



FY 2009 NOAA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) requests \$198.2M in FY 2009, reflecting a net increase of \$13.3M over the FY 2008 President's Budget, and a net increase of \$16.2M from the FY 2008 enacted level. This budget request supports the funding and program requirements necessary to address established NOAA strategic goals and sets OMAO on a path to achieve its vision: To be the best in class for sea and air operations and data acquisition for NOAA and the Nation.

FY 2009 Program Change Highlights

Maritime Crew Safety and Rotation +\$1.7M: Funds will be used to comply with international safety and training requirements to ensure that NOAA vessels can enter foreign ports and to improve ship staffing and rotation. This funding will continue a multi-year initiative first requested in FY 2007 and will enable NOAA vessels to meet the intent of industry standards and regulations. From FY 2007 to FY 2008, NOAA will have experienced an approximately 16% increase in the number of seagoing positions, and it is currently experiencing a high attrition rate of 23% for wage mariners. This increase will help NOAA provide an effective staffing rotation on its ships and reduce the attrition rate to 19%.

Additional Operations and Maintenance for NOAA Aircraft +\$4.0M: This request will address the additional operational and maintenance funding needs to ensure NOAA's aircraft can sustain current flight-hour capacity and also meet NOAA's ever-increasing mission needs, legislative mandates, and Executive Orders. The requested funds will provide an additional 1,295 flight hours for hurricane research, surveillance, and reconnaissance, as well as for winter storms, snow-melt flood forecasting, coastal mapping, and geodic modeling. The funding will also allow NOAA to meet increased maintenance requirements needed for the increased flight hour requirements, as well as maintaining the current operational tempo.



For more information, contact the NOAA Budget Office:
(202) 482-4600 – or – AskNOAABudget@noaa.gov



Major Repair Period (MRP) for the RAINIER +\$6.1M:

The 39-year-old RAINIER is the most productive coastal hydrographic survey ship in the NOAA fleet. The hydrographic data collected by the vessel results in the "safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods and people in the U.S. transportation system," and represents a significant percentage of the total Commerce & Transportation data acquisition capability. However, the RAINIER requires a major capital investment in mechanical and electronic systems in order to safely sustain its current operational tempo for an additional nine years until a replacement vessel can be obtained. Additionally, funds will be used to mitigate the risk from exposure to asbestos. Once the major renovations conducted during the MRP are completed, day-to-day maintenance will be simplified, both reducing the long-term maintenance costs and reducing the risk to personnel, property, and mission capability.

BELL M. SHIMADA Calibration +\$1.0M: This request will enable NOAA to calibrate the SHIMADA with ground fish, marine mammal, and ecosystem monitoring surveys currently conducted by the DAVID STARR JORDAN over an 18-month period. Calibration surveys ensure that errors are not introduced into fisheries stock assessments and marine mammal population estimates conducted in the West Coast region. The request will provide additional operating funds for augmented crew staffing during the calibration period. The SHIMADA has an extremely low acoustic signature and the ability to conduct trawl surveys at the same times as physical and biological oceanographic data. Such a capability currently does not exist in the academic and private sectors.

OMAO FY 2009 Budget (\$ in Millions)				
	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Request	FY09 Request vs. FY08 Enacted
ORF	\$129.1	\$151.8	\$160.5	\$8.7
PAC	\$37.3	\$5.3	\$11.5	\$6.2
OTHER	\$21.1	\$24.9	\$26.2	\$1.3
TOTAL	\$187.5	\$182.0	\$198.2	\$16.2

