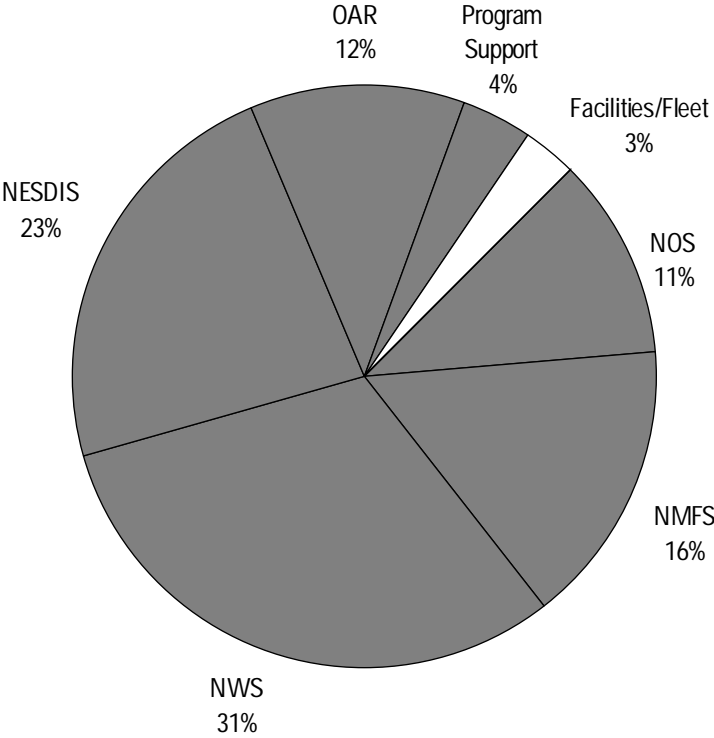




OPERATIONS, RESEARCH & FACILITIES/CAPITAL ASSETS ACQUISITION

FY 1998 Operations, Research and Facilities & Capital Assets Acquisition Budget Request



Total Operations, Research and Facilities/Capital Assets Acquisition

Requested: \$2,069,790,000

NWS: National Weather Service
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service
NESDIS: National Environmental Satellite,
Data & Information Service

OAR: Oceanic & Atmospheric Research
NOS: National Ocean Service

National Ocean Service

Total Request: \$224,836,000

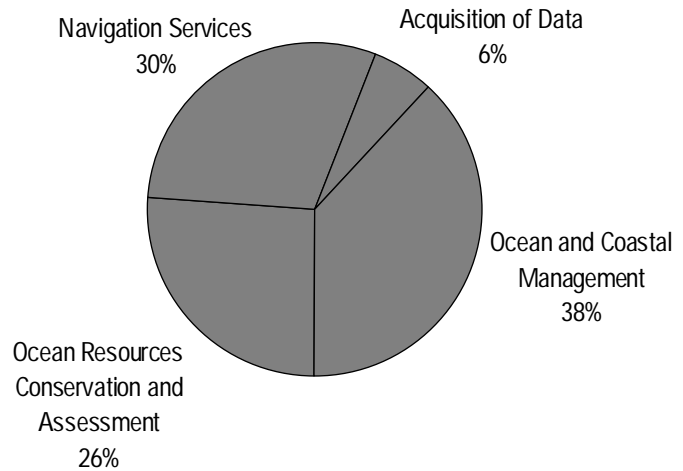
The National Ocean Service (NOS) is the primary Federal entity responsible for the observation, measurement, assessment and management of the Nation's coastal and ocean areas. NOS provides improvements in the quality, quantity, geographic distribution, and timeliness of ocean observations. Mapping, charting and geodetic activities produce marine, aeronautical and coastal data to increase the efficiency and safety of marine and air commerce and support engineering and scientific efforts. NOS also develops and manages marine sanctuaries and, in partnership with the states, estuarine reserves of national significance. Understanding of the coastal environment is enhanced through coastal ocean science activities which support science and management resource programs and the Coastal Zone Management program. Funding for NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program, which conducts research across NOAA's coastal missions, is included in the NOS budget activity.

For FY 1998, the National Ocean Service requests \$224.8 million. This is a net increase of \$18.9 million increase over the FY 1997 currently available. This change consists of program increases of \$45.2 million and program decreases of \$26.2 million.

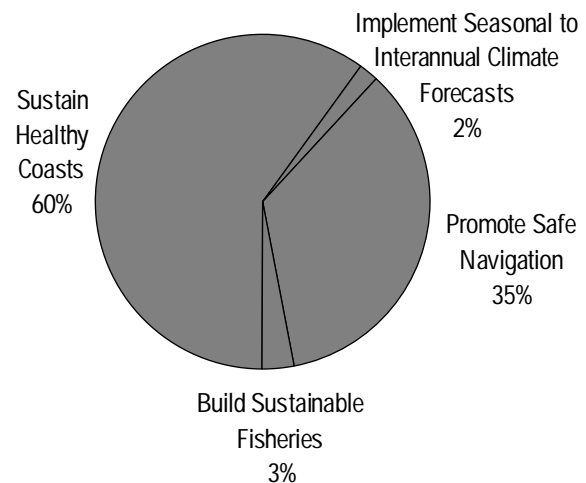
Navigation Services

This subactivity funds production of nautical and aeronautical charts and related products to ensure the safety of marine and air transportation, while improving the economic efficiency and completeness of U.S. commerce, through the provision of a variety of digital and traditional data products and services which include such things as paper charts, electronic charts, and tide and current predictions. It also maintains the National Geodetic Reference Systems for accurate geographic positions, elevations and gravity values and their variation with time for national defense and space activities, mapping and charting, infrastructure maintenance, public works, land information systems, and Earth science investigations.

Activity Based (ORF)



Goal Based (Strategic Plan Structure)



The NOAA budget proposes to transfer \$14.5 million to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support the aeronautical charting program from NOS to the FAA. The transfer will take place in two stages. In FY 1998, the funds will be transferred but the program's employees will remain in NOAA and will receive reimbursable funds from the FAA to operate the program. In FY 1999, the employees will also be transferred and NOAA's involvement with the program will end.

An increase of \$12.6 million is requested to replace funds that the aeronautical and nautical charting programs formerly received from the Defense Mapping Agency. Of this amount, \$4.0 million, is included in the transfer of the aeronautical charting program to the FAA.

A proposed decrease of \$1.5 million is the result of the decision to terminate funding for the National Coastal Data Center.

A decrease of \$1.0 million is proposed in the geodesy program to reduce the number of GPS Continuously Reference Stations and to eliminate funding for the South Carolina demonstration project to modernize the national height system.

Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment

This subactivity conducts monitoring, assessment, oil and hazardous materials spill response, and directed research programs to provide comprehensive scientific information for decisions about the protection and sustainable use of resources and to minimize damages to natural resources in the nation's coastal areas, estuaries, and oceans, including the Great Lakes. These programs monitor the status and trends of environmental quality in U.S. coastal areas, assess the biological consequences of pollutants in coastal ecosystems, synthesize environmental data to identify and evaluate strategies for managing coastal and ocean resources, conduct natural resource damage assessments to support recovery of funds for restoration, and coordinate spill response activities and planning efforts to minimize the environmental effects of oil and hazardous materials spills and hazardous waste sites in coastal areas.

An increase of \$3.9 million is requested for the Administration's Clean Water Initiative under the Community-Right-to-Know Project on toxic contamination and water quality. Within this increase, \$2.9 million will be used to establish a national coastal watershed monitoring network of reference sites to measure, analyze, and report comprehensive information on environmental quality, especially toxic contamination, in estuarine and coastal waters. An additional \$1.0 million will be used to conduct natural resource assessment and remediation activities to clean up hazardous waste sites that affect NOAA trust resources throughout the Nation.

An increase of \$1.9 million is requested to fund NOS's portion of the Administration's South Florida Interagency Ecosystem Restoration Initiative. The

additional funds will allow NOS to fully implement an integrated ecosystem monitoring program in South Florida, particularly in the coastal marine areas encompassing Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

An increase of \$0.8 million is requested for the Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (DARP). This increase will enable NOAA to fulfill its legislative mandates and public trusteeship responsibilities for coastal and marine resources. The additional funds are required for case-specific studies to support NOAA litigation and for development of new methods to more efficiently and effectively value coastal and estuarine habitats.

A decrease of \$2.7 million is proposed for research activities on the monitoring, management, and prevention of contamination in the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

A decrease of \$2.0 million is proposed for coastal hazards research and environmental monitoring at the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

An increase of \$0.3 million is proposed for Ocean Services for the acquisition of sea surface-temperature and ocean-temperature profiles from specially instrumented commercial vessels and for storage and archiving the acquired data.

A decrease of \$0.3 million is proposed for transfer from the Damage Assessment Fund due to reduced funding available.

NOAA requests \$1.9 million, an increase of \$0.6 million for the Coastal Ocean Program (COP) to enhance COP's participation in the Interagency South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Initiative. Funds totaling \$0.4 million, a decrease of \$0.6 million, are also requested to reduce COP's participation in the National Harmful Algal Bloom program. This subactivity includes continued support for COP's academic and other NOAA partnerships to improve predictions in the areas of fisheries productivity, marine habitat, and coastal flooding. Highlights include a joint Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) venture between the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NOAA, which will study salmon fisheries and northeast Pacific ecosystem responses to climate variability; and an interagency national research program on the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB).

