



Ecosystems



What is requested? NOAA's Ecosystems Goal requests \$1,097.5 million, reflecting a net increase of +\$62.8M over the FY 2006 base level. The goal integrates NOAA resources to make progress on two key strategic outcomes: 1) Healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society; and 2) A well informed public that acts as a steward of coastal and marine ecosystems. There are requested increases for Ecosystem Observations, Protected Species, Ecosystems Research, Fisheries Management, Enforcement, Aquaculture, Corals, Coastal Marine Resource Management, and Habitat.

What are the benefits? Improved health of coral reef ecosystems through increased state and territory management capacity. More fishery stocks managed at sustainable levels. Increased fisheries production through aquaculture. Increased compliance with the laws and regulations through application of information technology and forensic accounting expertise. Better living marine resource management decisions through improved stock assessments, increased understanding of the economic and socio-cultural impacts of management decisions, improved ecosystem assessments and forecasts, and improved data and information management and accessibility. More restored habitat. Better control of invasive species. Improved timeliness of Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) permit issuance and consultations. Ocean, coastal and Great Lakes coastal resource managers increasingly apply innovative scientific technologic tools.

Why do we need it? Billions of dollars of value in recreational and commercial activity depend on healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments. Pressures on these systems are increasing and in some cases have already caused severe impacts such as fishery closures, massive hypoxia events, and widespread habitat degradation. Improving and protecting the condition of these resources requires better science and information, state of the art tools and platforms, more effective internal and external integration and collaboration, and highly skilled personnel.

What will we do? NOAA will advance ecosystems approaches to management by delineating ecosystem boundaries; engaging stakeholders in regional settings, establishing a set of indicators to measure ecosystem status; integrating NOAA actions at the ecosystem level to ensure maximum effectiveness; holding regional workshops to establish and refine research priorities; developing offshore aquaculture legislation, and exploring new ways to integrate NOAA's efforts with those of other key federal, state, and local institutions. Examples of how NOAA will execute on the Administration's *U.S. Ocean Action Plan* include implementing Coral Reef Local Action Strategies to address key threats to coral reef ecosystems; supporting regional ecosystem collaboration efforts such as Great Lakes Interagency Task; further developing the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS); equipping NOAA's new exploration vessel to link shore-based scientists, educators and the public with live mission images and data; and expanding the use of dedicated fishery access privilege programs. NOAA will also conserve species and prevent future Endangered Species Act listings by developing proactive conservation plans; monitor over 8,000 vessels using Vessel Monitoring Systems installed through subsidies to the fishing industry; build the capacity of state and local managers to protect, restore, and manage the coast, and provide scientifically based information on the status of living marine resources and their environments.

NOAA FY 2006 Budget (\$ in Millions)		
	Current Program	Program Change
ORF	\$928.4	\$62.7
PAC	\$0.0	\$0.0
OTHER	\$106.4	\$0.0
TOTAL	\$1,034.8	\$62.7

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