



FY 2009 NOAA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



National Marine Fisheries Service

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests \$782.3M in FY 2009, reflecting a net decrease of \$13.7M from the FY 2008 President's Budget and a net decrease of \$46.1M from the FY 2008 enacted level. This budget request supports the funding and program requirements necessary to address established NOAA strategic goals and sets NMFS on a path to achieve its vision: that the American people enjoy the resources and benefits of healthy and diverse marine ecosystems.

The FY 2009 request supports the new requirements of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSRA) including provisions to end overfishing and rebuild stocks, promote market-based management approaches, improve recreational data collection, expand cooperative research programs, and strengthen enforcement of international fisheries.

FY 2009 Program Change Highlights

Expand Annual Stock Assessments +\$8.5M: NMFS will improve the quality and quantity of science used to establish annual catch limits (ACLs) and market-based management processes by expanding fishery-dependent and fishery-independent survey efforts. NMFS will update stock assessments, expand survey charters for under-researched stocks, and optimize and standardize stock assessment models so that Annual Catch Limits can be set with the best available science.

Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Stipends +\$5.1M: These funds will allow NMFS to set up accountability measures for setting ACLs at levels such that overfishing does not occur. NMFS will enhance the peer review of scientific data, provide stipends for non-government employees of the Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) to attract and retain highly qualified scientists, and develop ACL levels that do not exceed SSC recommendations.

Recreational Fisheries Statistics +\$3.0M: NOAA will expand sampling of recreational fishing effort, support the MSRA-mandated registry system, and launch an outreach and education campaign to encourage angler participation. Angler sampling will be expanded to eleven additional states. Telephone, shoreside, and at-sea survey sampling levels will increase by 16%.

Economics & Social Sciences Research +\$4.7M: This increase will restore funding to implement economic analysis projects and decision support tools to identify management options that impose the least cost on stakeholders and achieve the greatest benefit to society.

Enforcement and Observers +\$3.2M: Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing impedes the management of domestic fisheries and contributes to a loss of GNP and fishing industry-related revenues. This

request supports a MSRA requirement to strengthen international fisheries enforcement by providing additional infrastructure to monitor U.S. IUU imports and support partnerships with other federal agencies and countries involved in IUU.



Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Management Commission +\$1.0M: NMFS will provide the MSRA-mandated leadership for the U.S. delegation to this new organization managing Pacific highly migratory species.

Deep Sea Coral Research +\$1.5M: The MSRA and the President's *Ocean Action Plan* call for enhanced research and protection of deep coral habitats. NMFS will increase protection of this vulnerable habitat by mapping locations of deep sea corals and monitoring fishing and other activities near these areas.

Cooperative Research +\$1.2M: This increase will allow NMFS to fully implement a nationwide, regionally-based cooperative research program as mandated by the MSRA. The number of cooperative research projects nationwide will increase from 16 to 24.

Reduce Bycatch +\$0.6M: To reduce adverse fishing gear impacts on sea birds, marine mammals, fish, and sea turtles, NMFS will initiate a Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program as called for by MSRA. This program will provide grants to partner organizations to develop bycatch reduction techniques and encourage gear adoption.

Antarctic Research +\$0.5M: NMFS' Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program will fulfill the U.S.'s CCAMLR treaty obligations to collect biological and oceanographic information in the Antarctic. This increase will provide funds for increased ship charter days – enabling the continuation of one of NOAA's longest running data streams on the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

NMFS FY 2009 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)				
	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Request	FY09 Request vs. FY08 Enacted
ORF	\$828.7	\$708.3	\$724.2	\$15.9
PAC	\$11.2	\$2.0	\$0.0	-\$2.0
Other	\$94.0	\$118.7	\$58.1	-\$60.6
TOTAL	\$933.9	\$829.1	\$782.3	-\$46.8

For more information, contact the NOAA Budget Office:
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