Ocean and Coastal Management

This subactivity supports the coastal states and territories to implement a Federal partnership of programs that promote rational use of the Nation's coastal zone, and designates and manages unique and nationally significant marine and estuarine areas.

An increase of \$18.0 million is requested for the Administration Clean Water Initiative's toxic contamination reduction project. The result will be improved coastal water quality obtained by reducing toxic inflows and sources through

\$6.0 million of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Section 306/309 matching grants that strengthen the management capabilities of 33 Federally-approved CZM programs, including those in the Great Lakes; and \$12.0 million of CZM Section 310 funds that provide CZM Program technical assistance and demonstration projects.

An increase of \$1.5 million is requested for the state grants program to partially offset the cost of implementing two new coastal programs in Minnesota and Georgia.

An increase of \$1.5 million is requested for the National Marine Sanctuaries to partially offset increases in basic operational costs at all sites, provide limited enhanced operations for sites below minimal operational levels, and provide some support for implementing final management plans for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale and Florida Keys sanctuaries.

An increase of \$1.0 million is requested to fund the Section 6217 Non-point Pollution Control Program. This funding will assist coastal states in meeting conditions associated with the Federal approval of their coastal non-point programs.

NOAA is requesting an increase in ORF of \$3.0 million for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). In FY 1997 this amount was made available within the Coastal Zone Management Fund. Funding is no longer available for NERRS from the rapidly depleting Coastal Zone Management Fund. The NERRS program level would remain unchanged at its FY 1997 level of \$4.3 million.

Acquisition of Data

A decrease of \$3.7 million is requested for Acquisition of Data which will result in reductions in base support of operations (shore based and days-at-sea) and the operational funding for the NOAA ship *Ronald H. Brown* which was appropriated under the National Ocean Service in FY 1997, but actually supports oceanic and atmospheric research operations. Funds are requested for the operation of the *Ronald H. Brown* within the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research activity.

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
National Ocean Service						
Navigation Services						
Mapping and Charting	298	38,000	238	36,100	(60)	(1,900)
Geodesy	197	20,167	197	19,159	0	(1,008)
Tide and Current Data	141	12,500	141	11,000	0	(1,500)
Total Navigation Services	636	70,667	576	66,259	(60)	(4,408)
Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment						
Estuarine and Coastal Assessment	255	42,674	255	44,599	0	1,925
Coastal Ocean Science (COP)	21	15,200	21	15,200	0	0
Total Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment	276	57,874	276	59,799	0	1,925
Ocean and Coastal Management						
Coastal Management	0	47,500	0	71,032	0	23,532
Ocean Management	97	11,685	97	13,200	0	1,515
Total Ocean and Coastal Management	97	59,185	97	84,232	0	25,047
Acquisition of Data	230	18,200	230	14,546	0	(3,654)
Total National Ocean Service	1,239	205,926	1,179	224,836	(60)	18,910

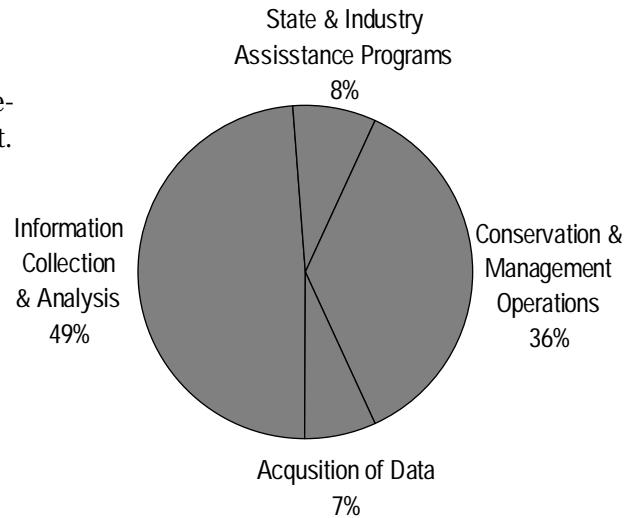
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
National Ocean Service						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services		150		150	0	0
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast		2,500		2,800	0	300
Promote Safe Navigation	866	86,380	806	78,449	(60)	(7,931)
Build Sustainable Fisheries	14	7,350	14	7,350	0	0
Sustain Healthy Coasts	359	109,546	359	136,087	0	26,541
Total National Ocean Service	1,239	205,926	1,179	224,836	(60)	18,910

National Marine Fisheries Service

Total Request: \$338,264,000

The mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is stewardship of living marine resources for the benefit of the Nation through science-based conservation and management and promotion of the health of their environment. The agency's authority to carry out its mission comes primarily from three major pieces of legislation: the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA); the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The science, research and data collection activities conducted by NMFS form the basis for conservation and management decisions made under these legislative authorities. Other pieces of legislation such as the Clean Water Act, the Lacey Act and the Agriculture Marketing Act provide authority for habitat protection, enforcement and seafood safety activities.

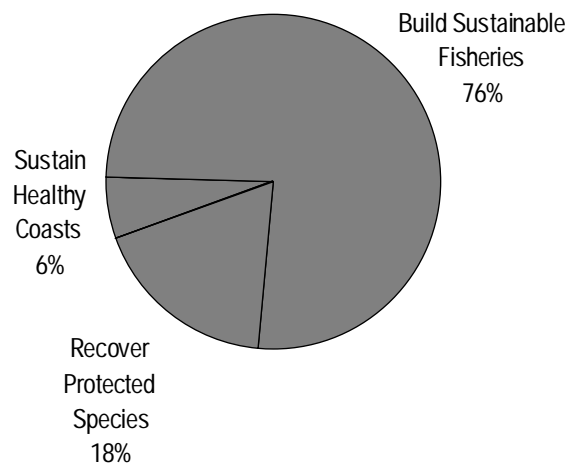
Activity Based (ORF)



The FY 1998 Budget request includes increases to meet the additional workload required within the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and additional consultations, listing actions and management activities for West coast salmon and steelhead to meet the responsibilities of the Endangered Species Act. The goals and objectives of the NMFS mission are embodied in three of the seven goals of NOAA's Strategic Plan: Build Sustainable Fisheries; Recover Protected Species; and Sustain Healthy Coasts (habitat protection).

For FY 1998, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests \$338.3 million. This is a net increase of \$16.6 million over the FY 1997 Currently Available, which consists of program increases of \$24.7 million to implement new provisions of the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), and to address the increased workload associated with additional Endangered Species Act listings and consultations for West Coast salmon and steelhead. This is offset by program decreases of \$8.2 million from activities that were funded in excess of the FY 1997 request. Decreases are requested in order to allow support for other NMFS initiatives in a constrained budget.

Goal Based (Strategic Plan Structure)



Information Collection and Analysis

The goal of this budget subactivity is to provide accurate and timely analyses on the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects of the Nation's use of its living marine resources in support of Administration goals to Build Sustainable Fisheries, Recover Protected Species, and Sustain Healthy Coasts. In FY 1998, a net decrease of \$0.3 million is requested for this subactivity; which consists of \$2.4 million of program increases, offset by \$2.7 million of program decreases.

An increase of \$1.7 million is requested for the Resource Information line item. This increase is requested to develop models and apply strategies for bycatch reduction consistent with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Six decreases totaling \$2.4 million are proposed for activities (Chesapeake Bay Studies, Right Whale Research, Stellar Sea Lion Recovery Plans, Bluefish/Striped Bass, Gulf of Mexico Mariculture, and Hawaii Stock management Plan) that were funded in FY 1997 at levels above the FY 1997 request and cannot be maintained in the effort to support other NMFS initiatives.

A net increase of \$0.1 million is requested for the Fishery Industry Information line item. This includes a \$0.4 million increase for Fish Statistics. These funds will be used for annual collection and analysis of economic and social data on marine recreational fishing and commercial fisheries, and to provide information necessary for fisheries management decisions under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A reduction of \$0.3 million is requested for recreational fishery harvest monitoring.

An increase of \$0.3 million is requested for Information Analysis and Dissemination to continue the development of improved stock assessment programs required to build sustainable fisheries. Timely, accurate stock assessment data is essential for optimum management of the resource.

Conservation and Management Operations

This budget subactivity provides for the development and implementation of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and for the management of protected species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). It also provides for the enforcement of laws and regulations under these and other statutes as well as for the protection of habitats. Funding for the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils is included in this subactivity, as is funding for Mitchell Act hatcheries along the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. Net increases totaling \$20.1 million are requested for the subactivity Conservation and Management Operations; which consists of \$22.1 million of program increases, offset by \$2.0 million of program decreases.

A net increase of \$8.9 million is requested for Fisheries Management Programs line item. Of this increase, \$8.8 million is requested to implement new requirements in the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Act contains

many new requirements including major revisions to all existing 39 Fishery Management Plans (3 new national standards, bycatch, overfishing, impact on fishing communities, economic and regulatory discards, data by fishing sector and other provisions), identification of and implementation of programs to conserve Essential Fish Habitat, completion of numerous reports and studies, including three National Academy of Science studies, establishment of several fisheries advisory panels, and promulgation of new regulations (\$7.3 million). Additional funding is also required by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils associated with new requirements under Magnuson-Stevens Act including increased membership on two Councils (\$1.5 million).

An increase of \$1.7 million is required to cover the administrative costs of managing the portfolio of existing and future loan guarantees. These costs were paid in FY 1997 through the transfer of \$1.7 million from the Federal Ship Financing Fund (FSFF) to the ORF account, however in FY 1998 sufficient funds do not exist in the FSFF to continue this practice.

