

TOPIC OVERVIEW

CCC MEETING

May 17, 2017

Fishery Independent Data Funding— the purpose of this topic is to get an update from NMFS on future funding available for fishery independent data collection in the South Atlantic and Gulf Council areas.

Background – The Agency makes the case that funding for Fishery Independent Data Programs is increasing at the National level while at the South Atlantic Regional level we are seeing decreases (**Table 1**). SEAMAP and MARMAP budgets from 2008-2016 are shown. During this timeframe, SEAMAP has had a Reef Fish appropriation in the SA-SEAMAP budget. The realized overall program budget in 2016 is essentially back to the 2008 level because of applied administrative fees. The continued decline of the base budget for MARMAP is also shown; however the program was supplemented/saved by NOAA Fisheries add-on funds in 2015 and 2016, which may not be available in 2017.

Table 1. Funding levels for SEAMAP and MARMAP from 2008 through 2016.

	SEAMAP Budget Recent Years (2008-2016) (GOM/SA/Car/NMFS)	SEAMAP Realized Budget (Minus NOAA Admin Fees) (GOM/SA/Car/NMFS)	SEAMAP-SA (2008-2016)	MARMAP (2008-2016)	NOAA Fisheries one time add-on to MARMAP
2008	\$4,387,608	\$4,387,608	\$1,443,523	\$860,632	
2009	\$5,090,065	\$5,090,065	\$1,647,653	\$860,632	
2010	\$5,090,065	\$5,090,065	\$1,647,653	\$830,632	
2011	\$4,218,131	\$4,053,522	\$1,641,091	\$828,951	
2012	\$4,053,522	\$4,053,522	\$1,577,049	\$489,409	
2013	\$4,779,000	\$4,424,629	\$1,455,703	\$687,024	
2014	\$5,117,000	\$4,848,906	\$1,595,619	\$736,735	
2015	\$5,125,000	\$4,379,364	\$1,440,811	\$665,206	\$262,713
2016	\$5,125,000	\$4,313,068	\$1,418,999	\$654,853	\$220,000
SEAMAP-SA includes Reef Fish Survey, Coastal Trawl Survey, State Red Drum Surveys, Pamlico Sound Survey, SERTC and Data Management					
MARMAP 2015 and 2016 do not include one time NOAA Fisheries add-ons					

Dave Donaldson, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, requested clarification on the budget breakdown of Inter-Jurisdictional (IJ) and SEAMAP budgets and received the following explanation from Brian Pawlak (7/22/16 email)(see **Attachment 1**):

“Dave,

In my role as NMFS CFO, we've been in meetings together with Paul a few times, but more often on the phone together with Paul. Paul asked that I respond to your questions on the budget breakdown of IJ and SEAMAP.

Please see the attached response to those questions. I also want to convey that Paul has directed me and the NMFS budget team to look into our M&A and administrative costs for these programs and see if we can develop an approach that is more predictable and consistent across the different state data collection grant programs in FY17. My team has started looking into this and we will stay in touch on our analysis and review of that.

Thanks for your partnership and interest in our programs.”

NMFS Action: Provide an update on the level of future funding anticipated at this time.

CCC Action: The CCC will continue discussing development of a position paper/letter supporting continued funding for fishery independent data.

**IJ & SEAMAP REQUEST TO NOAA FISHERIES DAA/O
FROM GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Question: Please provide a budget breakdown on NOAA “taxes” for the IJ and SEAMAP programs.

Response:

From the funding amount provided in NOAA Fisheries annual appropriation, there are mandatory reductions, enacted in the appropriations bill that must be included, such as rescissions for prior year de-obligations and the rescission for the Hollings Scholarship. Exact amounts for these rescissions will vary from year to year since the de-obligation amount is based on the amount determined in the congressional appropriation Bill, and the Hollings Scholarship is 0.1% of total enacted funding for most budget lines. After these mandatory rescissions are applied, there is also a potential for a reprogramming request sponsored by the Administration that can alter funding amounts for specific programs. Reprogramming requests must be approved by Congress.

After these mandatory reductions are accounted for, NOAA costs must also be factored in before arriving at the final available funding for program activity. NOAA costs generally consist of three major elements:

1. Management and Administrative Costs (M&A),
2. Common Services, and
3. Program Support Costs - includes full time permanent staff and contractual obligations that are essential to NOAA Fisheries management of its work to support the specific program.

Unlike many other federal entities, NOAA does not have dedicated budget lines to fund labor and benefits, or program support costs. Therefore, all of these costs must be covered within the programmatic budget lines provided in the appropriation. Below is the breakdown of the NOAA costs for the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants Program and SEAMAP Programs for FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries (IJ) Grants

NMFS requires program support costs specific to processing of these individual state awards and assesses a 5 percent program support cost by the regional offices which administer the grant/cooperative agreements. This 5 percent program cost pays for grants oversight, administration, and monitoring (including salaries and site visits).

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	FY 2016
Omnibus Appropriated Amount	\$3,000,000
<i>Mandated Rescissions</i>	<i>(\$15,203)</i>
<i>HQ Management and Administrative Costs (M&A)</i>	<i>(\$120,727)</i>
<i>HQ Common Services</i>	<i>(\$22,023)</i>
<i>Carryover</i>	+\$6,630
<i>Regional M&A</i>	0
<i>Regional Program Support Costs (5%)</i>	<i>(\$142,434)</i>
Final Grant Amount to States	\$2,706,243

**IJ & SEAMAP REQUEST TO NOAA FISHERIES DAA/O
FROM GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)

SEAMAP is a State, Federal, university program for the collection, management, and dissemination of fishery-independent data. The data supports the sustainable use of commercially and recreationally valuable finfish stocks in the southeastern United States. The data collected under the SEAMAP program is essential to the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils in the development of fishery management plans. Funding also covers program support costs for NMFS staff to conduct fishery-independent data collections (e.g., Reef Fish Survey; Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey; Plankton surveys) and grant management costs.

SEAMAP Detail PPA	FY 2016
Omnibus Appropriated Amount	\$5,125,000
<i>Reprogram (Proposed)</i>	<i>(\$22,398)</i>
<i>Mandatory Rescissions</i>	<i>(\$31,071)</i>
<i>HQ Management and Administrative Costs(M&A)</i>	<i>(\$205,128)</i>
<i>HQ Common Services</i>	<i>(\$83,537)</i>
<i>Regional M&A</i>	<i>(\$469,798)</i>
<i>Regional Program Support Costs</i>	<i>(\$659,902)</i>
Grant Amount from SEAMAP	\$3,653,166