



FY2006 Budget Highlights



OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) requests \$174.7 million in FY 2006, reflecting a net decrease of -\$1.0M over the FY 2006 base level.

This budget request supports the operation and maintenance of NOAA's ships and aircraft and some of NOAA's outsourcing to meet ship and aircraft support needs; modernization and replacement of NOAA's ships; commissioned officers assigned to operational, technical, and management billets throughout NOAA; NOAA's operational Diving, Teacher at Sea, and Small Boat Safety programs; adjustments to Base (ATB's) to cover pay raises and cost increases for goods and services; and ship and aircraft support. OMAO's request will also provide 4,160 ship operating days for collecting data to manage the Nation's fishery stocks and protect marine mammals, update nautical charts for safe marine commerce, predict climate changes, and maintain healthy coasts. To supplement NOAA's fleet, 855 ship operating days will be chartered. (An additional 4,290 chartered days will be purchased with other Line Offices' funds.) In addition to ship operating days, 2,050 flight hours are provided for collecting data for hurricane and winter-storm predictions, climate predictions, and environmental monitoring. Finally, 3,200 flight hours will be out-sourced with Line Offices program funds.



FSV4 is required to provide new capabilities and additional capacity to significantly improve the precision and accuracy of scientific assessments, monitor additional living marine resources and support West Coast fisheries management. In addition, it will employ state-of-the-art, acoustic quieting technologies, resulting in very low noise signatures, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of data collection at sea.

Currently, no charter vessels exist that can provide this acoustically-quiet, multi-mission capability. Commercial vessels are not constructed and balanced to comply with noise and vibration specifications that promote accurate readings and thereby avoid sub-optimal recommendations on fishing quotas.

FY 2006 Program Changes

Vessel Upgrades +\$3.2M: Funds will be used to upgrade the McARTHUR II, NANCY FOSTER, and OSCAR ELTON SETTE to better support data collection requirement of NOAA's Ecosystem Goal. Upgrades include modifications and/or renovations of lab spaces; addition of mission boats; installation of an A-frame; and ventilation system modifications.

Vessel Construction +\$32.5M: Funds will be used to exercise the fourth Fisheries Survey Vessel (FSV) option on the existing, four-ship contract; thereby retaining current pricing.

For More Information: Contact
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NOAA FY 2006 Budget (\$ in Millions)		
	Current Program	Program Change
ORF	\$120.5	\$0
PAC	\$36.7	\$(1.0)
TOTAL	\$157.2	\$(1.0)