Three decreases totaling \$1.6 million are requested for Fisheries Management Programs for activities funded in FY 1997 above the FY 1997 request (Columbia River Hatcheries, International Fisheries Commissions, and Pacific Tuna Management). These activities are proposed for reduction in order to support other NMFS initiatives in a constrained budget.

A net increase of \$7.7 million is requested for Protected Species Management to develop and implement recovery and conservation plans for species currently listed as depleted, threatened, or endangered under the ESA and MMPA. This includes funds specifically to address the increased workload associated with harvest, hatcheries, habitat, and hydropower activities in response to the expected additional salmon and steelhead listings along the West Coast (\$6.7 million) from Los Angeles to the Canadian border. These listings will triple the land area impacted by ESA conservation activities. Funds are also required to develop and implement recovery and conservation plans for whales and sea turtles under the ESA, and for other requirements under the MMPA (\$1.4 million). A decrease of \$0.4 million is requested to end funding to the University of Alaska for fishery observer training.

An increase of \$1.8 million is requested for the Habitat Protection line item for the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and for the increase in FERC relicensing on the West Coast. The rapidly increasing number of HCPs represent an Administration effort to better integrate Federal conservation goals with the needs of private landowners. Several early successes have led to increasing interest in HCPs. Adequate habitat watershed planning and management are essential components of the overall recovery effort for salmon and steelhead species.

An increase of \$1.7 million is requested for Enforcement and Surveillance to

ensure adequate compliance under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, ESA, and MMPA and to fully implement the Voluntary Compliance Program.

State and Industry Assistance Programs

This budget subactivity provides for product quality and safety research, grants to states under the Anadromous and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Acts, funding for the three Interstate Fisheries Commissions and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act.

An increase of \$0.3 million is requested for the Anadromous Fishery Project (Striped Bass) in the Northeast. In FY 1997, this activity was funded within the Bluefish/Striped Bass activity in the Resource Information line item which is being eliminated in FY 1998.

Two decreases totaling \$1.8 million are requested for activities that were funded above the FY 1997 request and cannot be maintained in order to support other NMFS initiatives (Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act and funding to the Oceanic Institute in Hawaii).

Acquisition of Data

A decrease of \$1.7 million is requested for Acquisition of Data resulting in a reduction in base support of operations (shore based and days-at-sea).

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
National Marine Fisheries Service						
Information Collection & Analyses						
Resource Information	933	116,233	933	115,540	0	(693)
Fishery Industry Information	146	24,600	146	24,700	0	100
Information Analyses & Dissemination	243	24,900	243	25,200	0	300
Total Information Collection & Analyses	1,322	165,733	1,322	165,440	0	(293)
Conservation & Management Operations						
Fisheries Management Program	193	45,271	205	54,166	12	8,895
Protected Species Management	237	32,370	282	40,078	45	7,708
Habitat Conservation	116	8,000	116	9,800	0	1,800
Enforcement & Surveillance	171	16,500	171	18,200	0	1,700
Total Conservation & Management Operations	717	102,141	774	122,244	57	20,103
State & Industry Assistance Programs						
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	1	9,708	1	8,958	0	(750)
Fisheries Development Program	154	17,274	154	16,524	0	(750)
Total State & Industry Assistance Programs	155	26,982	155	25,482	0	(1,500)
Acquisition of Data	332	26,840	332	25,098	0	(1,742)
Total National Marine Fisheries Service	2,526	321,696	2,583	338,264	57	16,568

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
National Marine Fisheries Service						
Build Sustainable Fisheries	1,942	248,728	1,954	256,289	12	7,561
Recover Protected Species	365	54,728	410	62,325	45	7,597
Sustain Healthy Coasts	219	18,240	219	19,650	0	1,410
Total National Marine Fisheries Service	2,526	321,696	2,583	338,264	57	16,568

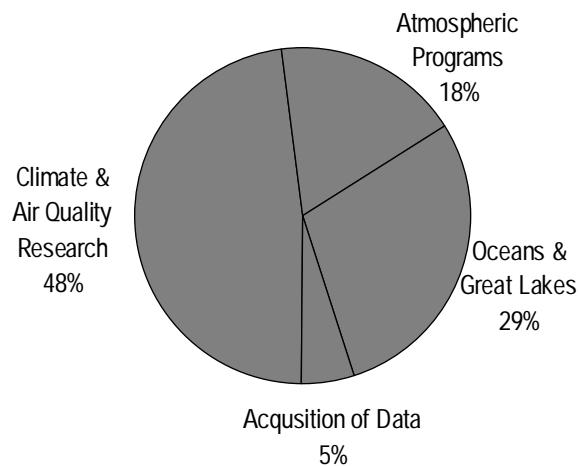
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Total Request: \$248,050,000

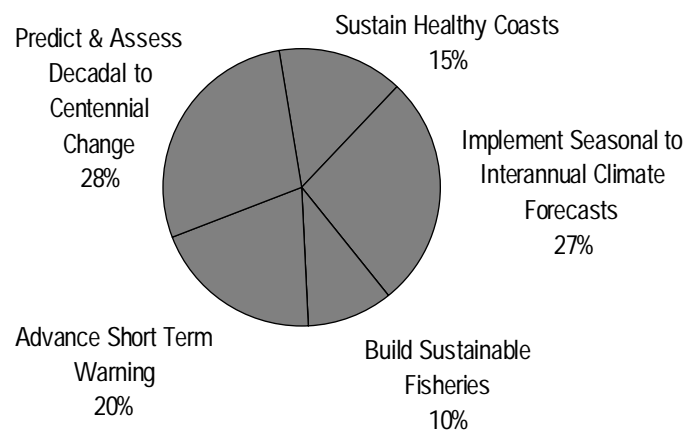
The mission of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) is to provide critical environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA services and enable the Nation to balance a growing economy with effective management and prediction of our environment and natural resources. These capabilities directly contribute to the achievement of six of NOAA's seven Strategic Plan goals; Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services, Implement Seasonal to Inter-Annual Climate Forecasts, Predict and Assess Decadal to Centennial Change, Build Sustainable Fisheries, Recover Protected Species and Sustain Healthy Coasts. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a world-class network of Federal scientists and laboratories (the Environmental Research Laboratories) and university/private-sector researchers through the National Sea Grant College Program, National Undersea Research Program, and Joint and Cooperative Institutes. Through these programs, OAR provides the research and technology development necessary to improve NOAA's weather and climate services, solar-terrestrial forecasts, and marine services. OAR's activities provide the scientific basis for national policy decisions in key environmental areas such as climate change, air quality, and stratospheric ozone depletion. In addition, OAR's research promotes economic growth through the development of marine biotechnology, aquaculture, and environmental observing technologies. OAR budget activity supports a number of NOAA-wide program endeavors, including the U.S. Weather Research Program, Health of the Atmosphere Program, Climate and Global Change Program, High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) and Global Learning and Observations to the Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), a program that increases our understanding of the Earth through a worldwide network of schools collecting environmental data.

For FY 1998, \$248.1 million is requested for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. This is a net decrease of \$5.1 million below the FY 1997 Currently Available, which consists of program increases of \$10.6 million and program decreases of \$15.8 million.

Activity Based (ORF)



Goal Based (Strategic Plan Structure)



Climate and Air Quality Research

OAR's climate and air-quality research improves our understanding of oceanic and atmospheric processes by monitoring and developing predictive capabilities of such processes. This improved understanding helps to provide sound scientific advice to managers of our Nation's oceanic and atmospheric resources.

NOAA is requesting an increase of \$4.9 million to ensure a stable funding base for the maintenance of the Tropical Ocean-Global Atmosphere (TOGA) observing system. This initiative funds *in-situ* components which already have been shown to provide essential measurements for skillful forecasts of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon. These funds will transform a proven research-based system into an operational activity. This observing system collects data central to an ENSO forecast system. Accurate climate forecasts will enable farmers to plant and irrigate crops more intelligently, water managers to prepare for drought or flood conditions, and energy companies to prepare for expected demands (during heat waves or winter storms).

An increase of \$1.0 million is requested for the Health of the Atmosphere program. This increase will enable NOAA to contribute to the Nation's first scientific air quality assessment, which will provide decision-makers with the critical information needed to develop effective strategies for improving air quality and implementing the Clean Air Act and its amendments. Further, NOAA would be able to clarify options for addressing high ozone levels in a variety of rural areas in the Eastern U.S., where both crop and forest damage are critical issues and where high natural emissions must be accounted for in formulating options. NOAA would also be able to complete the early detection monitoring system, which will allow air quality researchers to document whether actions are having their intended consequences of achieving cleaner air. The return on this research investment will be high because economic losses from ozone pollution are estimated at \$3 to \$5 billion annually. Cost savings would accrue also by avoiding over-regulation or misregulation.

A \$1.0 million increase is proposed in NOAA funding for the GLOBE Program to support continued growth in the number of participating U.S. schools and the breadth of science data being collected for the international science community.

A \$2.0 million increase is requested for the Climate and Global Change Program to continue activities of the International Research Institute (IRI) and operational climate forecasts, and improve seasonal-to-interannual climate modeling and prediction over North America through process research programs. Funds will also augment research and support of the Global Ocean Atmosphere Land System Program (GOALS), the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX) Continental-scale International Project (GCIP). The increase will augment research in support of near-term policy decisions regarding climate-change issues. The issues include laboratory studies to measure stratospheric ozone-depleting reactions and field investigations to

characterize ozone losses and monitor the effects of substitutes. This research provides the scientific basis for policy choices associated with substitutes for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halon, as well as other ozone-depleting gases.

