



NOAA FISHERIES



NOAA Fisheries 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.

The agency 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 the agency's jurisdiction. As of December 31, 2014, NOAA Fisheries currently manages 469 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. NOAA Fisheries also supports international scientific research and policy development.

In 2014, Fisheries provided additional protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for 20 species of coral, all of which have been listed as threatened. NOAA identified threats to coral ecosystems, including impacts related to rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and disease, effects from fishing, and land-based sources of pollution. NOAA is working with partners on conservation measures and recovery strategies for the newly listed corals, building from approaches that have shown success elsewhere, and will now work to ensure these efforts complement ESA mandates.

The agency, in partnership with the regional fishery management councils and our stakeholders, has made substantial progress in ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks. The most recent survey showed seven more stocks were removed from the overfishing list, four stocks were no longer listed as overfished and two more were rebuilt. Overall, 34 stocks have been rebuilt since 2000.

There has also been progress toward long-term economic sustainability of our nation's fish stocks. Commercial and recreational marine fisheries and aquaculture contribute more than \$89 billion annually to the national economy, generate \$199 billion in sales impact, and supports over 1.7 million jobs economy-wide. This progress demonstrates the strength of the U.S. science-based management model under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and underscores the importance of ending overfishing as the key to addressing past overfishing problems.

The agency developed the first methodology to rapidly assess the vulnerability of U.S. marine fish stocks to changing climate and ocean conditions. The Fish Stock Climate Vulnerability Assessment methodology uses information on climate and ocean conditions, species distributions, and life history characteristics to help fisheries managers and scientists identify which species may be most vulnerable or adaptable to climate change impacts. This information will help NOAA, state, and tribal fisheries managers consider management strategies for climate-vulnerable fish stocks. And by identifying the most vulnerable stocks and key gaps in existing information, this tool will help NOAA identify key areas for additional research, monitoring and modeling. This information is also useful in assessing the vulnerability of fisheries and resource-dependent communities in a changing climate. The methodology was used to assess the climate vulnerability of 79 fish stocks in the Northeast region.

In FY 2016, Fisheries will continue to develop advanced technologies, increase the sustainability and economic value of our fisheries, improve the resiliency of our fishing communities, protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and maintain and restore healthy coastal habitats for living marine resources. NOAA Fisheries will also rebuild our nation's fisheries through targeted investments in fisheries science to inform management and ensure the resiliency of our coastal communities.



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



FY 2016 Budget Request Highlights

The FY 2016 President's Budget Request for NOAA Fisheries is \$990,121,000. This investment will allow NOAA to continue to support its core missions of managing productive and sustainable domestic fisheries and the recovery of protected species. The program changes noted below are with respect to the FY 2016 Base (= FY 2015 Enacted + Inflationary Adjustments). Highlights include:

- **Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (\$3.0M)** to strengthen NOAA's efforts to detect and deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and enforce restrictions on imports of illegally-harvested and improperly-documented seafood. 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.
- **Electronic Monitoring and Reporting (+\$7.0M)** will support the development, implementation and management of electronic monitoring and reporting technologies across the country. The goal is to deliver cost-effective and sustainable electronic data collection solutions that enhance monitoring and reporting of catch and bycatch in all U.S. fisheries.
- **Domestic Seafood Production and Jobs through Aquaculture (+\$2.0M)** to conduct research and regulatory activities that support sustainable aquaculture development. This funding will increase the U.S. seafood supply and will create jobs and increase trade opportunities by further developing a robust and sustainable U.S. marine aquaculture industry. This effort is in cooperation with NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and their aquaculture programs.
- **Expand Annual Stock Assessments (+\$2.8M)** to address critical gaps in NOAA's stock assessment program, that will facilitate the implementation of a next generation stock assessment (NGSA) framework. The NGSA framework incorporates ecosystem factors affecting key fish stocks (e.g., climate, habitat) into stock assessments wherever needed and uses advanced technologies to better inform fishery management.
- **Ecosystem-based Solutions for Fisheries Management (+\$5.0M)** for the NOAA Fisheries component of this integrated, cross-disciplinary, and cross-line office (NOS) scientific initiative that will fill information gaps in habitat science and connections to fisheries management, and provide economic information that can be used to prioritize future conservation and restoration actions.
- **Increase Consultation and Permitting Capacity, ESA Recovery (+\$18.9M)** to conduct mandated Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations and MSA Essential Fish Habitat consultations, issue Marine Mammal Protection (MMPA) permits, and support requirements for 20 new corals species listed in August 2014. 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 (+\$17.0M)** will provide increased 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.