



# FY2006 Budget Highlights



## NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS), also known as "NOAA Oceans and Coasts," requests \$408.7 million in FY 2006, reflecting a net increase of +\$27.9M over the FY 2006 base level. This budget request supports the improvement of navigation products and services that will promote efficient and safe transportation in U.S. waters, and allow for further investment in coastal science to provide a firm foundation for management of coastal and ocean resources.

### FY 2006 Program Changes

**VDatum +\$2.0M:** Funds will be used to implement the National Vertical Datum Transformation Tool. VDatum will benefit NOAA's modernization efforts in shoreline measurement and hydrographic surveying for navigation safety. In addition, the tool will enable the blending of geospatial datasets among federal/state/local agencies and academia that currently cannot be shared due to disparate reference datums. NOAA will also be able to transition VDatum from successful demonstration projects to a national program over the next 5 years.

**Electronic Navigational Charts +\$1.9M:** Funds will be used to continue the planned incremental investment in NOAA's effort to provide full contiguous ENC coverage of U.S. waters. Sustained funding at this level will allow NOAA to achieve complete Electronic Navigational Chart coverage for the nation by the end of FY 2008.

**National Currents Program +\$1.5M:** Funds will be used to ensure that NOAA's Annual Tidal Current Table predictions are maintained in an accurate status by systematically conducting observations to update potentially dangerous tidal current predictions based on old or insufficient data. In addition, NOAA will be able to increase its observation rate from 10 sites per year to 70 sites per year, fully addressing the most critical areas around major ports.

**Coral Reef Program +\$1.5M:** Funds will be used to improve the condition of coral reefs through support and implementation of locally driven 3-year action strategies. NOAA will augment state and territory grants for implementation of Local Action Strategy (LAS) priority projects intended to translate the broad national goals proposed by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy into on-the-ground action. The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force initiated the LAS process to develop local conservation initiatives with measurable results in each of the seven U.S. states and territories with coral reefs. The requested funding is expected to leverage non-NOAA resources for additional on-the-ground action.



**National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science +\$2.6M:** Funds will be used to enhance the quality and quantity of ecosystem data in support of coastal resource conservation and management activities; improve understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); and conduct additional research in support of Protected areas and the Chesapeake Bay. NOAA will expand the National Status and Trends Program, which collects a wide range of chemical, biological and physical monitoring data that provides the information necessary for NOAA to assess the environmental health of coastal ecosystems. The request will also allow NOAA to conduct additional research into the processes and effects associated with growth and reproduction of HABs, further developing its HAB forecasting capabilities. Finally, NOAA will investigate the effects of different land use practices on the health of the Chesapeake Bay's resources, particularly on the incidence of disease in commercially important species in the Bay.

**National Estuarine Research Reserve System +\$0.6M:** Funds will be used to expand the National Estuarine Research Reserve System through a new reserve in Texas, which is scheduled for designation in FY 2005. The Texas NERR will be the 27<sup>th</sup> reserve, and will be located in a biogeographic region that is not currently represented within the system.

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NOAA FY 2006 Budget (\$ in Millions)		
	Current Program	Program Change
ORF	\$368.9	\$25.4
PAC	\$12.0	\$2.5
OTHER	\$6.0	\$0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$386.9</b>	<b>\$27.9</b>