Atmospheric Programs

These include research programs that will provide the Nation with more accurate forecasts and warnings of severe weather and geomagnetic storms that annually cause hundreds of deaths and billions of dollars worth of damage. Research is focused on developing better observing tools, understanding the processes that cause weather and solar-terrestrial phenomenon, and applying that information to improve warnings and forecasts. NOAA has led the effort to produce the interagency implementation plan for the U.S. Weather Research Program. No increases or decreases are proposed for this subactivity.

Ocean and Great Lakes Programs

These programs represent NOAA's efforts to better understand and predict changes in ocean and Great Lakes environments, ensure optimal use of those environments and their resources, and promote economic growth in marine industries. Research efforts help to establish a sound scientific basis for management decisions on development and use of coastal, estuarine, and Great Lakes resources. Research also seeks to understand and predict physical, biological, and chemical processes and their interaction with contaminants in the near-shore zone. In addition, these programs investigate the factors affecting the recruitment of young fish and shellfish into economically significant stocks, predict environmental conditions in the oceans and Great Lakes, and seek to understand the processes and significance of deep-sea venting to the global budgets of greenhouse gases. Included in the Marine Prediction Research line item, is support for VENTS, the broad-based program that studies chemical, biological and geological processes on the ocean floor.

Marine Prediction Research has \$3.5 million in proposed program terminations for lower priority programs such as: Arctic Research; Tsunami Hazard Mitigation; and the Lake Champlain Study. The Sea Grant College Program has \$4.1 million in proposed terminations for the National Coastal Resources and Development Institute, funding for oyster disease research and in zebra mussel research. Finally, a decrease of \$6.6 million is proposed for the National Undersea Research Program. The Administration supports the NURP program at the \$5.4 million level, which will allow for a streamlined, yet nationally competitive research program

Acquisition of Data

NOAA is requesting a net increase of \$0.2 million for this subactivity in FY 1998. An increase is requested for the operation of the NOAA ship *Ronald H. Brown*. In FY 1997, funds were appropriated under the National Ocean Service, but actually supports oceanic and atmospheric research operations. The decrease

is requested which will result in reductions in base support of operations (shore based and days-at-sea).

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research						
Climate and Air Quality Research						
Interannual & Seasonal Climate Research	21	68,000	21	12,900	0	(55,100)
Long-Term Climate & Air Quality Research	217	35,872	217	36,902	0	1,030
GLOBE		6,000		7,000	0	1,000
Climate and Global Change	123	[60,000]	123	62,000	0	62,000
Total Climate and Air Quality Research	361	109,872	361	118,802	0	8,930
Atmospheric Programs						
Weather Research	228	37,963	228	37,963	0	0
Solar-Terrestrial Services and Research	65	5,493	65	5,493	0	0
Total Atmospheric Programs	293	43,456	293	43,456	0	0
Ocean and Great Lakes Programs						
Marine Prediction Research	135	20,851	135	17,326	0	(3,525)
Sea Grant	22	54,300	22	50,182	0	(4,118)
Undersea Research Program	8	12,000	8	5,400	0	(6,600)
Total Ocean and Great Lakes Programs	165	87,151	165	72,908	0	(14,243)
Acquisition of Data	127	12,690	127	12,884	0	194
Total Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	946	253,169	946	248,050	0	(5,119)

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	296	51,954	296	49,579	0	(2,375)
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	289	60,609	289	66,776	0	6,167
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change	307	67,394	307	69,788	0	2,394
Promote Safe Navigation		389		389	0	0
Build Sustainable Fisheries	10	27,682	10	23,498	0	(4,184)
Recover Protected Species		340		340	0	0
Sustain Healthy Coasts	44	44,801	44	37,680	0	(7,121)
Total Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	946	253,169	946	248,050	0	(5,119)

National Weather Service

Total Request: \$642,454,000

\$503,763,000: Operations, Research and Facilities

\$138,691,000: Capital Assets Acquisition Account

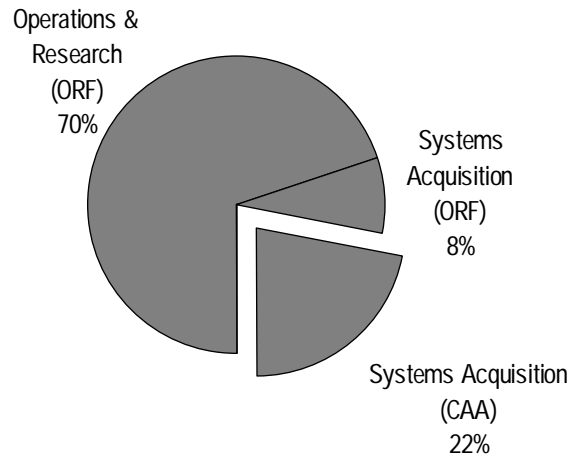
In FY 1998, NOAA is proposing to establish a Capital Assets Acquisition Account. Portions of this activity will be requested in that account. The following narrative describes the total activities of the National Weather Service (NWS) and does not distinguish between appropriation accounts. The detailed narrative has been divided to show the ORF and Capital Assets Acquisition subsections.

NWS provides weather and flood warnings, public forecasts, and severe weather advisories for all of the United States, the territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas primarily for the protection of life and property. Weather services are provided by a nationwide network of offices that collect data, utilize guidance products centrally prepared through the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), prepare warnings and forecasts, and disseminate the information to the public. NWS modernization activities continue to apply the latest advances in science and technology to operational forecasting, and replace obsolete equipment. The NWS contributes to the achievement of three of NOAA's Strategic Plan goals; Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services, Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecasts, and Predict and Assess Decadal to Centennial Change.

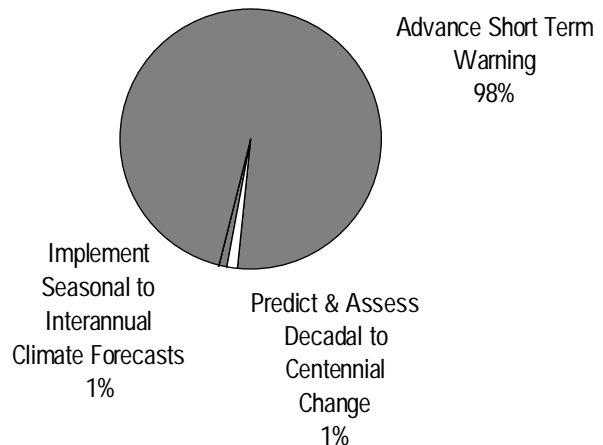
For FY 1998, the National Weather Service (NWS) requests \$642.5 million. This is a net decrease of \$10.0 million for Operations and Research and an increase of \$14.4 million for Systems Acquisition. These changes have been calculated from the FY 1997 Currently Available. Of the amount cited above, \$138.7 million are included in the Capital Assets Acquisition Account.

In response to decreases to absorptions in the NWS base operating budget over the past three years and recent Congressional direction, the NWS is finalizing plans to accelerate reductions in headquarters staffing levels and centrally provided support operations within the National Capitol Area. Beginning in FY 1997, the NWS is re-engineering certain aspects of its current program

**Activity Based
(Appropriations Structure)**



**Goal Based
(Strategic Plan Structure)**



operations in order to function within a more restrictive budget environment. The savings both in terms of FTE and dollars as a result of the above FY 1997 actions have been taken into account in the FY 1998 base.

Operations and Research

A net decrease of \$10.0 million is requested to maintain NWS operations (+\$10 million) and continue planned streamlining activities under the Modernization and Associated Restructuring Demonstration and Implementation of the (MARDI) program (-\$20.8 million).

An increase of \$10.8 million is requested for base operations of the NWS. This funding is requested in order to maintain the NWS operational infrastructure and to ensure the provision of basic weather warning and forecast services to the public. The base restoration is necessary to offset mandatory cost increases and the temporary cost saving actions taken in FY 1997 to support a minimally acceptable level of weather services. This restoration is also needed to restore proposed savings from streamlining the certification provisions of P.L. 102-657 that were enacted in FY 1997. No funds provided in this request will be used to restore or alter any of the planned permanent headquarters or central support reductions.

A decrease of \$17.8 million is requested for the MARDI program in FY 1998 reflecting the continuing downsizing of NWS field operations and staff and the removal of the one-time contract cost for the NOAA Weather Radio Console Replacement System. The request also includes funding for equipment and operational costs associated with mitigation activities recommended in the Secretary's Team Report on NEXRAD Coverage and Associated Degradation of Weather Services at 32 Areas of Concern.

The decrease in the MARDI program identified above, also includes \$3.0 million in savings related to streamlining procedures required under the Weather Service Modernization Act (P.L.102-567). Specifically, the NWS proposes to streamline the current certification process related to consolidating, automating and closing weather service offices. This proposed amendment is being transmitted as part of the President's Budget.

A decrease of \$0.6 million is requested in the radiosonde replacement program to reflect the decision to suspend additional new investment in this project until the NOAA finalizes its plan for a future composite observation system. A decrease of \$0.4 million is requested for the Susquehanna River Basin Flood Warning System to reflect the on-going needs of the program.

A decrease of \$2.0 million is requested to reflect the privatization of the Regional Climate Center Program (RCCs). The RCCs provide specific regional climate information that can more appropriately be provided by non-Federal sources.

