



National Marine Fisheries Service Stewardship of living marine resources.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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.

NMFS 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 NMFS' jurisdiction. NMFS currently manages 478 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. NMFS also supports international scientific research and policy development.

In 2013, for the first time in 19 years, and only the second time ever, a de-listing by NOAA was cause for celebration. The eastern population of Steller sea lions, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) almost a quarter century ago, has recovered sufficiently to be removed from the list. The only other time NOAA took such an action was in 1994, with the now-thriving eastern population of North Pacific gray whales. The recoveries of these species show the value and effectiveness of the ESA's strong protections.

NOAA, in coordination with the regional fishery management councils, and with the cooperation of commercial and recreational fishermen, rebuilt the Southern tanner crab in the Bering Sea, Pink shrimp in the south Atlantic, the Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon, and the South Atlantic black sea bass. With cooperation

from fishermen from North Carolina to Florida, South Atlantic black sea bass was rebuilt in just eight years, two years ahead of schedule, following implementation of conservation measures by NOAA in 2006. As a result, black sea bass catch levels more than doubled in 2013, increasing annual consumer surplus for recreational anglers, annual ex-vessel revenues for commercial fishermen, and annual profits for for-hire vessels.

Overall, U.S. commercial and recreational landings, and the value of those landings, were the second-highest on record, with 9.6 billion pounds valued at \$5.1 billion. These figures represent small decreases in pounds (2.3 percent) and value (3.2 percent) from 2011, which had the highest landings volume since 1997 and the highest value ever recorded. However, poundage and value continue to remain higher than the average of the preceding decade despite conservation measures to eliminate overfishing and rebuild stocks. In New England, these measures resulted in significant cuts in catch limits for some stocks. Recognizing the economic impact of these reductions, NOAA proactively implemented actions to provide flexibility and additional fishing opportunities for the fishing industry, including re-opening some groundfish closed areas; creating exempted fisheries for spiny dogfish and skates; enabling a directed fishery for redfish; removing some trip limits for monkfish; and re-opening Georges Bank to clam fishing.

In FY 2015, NMFS will continue to develop advanced technologies, increase the sustainability and economic value of our fisheries, improve the economic conditions for our fishing communities, protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and maintain and restore healthy coastal habitats for living marine resources. NMFS will also rebuild our Nation's fisheries through targeted investments in fisheries science to inform management.



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





FY 2015 Budget Request Highlights

The FY 2015 President's Budget Request for NMFS is \$916,751,000. This investment will allow NOAA to continue to support the recovery of protected species and rebuilding of fisheries. The program changes noted below are with respect to the FY 2015 Base (= FY 2014 Enacted + Inflationary Adjustments). Highlights include:

Services to Enhance Community Resilience

- **Species Recovery Grants (+ \$5.0M)** will provide increased funding for 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.
- **Coral Listings (+ \$4.0M)** requested for ESA Recovery. These funds will allow NMFS to implement ESA requirements for a number of species, including Atlantic sturgeon, and up to 66 coral species that NOAA is currently considering for listing. Staff time and resources are required to ensure that federal and non-federal actions that may affect listed species do not jeopardize their existence. The funds will be used to work with private, state, territorial and other government entities to ensure that their actions can be conducted harmoniously with any corals that are ultimately listed by conducting Section 7 consultations and issuing incidental take and scientific research permits. In addition, the funds will be used to develop recovery plans, tailored 4(d) rules for threatened species, and designating critical habitat.
- **Atlantic Salmon Recovery (+ \$1.0M)** will support the Maine Department of Marine Resources' research and management program, monitoring to detect changes from prior dam removals, and fish passage improvement and barrier removal projects.
- **Climate Regimes and Ecosystem Productivity (+ \$0.8M)** NOAA requests \$848,000 to implement a distributed biological observatory to improve understanding of how climate and human-induced change are affecting subsistence cultures and the environment in the Arctic. This program will lead to improved management of Arctic coastal and ocean resources, including fishery resources with potential high value.

Scientific and Programmatic Innovation

- **Electronic Monitoring and Reporting (+ \$4.0M)** will support the development and implementation 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.
- **National Catch Share Program (+ \$2.0M)** this request will be used to develop and implement new catch share programs and strengthen capabilities to put catch share efficiencies in place. The implementation of these systems will reduce the costs over time to NMFS and industry.
- **Expand Annual Stock Assessments (+ \$2.5M)** will increase the number of next generation stock assessments (NGSA). The NGSA framework incorporates ecosystem factors affecting key fish stocks (e.g., climate, habitat) and uses advanced technologies wherever possible to better inform fishery management. This funding will allow NOAA to strengthen its stock assessment capacity in each region.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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