as the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes programs received their budget request – unlike past years when the House often cut further the Administration's budget proposal for NOAA. At the same time, most of the additional resources being recommended by the Subcommittee are targeted for climate change research and infrastructure improvements for NOAA's ocean, fisheries, and weather and satellite programs.

### **Detail on President's FY08 Request (Feb. 5, 2007):**

While the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress has yet to resolve appropriations for nine spending bills for FY07, yesterday the President released his budget request for FY 2008. Because Congress has not yet completed work on the FY 2007 budget, the Administration had little choice but to use its FY 2007 budget request as the baseline for its FY 2008 proposal (except for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, for which Congress was able to complete appropriations last year). The funding levels in the FY 2007 spending resolution being finalized by Congress, however, are in most cases quite different from those requested by the Administration for FY 2007, which means that Congressional budget and appropriations committees will find many of the FY 2008 request's proposals immaterial.

For fiscal year 2008, the President proposes a budget of \$3.815 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This amount is approximately \$96 million or about 3 percent *below* the amount in the FY 2007 joint funding resolution which is currently circulating in Congress. The request includes a modest increase of about \$41 million (1.5 percent) for the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) account and a decrease of about \$138 million (14 percent) for the Procurement, Acquisition and Construction account. The NOAA request seeks to "sustain critical operations" while at the same time focus on four main areas (please note that any budgetary increases mentioned below are comparisons over the President's FY 2007 budget request, not the FY 2007 joint funding resolution that is currently being considered in Congress):

(1) *Supporting the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.* In January 2007 the Administration released its interagency Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP) which identifies 21 of the most pressing priorities facing the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, including four near-term priorities. This report was a product of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan which was developed by the Administration to address the recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in 2004. The President's FY 2008 budget for NOAA includes \$123 million in new money to support the U.S.

Ocean Action Plan and to work toward the implementation of the ORPP. Specifically, this includes funds to:

- *Protect and improve marine and coastal areas* (\$38 million)—enforcement and management activities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument; restoration of 1,000 stream miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon and other species; support for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program; support for Klamath River salmon recovery projects; and competitive grants for Gulf of Mexico Alliance coastal resource priorities.
- *Ensure sustainable use of ocean resources* (\$25 million)—provides support to “ensure sustainable access to seafood through development of offshore aquaculture and better management of fish harvests.”
- *Advance ocean science and research* (\$60 million)—includes a \$16 million increase for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS); \$20 million increase to address the four near-term priorities identified in the ORPP; and an additional \$8 million to explore and define areas of the continental shelf that are adjacent to but still outside of U.S. jurisdiction.

(2) *Improving Weather Warnings and Forecasts.* In an effort to provide decision makers with better observations, analyses, predictions and warnings, the Administration proposes an increase of \$2 million to accelerate research into improving hurricane intensity forecasts; \$3 million increase to support operations and maintenance of 15 hurricane buoys; and an additional \$1.7 million to deploy additional deep-ocean buoy (DART) stations in order to strengthen the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program.

(3) *Climate Monitoring and Research.* To continue with improvements in climate prediction capabilities, the Administration is proposing a \$4.4 million increase for the development of an integrated drought early warning and forecast system as part of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). The President also requests a \$5 million increase in support of the ORPP to enhance understanding between ocean currents and rapid climate change. Lastly, an additional \$1 million is requested for additional computational support for assessing abrupt climate change.

(4) *Critical Facilities Investments.* The increases proposed by the Administration for critical facilities pertain to the modernization of NOAA facilities in order “to provide safe and efficient work environment for employees.” This money is not intended for extramural facilities and infrastructure.

**NOAA Research – Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research.** Under the President’s request, OAR would receive \$369 million, a decrease of about 3 percent from the FY 2007 joint funding resolution. Within OAR, Climate Research would receive \$193 million. This includes \$50 million for Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and \$133 million for the Competitive Research Program. The ORPP priority—Assessing Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation Variability—is also supported with a \$5 million increase (over the FY 2007 President’s request).

In addition, the request would provide Weather and Air Quality Research with \$47 million, including \$44 million for Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.

Lastly, Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research would receive \$105 million in the President's budget, a 20 percent cut from the FY 2007 joint funding resolution. The request seeks to merge the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) with the Ocean Exploration to create a new line office called the Ocean Exploration and Research Program. The requested funding for the combined program is \$27.7 million for FY 2008. This represents a 19 percent increase over the combined budgets under the FY 2007 joint funding resolution. In addition, the President proposes to flat-fund the National Sea Grant College Program at roughly \$55 million for the third year in a row. The Laboratories and Joint Institutes would be cut to \$20 million (13 percent decrease) and the Invasive Species and Partnership Programs would for the second year in a row be zeroed-out from the Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research subactivity.

**National Weather Service.** Like last year, the President requests a budget increase for the National Weather Service (NWS), providing \$903 million, a 6.5 percent boost over the FY 2007 joint resolution. Local Warnings and Forecasts would receive \$591 million for the operation of 15 weather data buoys, for strengthening the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program and for other purposes. The U.S. Weather Research Program/THORPEX would receive \$6 million in the President's request, down from the FY2007 request but a million dollar increase over the FY 2007 joint resolution. In addition, NOAA requests \$1.67 million to fund operations and maintenance and transition costs associated with the planned frequency conversion and the technical refresh of the 20-year old NOAA Wind Profiler Network (NPN).

NOAA requests a decrease of \$1.3 million for the Space Environment Center (SEC) to reflect funding of higher priority requirements. This reduction will reduce SEC model development and transition of models to operations, and eliminates outreach efforts. The \$6.2 million funding level supports SEC realtime monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events.

**National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.** The NESDIS Operations, Research and Facilities account would receive a 13 percent decrease from the FY 2007 joint resolution, with a proposed budget of \$157.8 million. This includes \$105 million for Environmental Satellite Observing Systems and \$52.6 million for NOAA's Data Centers and Information Services.

**NOAA Education Program.** The FY 2008 request for the NOAA Education Program is \$19 million. Within this amount, NOAA is seeking to provide funding for the Hollings Scholarship (\$3.7 million), the Nancy Foster Scholarship (\$400,000), JASON Education and Outreach (\$1 million), and the Education Partnership Program (\$14 million).