Systems Acquisition [Operations, Research & Facilities Account]

In FY 1998, this subactivity provides for the continued operation and maintenance of the following systems: Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), and the Upgrade of the Central Computing Facility. Acquisition costs for these systems are requested in the Capital Assets Acquisition account.

A total of \$39.6 million is requested in ORF to operate and maintain the NWS network of 123 NEXRAD. The total NEXRAD program budget of \$51.0 million represents a decrease of \$2.2 million from the levels provided in FY 1997 to reflect the completion of the acquisition program.

A total of \$5.3 million is requested in ORF to operate and maintain the NWS network of 320 ASOS units. The total ASOS program budget of \$9.8 million represents a \$0.2 million reduction from the FY 1997 to reflect the completion of the acquisition program.

NOAA requests a total of \$8.0 million in ORF for the Central Computer Facility upgrade budget to reflect the continuing lease and maintenance of the Cray C-90 supercomputer. The total Central Computer Facility program budget of \$13.9 million represents a \$0.1 million reduction from levels provided in FY 1997.

Systems Acquisition [Capital Assets Acquisition Account]

This account provides funding for the activities associated with multi-year procurement of the major systems supporting the NWS. Currently these systems are NEXRAD, ASOS, the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), and the Upgrade of the Central Computer Facility. The non-capital assets acquisition costs for these systems are contained in the ORF account under the Systems Acquisition subactivity.

A total of \$11.4 million is requested in this account to reflect remaining system acquisition and to support continued product improvement. The total NEXRAD program budget is \$51.0 million.

A total of \$4.5 million is requested in this account to support continued planned product improvements to ASOS. The total ASOS program budget is \$9.8 million.

NOAA requests a total of \$116.9 million in FY 1998 for the AWIPS program. This represents an increase of \$16.9 million over the amounts provided in FY 1997 in the ORF account for this program. These funds will allow for continued critical software development activities and to proceed with nationwide deployment of the AWIPS system.

A total of \$5.9 million is requested in this account for the Upgrade of the Central Computer Facility to provide for payment toward the Cray J-916 systems buyout and to complete the NWS telecommunications gateway upgrade.

(For more details on these projects, refer to multi-year table for Capital Assets Acquisition on page 14 and the Bridge of Changes From FY 1997 to FY 1998 in the Appendix.)

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
National Weather Service						
Operations and Research						
Local Warnings and Forecasts	4,469	430,096	4,210	418,799	(259)	(11,297)
Central Forecast Guidance	266	28,700	266	29,543	0	843
Atmospheric and Hydrological Research	45	2,000	45	2,489	0	489
Total Operations and Research	4,780	460,796	4,521	450,831	(259)	(9,965)
Systems Acquisition, Public Warning and Forecast Systems	419	177,201	373	191,623	(46)	14,422
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>	<i>[419]</i>	<i>[177,201]</i>	<i>[179]</i>	<i>[52,932]</i>	<i>[-240]</i>	<i>[-124,269]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[194]</i>	<i>[138,691]</i>	<i>[+194]</i>	<i>[+138,691]</i>
Total National Weather Service	5,199	637,997	4,894	642,454	(305)	4,457
<i>Included in ORF</i>	<i>[5,199]</i>	<i>[637,997]</i>	<i>[4,700]</i>	<i>[503,763]</i>	<i>[-499]</i>	<i>[-134,234]</i>
<i>Included in CAA</i>			<i>[194]</i>	<i>[138,769]</i>	<i>[+194]</i>	<i>[138,691]</i>

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
National Weather Service						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	5,090	623,244	4,785	629,577	(305)	6,333
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	54	6,564	54	4,688	0	(1,876)
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change	55	8,189	55	8,169	0	0
Total National Weather Service	5,199	637,997	4,894	642,454	(305)	4,457

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Total Request: \$470,063,000

\$149,485,000: Operations, Research and Facilities

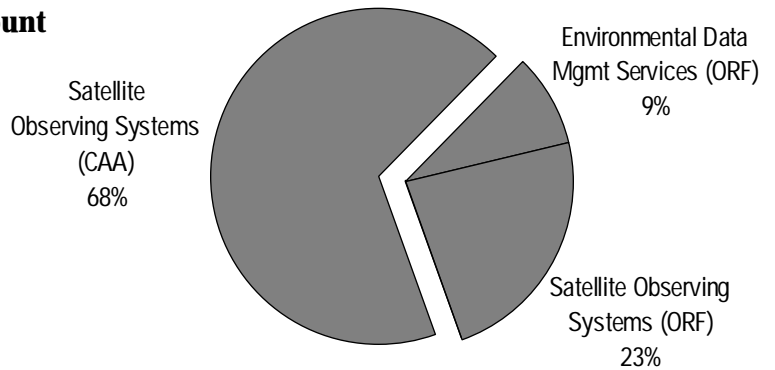
\$320,578,000: Capital Assets Acquisition Account

In FY 1998, NOAA is proposing to establish a Capital Assets Acquisition Account. Portions of this activity will be requested in that account. The following narrative describes the total activities of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and does not distinguish between appropriation accounts. The detailed narrative has been divided to show the ORF and Capital Assets Acquisition subsections.

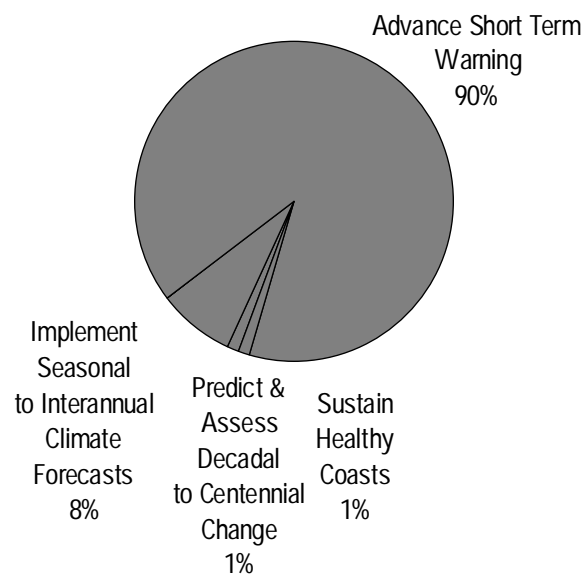
NESDIS provides for procurement, launch, and operation of the polar orbiting and geostationary environmental satellites, and management of NOAA's environmental data collections. NESDIS also acquires operational data from non-NOAA environmental satellites that include Department of Defense (DOD) and foreign satellite missions. The satellites provide meteorological data to the National Weather Service (NWS) and other environmental data users. Environmental data and information are collected from NOAA and other sources, disseminated in real time, and archived for future use, to meet the needs of users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science and engineering, the general public, and Federal, state and local agencies. NESDIS contributes to the achievement of five of NOAA's Strategic Plan Goals; Advance Short-Term Forecast and Warning Services, Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecasts, Predict and Assess Decadal to Centennial Change, Recover Protected Species, and Sustain Healthy Coasts.

For FY 1998, the National Environmental, Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) requests \$470.1 million. This reflects program increases of \$90.2 million and program decreases of \$67.8 million. All of these changes are calculated as changes from the FY 1997 currently available. Of

**Activity Based
(Appropriations Structure)**



**Goal Based
(Strategic Plan Structure)**



the amount cited above, \$320.6 million is included in the Capital Assets Acquisition Account.

Satellite Observing Systems—Operations, Research and Facilities Account

This subactivity provides for the operation of current polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites, including the follow-on GOES series, the planning for the next series of polar satellites (the tri-agency convergence program), and the acquisition of satellite data from non-NOAA satellites. Operations for the LANDSAT-7 program are also included within this subactivity.

The Polar-Orbiting System request includes a increase of \$22.5 million. This increase reflects NOAA's share of the converged polar orbiting system which will succeed the current NOAA satellites and the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) of the Department of Defense after the current series of satellites have expended their useful lives. This program is a Tri-Agency (NOAA, DOD, and NASA) effort designed to integrate the polar orbiting satellite programs as recommended in the National Performance Review.

A decrease of \$0.2 million for Ocean Remote Sensing provides \$3.8 million to continue receiving and processing data from satellites operated by other countries. This data is made available to scientists, the maritime industry, and coastal zone managers.

A decrease of \$0.7 million provides \$50.3 million to maintain on-going satellite operations and product development and distribution.

Satellite Observing Systems—Capital Assets Acquisition Account

This activity provides funding for the multi-year procurement of spacecraft, launches, and associated ground system changes for the polar orbiting and geostationary operational environmental satellites (POES and GOES).

The FY 1998 request for the Polar Orbiting System includes a decrease of \$64.4 million to cover the continuation of NOAA K through N prime spacecraft and additional instruments for the European satellites that will provide morning coverage starting in the early 2000's. This reduction reflects planned cost changes in the satellite procurement program and lower costs as a result of longer than expected mission duration.

The FY 1998 request for the Geostationary System is increased by \$66.2 million to cover the costs for the continuation of the GOES I through M spacecraft and instrument contracts and to begin procurement of up to four additional satellites, GOES N-Q, to assure continuity of two-spacecraft operations into the early 2000s.

Environmental Data Management Systems—Operations, Research and Facilities Account

This budget subactivity provides \$43.8 million for environmental data and information products, services, and assessments in the atmospheric, marine, solid earth, and solar-terrestrial sciences to all of NOAA's programs. The FY 1998 request continues to provide global data and information in commerce, industry, agriculture, science and engineering, the general public, and Federal, state and local governments. Also included in this subactivity is NOAA's ongoing effort to rescue aging data and improve user access to all NOAA maintained environmental data. The FY 1998 decrease of \$1.0 million in this subactivity reflects savings anticipated from the implementation of the NOAA Virtual Data Center (NVDC) that will modernize existing data and storage systems and vastly improve, streamline and simplify customer access to environmental data. For customers and data users, NVDC will permit ease of access, through a single gateway, to data stored at the three data centers located at different geographical locations. Fees will be priced based on the cost of dissemination. Revenues generated will be used to offset the costs associated with data modernization.

Also included in this line item is increased funding of \$1.5 million for the operations and maintenance of the Satellite Active Archives (SAA).

(For more details on these projects, refer to multi-year table for Capital Assets Acquisition on page 14 and the Bridge of Changes From FY 1997 to FY 1998 in the Appendix.)

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
NESDIS						
Satellite Observing Systems						
Polar Spacecraft and Launching	13	176,300	13	134,408	0	(41,892)
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>	<i>[13]</i>	<i>[176,300]</i>	<i>[0]</i>	<i>[51,503]</i>	<i>[-13]</i>	<i>[-124,797]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[13]</i>	<i>[82,900]</i>	<i>[+13]</i>	<i>[+82,905]</i>
Geostationary Spacecraft and Launching	21	171,480	21	237,673	0	66,193
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>	<i>[21]</i>	<i>[171,480]</i>			<i>[-21]</i>	<i>[-171,480]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[21]</i>	<i>[237,673]</i>	<i>[+21]</i>	<i>[+237,673]</i>
Ocean Remote Sensing (ORF)		4,000		3,800		(200)
Environmental Observing Services (ORF)	507	51,000	507	50,347	0	(653)
Total Satellite Observing Systems	541	402,780	541	426,228	0	23,448
Environmental Data Management Systems, Data and information services (ORF)						
Total National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information	807	447,582	807	470,063	0	22,481
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>	<i>[807]</i>	<i>[447,582]</i>	<i>[773]</i>	<i>[149,485]</i>	<i>[-34]</i>	<i>[-298,097]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[34]</i>	<i>[320,578]</i>	<i>[+34]</i>	<i>[+320,578]</i>

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	541	399,865	541	423,513	0	23,648
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	266	38,175	266	37,208	0	(967)
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change		3,219		3,219	0	0
Recover Protected Species		1,202		1,202	0	0
Sustain Healthy Coasts		5,121		4,921	0	(200)
Total National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information	807	447,582	807	470,063	0	22,481

Program Support

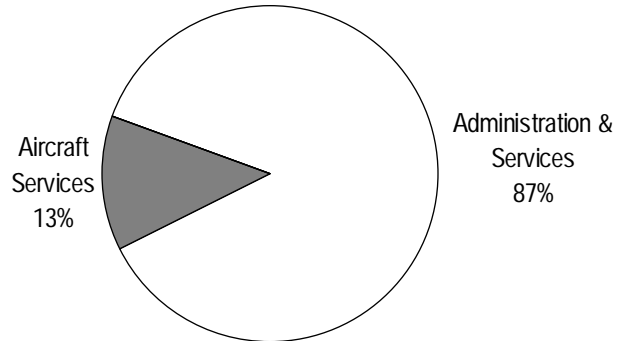
Total Request: \$77,158,000

For FY 1998, Program Support requests \$77.1 million. This reflects program increases of \$6.7 million, program decreases of \$1.3 million.

Executive Direction and Administration

An increase of \$0.7 million is requested for NOAA's share of the Department's total shared CAMS cost. Also, \$1.0 million of funding will be redirected within the base for the CAMS project. CAMS is essential for NOAA to reduce and replace its labor intensive processes to meet streamlining targets, and achieve the integrated systems needed for an unqualified audited financial statement required under the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (CFO). The funds will be used for the design, development, and implementation of the procurement and contracts modules. The core staff of the Systems Acquisition Office is included in this line item.

Activity Based
(Appropriations Structure)



Central Administrative Support

A decrease of \$1.2 million, an approximate five percent reduction from the FY 1997 Currently Available, is requested to meet the Administration's goal to balance the budget.

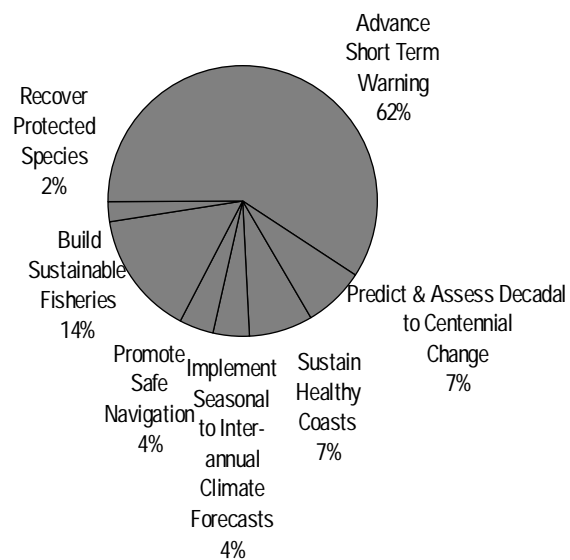
Retired Pay/Benefits to Commissioned Officers

NOAA is requesting \$14 million under this line item to fund costs of disestablishing the NOAA Corps. This is an increase of \$6.0 million over the amount provided in FY 1997 to cover the retired pay costs.

Marine Services

Consistent with the FY 1997 Appropriation, funds from this subactivity are reflected in the three budget activities that utilize ship support (National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Oceanic and Atmospheric Research) under Acquisition of Data. These funds will provide for the operation of NOAA's fleet of vessels and outsourcing arrangements with vessels of the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

Goal Based
(Strategic Plan Structure)



Aircraft Services

This subactivity supports all of NOAA's aircraft support services. NOAA operates uniquely configured aircraft to perform NOAA's missions including hurricane research and reconnaissance, snow surveys to support water conservation and flood control, photogrammetry for charting, marine mammals surveys, airborne lidar hydrographic surveys, and aeronautical chart updating surveys. These aircraft directly support timely and accurate storm and weather warnings and forecasts, accurate charts for safe navigation, effective stewardship of living marine resources, and studies which increase our understanding of ocean and atmospheric processes and the effects of pollution on habitats, air and ocean quality, and climate change.

The Aircraft Services request includes a decrease of \$0.5 million for base operations. This decrease in funding will result in less flight hours for Hurricane Research and Reconnaissance; Air Quality Research; Nautical Charting; and Snow Surveys. The reduced flight hours to support marine mammal surveys will result in increased costs to NMFS. The NOAA request includes funding to operate the new high-altitude (G-IV) jet for a limited number of hurricane surveillance flights during FY 1998 (135 flight hours and/or 15 missions).

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
Program Support						
Administration and Services						
Executive Direction and Administration	328	20,697	328	21,408	0	711
Central Administrative Support	795	33,000	795	31,850	0	(1,150)
Retired Pay Commissioned Officers	0	8,000	0	14,000	0	6,000
Total Administration and Services	1,123	61,697	1,123	67,258	0	5,561
<i>Marine Services</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>[57,730]</i>	<i>[689]</i>	<i>[52,528]</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>[-5,202]</i>
Aircraft Services	106	10,000	106	9,900	0	(100)
Total Program Support	1,229	71,697	1,229	77,158	0	5,461

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
Program Support						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	722	42,742	722	43,256	0	514
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	56	3,265	56	3,300	0	35
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change	76	5,170	76	5,214	0	44
Promote Safe Navigation	61	3,117	61	3,068	0	(49)
Build Sustainable Fisheries	196	10,759	196	10,921	0	162
Recover Protected Species	21	1,227	21	1,254	0	18
Sustain Healthy Coasts	97	5,417	97	5,498	0	81
Infrastructure				4,656	0	4,656
Total Program Support	1,229	71,697	1,229	77,158	0	5,461

Facilities / Construction

Total Request: \$61,798,000

In FY 1998, NOAA is proposing to establish a Capital Assets Acquisition Account. In addition, NOAA is proposing to eliminate the Construction Account and move those activities not requested in the Capital Assets Acquisitions Account into the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) Account.

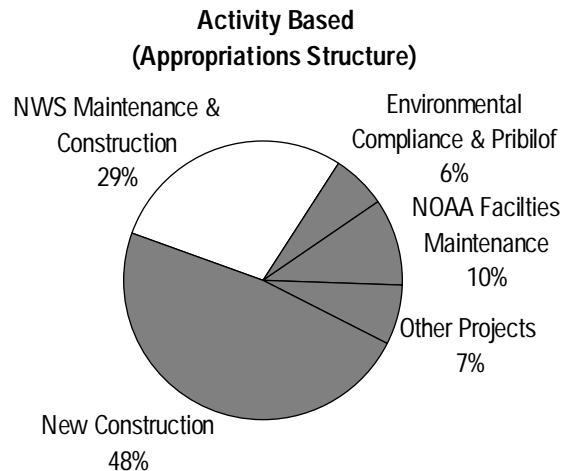
The following narrative describes the total activities previously covered in the Construction Account, and does not distinguish between appropriation accounts.

NOAA has the ongoing need to acquire a land to construct new facilities; repairs, preventive actions, make major modifications and additions to existing facilities; perform facilities maintenance and environmental compliance, and maintain the safety of its buildings. In FY 1998, \$61.8 million is requested, an increase of \$3.5 million over FY 1997. (For more details on these projects, refer to multi-year table for Capital Assets Acquisition on page 14 and the Bridge of Changes From FY 1997 to FY 1998 in the Appendix.) The following descriptions are divided into two major groupings: non-capital asset activities in ORF, and capital asset activities.

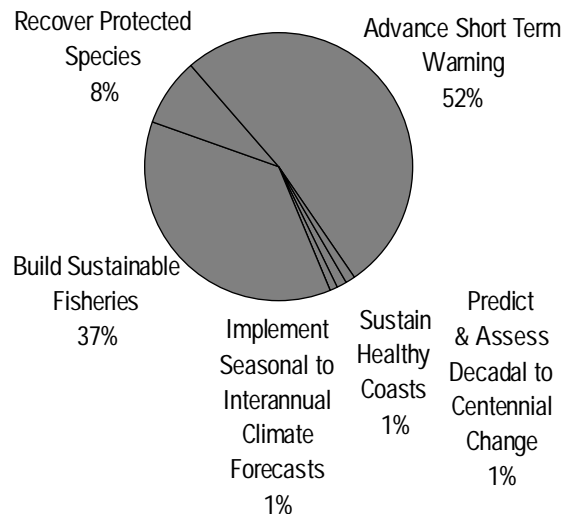
ORF Items

NOAA Facilities Maintenance and Sandy Hook Lease

As the NOAA-owned facilities have an average age of 30 years, investment in significant, major repairs and upgrades becomes increasingly critical. Major systems in many facilities are well past their design life and require maintenance, repair or replacement to ensure that the facilities remain available to support NOAA's programs. NOAA requests a net increase of \$0.7 million to continue the process of identifying major facility repair and system replacement needs, and implementing the highest priority repair and renovation projects.



**Goal Based
(Strategic Plan Structure)**



An increase of \$0.3 million is also requested for increased lease/operation and maintenance costs at the Sandy Hook Laboratory in Highlands, New Jersey.

Environmental Compliance and Cleanup

NOAA requests a program increase of \$1.7 million for NOAA's nationwide Environmental Compliance Program. The program provides for compliance with Federal, state and local laws, regulations and safety requirements. With this request, NOAA will be able to establish a central link for monitoring nationwide facility compliance status, make progress in correcting deficiencies noted during the audit assessment process, and begin to institute policies and activities which will minimize the likely occurrence of future deficiencies. In accordance with Federal law, NOAA will also establish the environmental status and correct deficiencies discovered at NOAA facilities prior to their transfer to other Federal agencies or to the private sector.

NOAA requests a decrease of \$5.0 million for the Pribilof Islands, Alaska project. Over the past several years, NOAA has been in the process of assessing the contamination and performing work necessary to correct or remediate environmental problems. Work to date has included the completion of a Preliminary Assessment, an expanded site investigation, certain phases of cleanup activities, finalization of that agreement with the State of Alaska, and development of a cooperative agreement program to complete cleanup work using local entities. No funds are requested for this project in FY 1998 because the project is nearing completion.

WFO Facilities Maintenance

A net increase of \$2.0 million is requested for the WFO Facilities Maintenance program which is needed to provide emergency repair and maintenance actions for operating Weather Forecast Offices across the country. The WFO Facilities Maintenance reflects the shift from primarily leased facilities to requirement owned.

Other Requests in ORF

A total of \$4.5 million is requested for the Columbia River facilities, a reduction of \$0.2 million.

Other Changes in the Construction Account

NOAA requests the following decreases/terminations: The Charleston Laboratory \$5.0 million; Alaska Fisheries Center \$6.0 million, Honolulu Laboratory \$2.0 million; Newport Marine Science Center \$3.5 million; National Estuarine Research Reserves facilities \$1.0 million, and the New Hampshire Environmental Technology facility \$8.5 million.

Construction [Capital Assets Acquisition Account]

This account provides funding for the activities associated with multi-year construction/procurement of NOAA facilities. Currently included in this account are WFO Construction, The National Centers for Environmental Prediction, a NOAA center on the NASA Goddard Campus, the Boulder Colorado Laboratory Building, and a NMFS Laboratory at Santa Cruz, California.

Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Construction

NOAA requests a total of \$13.8 million in FY 1998 to support the completion of the Weather Service major facility modernization program, including costs associated with a WFO in northern Indiana. This request represents an increase of \$1.8 million over amounts provided in FY 1997. The WFO Construction program meets the NWS facility requirements supporting the provision of public weather services and the nationwide fielding of new technology systems such as NEXRAD and AWIPS. The program involves land acquisition, facility design and engineering, site preparation, modifications, and construction of 119 WFOs and 13 collocated River Forecast Centers (RFCs).

Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Restructuring

An increase of \$0.7 million is requested for NCEP restructuring and consolidation efforts the initial facility costs for the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., and the Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City, Mo. The total FY 1998 budget is \$0.7 million.

New Facilities Construction

This funds NOAA's major facilities construction, renovation and consolidation projects of strategic importance to NOAA's mission. NOAA requests a net increase \$27.7 million for new facilities construction.

The budget request includes \$12.6 million for the architectural and engineering required for construction of a new NOAA operations and research center at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The funds will provide for building design, interior design, planning, and project management costs associated with development of a 350,000 gross square-foot building to accommodate 1,200 employees, visiting scientists, and contractors dedicated to NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service including the Satellite Operations Control Center, as well as the Washington, D.C.-based components of the National Weather Service's National Centers for Environmental Prediction. The request is partially offset by rent savings of \$4.7 million in ORF. The NOAA Operations and Research Facility will support scientific synergism between the NOAA Data Centers and the NASA Earth Observing System Data Information Service programs regarding science support, operations, management and technology.

Included also in the Construction activity is a decrease of \$0.1 million for the Boulder Lab.

NOAA requests \$15.2 million for the National Marine Fisheries Service Lab project at Santa Cruz, CA. The laboratory will replace the aging Tiburon Laboratory and will allow NOAA/NMFS to collocate research and certain regional office functions into a single facility. This will allow NMFS to eliminate leased space needs in Santa Rosa, Calif.

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY REQUEST						
Construction/Facilities						
NOAA Facilities Maintenance (ORF)			6	6,488	6	6,488
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>	<i>[6]</i>	<i>[5,500]</i>			<i>[-6]</i>	<i>[-5,500]</i>
Environmental Compliance & Pribilof (ORF)			9	3,700		3,700
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>	<i>[9]</i>	<i>[7,000]</i>			<i>[-9]</i>	<i>[-7,000]</i>
NWS Maintenance & Construction			4	17,473	4	17,473
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>	<i>[4]</i>	<i>[13,000]</i>			<i>[-4]</i>	<i>[-13,000]</i>
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>				<i>[2,950]</i>		<i>[+2,950]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[4]</i>	<i>[14,523]</i>	<i>[+4]</i>	<i>[+14,523]</i>
New Construction				29,672		29,672
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>		<i>[23,200]</i>				<i>[-23,200]</i>
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>						
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>				<i>[29,672]</i>		<i>[+29,672]</i>
Other Projects in ORF				4,465		4,465
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>		<i>[9,500]</i>				
Total Construction/Facilities	<i>[19]</i>	<i>[58,250]</i>	19	61,798	0	61,798
<i>[Included in Construction Appropriation]</i>	<i>[19]</i>	<i>[58,250]</i>			<i>[-19]</i>	<i>[-58,250]</i>
<i>[Included in ORF]</i>			<i>[15]</i>	<i>[17,603]</i>	<i>[+15]</i>	<i>[+17,603]</i>
<i>[Included in CAA]</i>			<i>[4]</i>	<i>[44,195]</i>	<i>[+4]</i>	<i>[+44,195]</i>

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
Construction/Facilities						
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	7	21,528	7	32,359	0	10,831
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	1	1,099	1	491	0	(608)
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change		1,052		520	0	(532)
Promote Safe Navigation		646		183	0	(463)
Build Sustainable Fisheries	10	26,099	10	23,033	0	(3,066)
Recover Protected Species	1	5,202	1	4,607	0	(595)
Sustain Healthy Coasts		2,624		605	0	(2,019)
Total Construction/Facilities	19	58,250	19	61,798	0	3,548

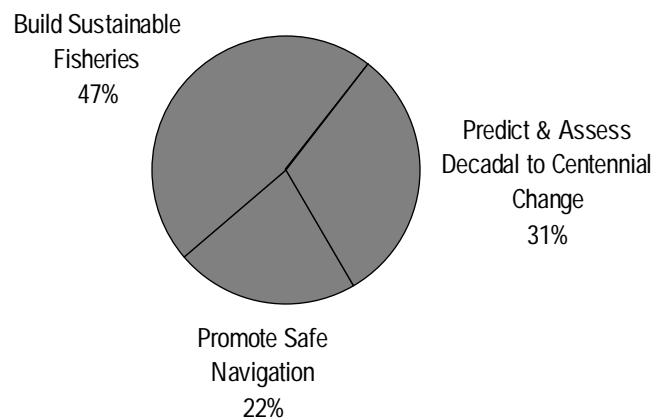
Fleet Maintenance and Planning

Total Request: \$11,823,000

For FY 1998, funding for programs previously requested in the Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding and Conversion appropriation are being requested in the Fleet Maintenance and Planning activity of the ORF appropriation. Within ORF, funding is requested for the repair and maintenance of vessels, including related equipment to maintain the existing fleet and for the planning of future modernization. In future years, any funds for new construction, conversion, or repair to extend will be requested in the Capital Assets Acquisition Account.

In FY 1998, an increase of \$3.8 million is requested, bringing the funding level to \$11.8 million. This increase will provide for the maintenance on existing ships, systems improvements to enhance hydrographic survey capability, and repairs to the fisheries research ship *Miller Freeman* which operates primarily in Alaskan waters. In addition, design of a new class of acoustically quiet fisheries research vessels will be started.

Goal Based (Strategic Plan Structure)



<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
ACTIVITY BASED						
Fleet Maintenance and Planning						
Fleet Maintenance and Planning	17	8,000	12	11,823	(5)	3,823
<i>[Included in Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding and Conversion]</i>	<i>[17]</i>	<i>[8,000]</i>			<i>[-17]</i>	<i>[-8,000]</i>
<i>[Included in Fleet Maintenance and Planning]</i>			<i>[+12]</i>	<i>[+11,823]</i>	<i>[+12]</i>	<i>[+11,823]</i>

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
GOAL BASED						
Fleet Maintenance and Planning						
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change		2,385		3,700	0	1,315
Promote Safe Navigation	2	1,337	2	2,601	0	1,264
Build Sustainable Fisheries	15	4,278	10	5,522	(5)	1,244
Total Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding and Conversion	17	8,000	12	11,823	(5)	3,823

Fisheries Finance, Program

(formerly Fishing Vessel Obligation Guarantee Fund)

Total Request: \$238,000

Under the authority of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 and the provisions of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, the Federal Ship Financing Fund became a liquidating account for loan guarantees made prior to FY 1992. New loan guarantees made on or after October 1, 1991, were made under the Fishing Vessel Obligation Guarantee (FVOG) appropriation. The re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in September 1996 changed the program to direct loans, versus loan guarantees and thus is now titled the Fisheries Finance, Program (vice Fishing Vessel Obligations Guarantees).

The Fisheries Finance, Program makes long-term fisheries loans for vessels and shoreside facilities (including aquaculture facilities). Vessel loans do not increase overcapitalization in the fishing industry (they either reduce fishing capacity or are capacity neutral).

Capacity-reduction financing complements fisheries management. Program financing and refinancing help to stabilize vessels remaining in fisheries and shoreline facilities by providing longer-term debt service more consistent with the economically useful lives of production equipment and the fisheries' economic variability. Program financing for retiring of excess competition is repaid by increasing the productivity of vessels remaining in the fishery. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended allows the Fisheries Finance, Program to earn interest income at a rate of two percent above its interest cost of borrowing loan capital from the U.S. Treasury. The Program income prior to the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization was one percent, and the assumed subsidy rate (cost) was one percent. This one percent cost, per the Federal Credit Reform Act, has been appropriated annually. In FY 1997, this amount was \$250 thousand with loan authority of \$25 million.

The President's FY 1998 Budget Request is based upon the one percent subsidy rate; therefore an appropriation is requested.

The FY 1998 President's Budget requests an appropriation of \$238 thousand which will provide loan authority of \$23.8 million.

Promote and Develop Fishery Products & Research Pertaining to American Fisheries (P & D)

Total Request: \$4,000,000

The American Fisheries Promotion Act (AFPA) of 1980 authorized a grants program for fisheries research and development projects and a National Fisheries Research and Development Program to be carried out with Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) funds. S-K funds are derived from duties on imported fisheries products. An amount equal to 30 percent of these duties is transferred to the Department of Commerce from the Department of Agriculture. The FY 1998 Budget estimates this transfer at \$66.4 million. Of this \$66.4 million, \$4.0 million will be used for the S-K grants program to develop a healthy fishery based industry (including costs of program administration); and for the National Fisheries Research and Development Program. The remainder of the transfer (\$62.4 million) will be used to offset the Operations, Research, and Facilities account.

The increase at the requested level of \$3.6 million will provide, though at a reduced level, a program with emphasis on reduction and elimination of bycatch, biotechnology research, and aquaculture. The FY 1997 available funding, including carryover from FY 1996, was \$13.6 million.

Fishing Vessel and Gear Damage Compensation Fund (FVGDCF)

This program was authorized by the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended by P.L. 95-376, Section 10 (f) (1), of September 18, 1978 and P.L. 96-561 of 1980. This Fund provides compensation to fishing vessel owners who sustain losses or damage to their gear or vessels attributed to other fishing vessels. The Fund is supported by a surcharge imposed upon foreign fishing permit fees and is operated through the appropriation of existing balances from previous year surcharges and interest earned. A decrease of \$200 thousand is requested since no foreign fishing vessel permit surcharges have been collected since 1984. By FY 1998 these funds will be depleted, so no appropriation is requested in FY 1998.

Fishermen's Contingency Fund (FCF)

Total Request: \$953,000

Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of September 18, 1978, (P.L. 95-372, Section 402) as amended, established the Fishermen's Contingency Fund. This Fund provides compensation to domestic fishermen for the damage or loss of fishing gear, and resulting economic loss due to obstructions related to oil and gas exploration, development, or production in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Fund is supported by assessments on holders of leases, explorations, permits, easements, and rights of way in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. For FY 1997, an appropriation of \$953 thousand is requested for claims and administrative expenses. This is a reduction of \$47 thousand which is requested in order to fund other initiatives within a constrained budget.

Foreign Fishing Observer Fund (FFOF)

Total Request: \$189,000

The Foreign Fishing Observer Fund provides observer coverage of foreign fishing activities within the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Fund is supported by fees charged to foreign fishermen for the cost of placing an observer aboard their vessel while operating within the EEZ. Beginning in FY 1985, foreign fishermen were also permitted to contract directly with NMFS approved observer contractors to obtain observers (Supplemental Observer Program).

There is expected to be little foreign fishing activity in FY 1998. The FY 1998 budget requests \$189 thousand, which is a reduction of \$7 thousand from the FY 1997 level.

Appropriated funds plus direct contracting under the Supplemental Observer Program will provide 100 percent observer coverage.

Coastal Zone Management Fund (CZMF)

Net Request: \$3,064,000

The Coastal Zone Management Fund was established by the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA). Section 308 of this Act authorized the CZMF to be used first for the administrative costs of the Coastal Zone Management Program, and secondly for six other type of projects and grants. The FY 1998 budget proposes that \$5.6 million be used for program administration and \$2.2 million be used for the other specified purposes. The budget proposes that all funding for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) come from NOAA's OR&F appropriation. Of the \$7.8 million of budget authority requested, \$4.7 million will be offset from collections.

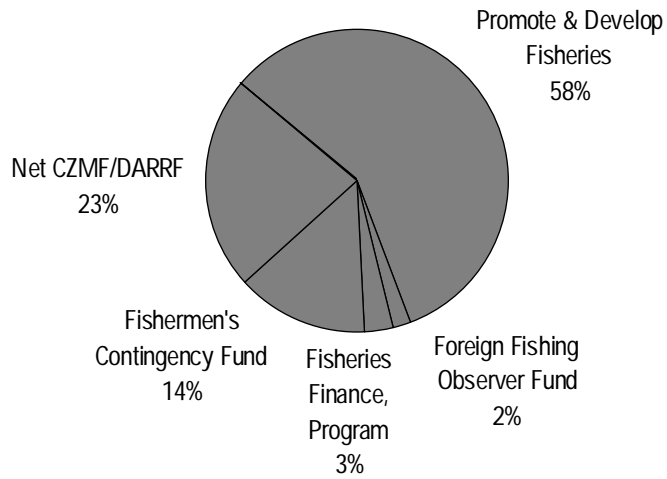
FY 1998 is the last year that expenditures from this fund can remain at the \$7.8 million level, since the Fund balance will have fallen to approximately \$500 thousand. Beginning in FY 1999 annual expenditures will have to be reduced to approximately \$5 million.

Damage Assessment And Restoration Revolving Fund (DARRF)

Net Request: \$-1,500,000

The Damage Assessment and Restoration Revolving Fund (DARRF) was established under Section 1012(a) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, to facilitate oil and hazardous material release response, damage assessment, and natural resource restoration activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The DARRF provides for the deposit of sums transferred by any party or governmental entity and, to retain for future use, funds that are recovered through settlement or awarded by court or recovered by NOAA through negotiated settlement or reimbursement. In FY 1998, the net of budget authority transfers from the Department of Interior (\$3.7 million) and to ORF (\$5.2 million) will result in a net budget of \$-1.5 million for this account.

Other Accounts
Total Request \$6,944,000



<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Current Avail. FY 1997		FY 1998 Pres. Req.		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Other Accounts						
Construction Appropriation	19	58,250	0	0	19	(58,250)
<i>Included in CAA</i>			[4]	[44,195]	[4]	[+44,195]
<i>Included in ORF</i>			[15]	[17,603]	[15]	[+17,603]
Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding and Conversion	17	8,000	0	0	(17)	(8,000)
<i>Included in ORF</i>			[12]	[11,823]	[12]	[+11,823]
Promote and Develop Fisheries	4	381	4	4,000	0	3,619
Fishing Vessel and Gear Damage Fund	2	200	0	0	(2)	(200)
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	2	1,000	2	953	0	(47)
Foreign Fishing Observer Fund	0	196	0	189	0	(7)
DARRF	0	(1,500)	0	(1,500)	0	0
Fisheries Finance, Program	0	250	0	238	0	(12)
Coastal Zone Management Fund	49	7,800	49	7,800	0	0
CZMF-Mandatory Collections	0	(4,400)	0	(4,736)	0	(336)
Total B.A., Other Accounts	93	70,177	55	6,944	(38)	(63,233)