



DEAR FRIENDS OF NOAA

I am pleased to present the NOAA budget summary for Fiscal Year 2012. Here you will find accomplishments from the previous year, descriptions of our programs and missions, and our plans for fulfilling NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Goals and the priorities set forth by the Administration and the Department of Commerce.

NOAA has a strong track record of scientific excellence and this budget will continue to advance that work. Science and innovation are the engines of economic growth; moreover, diverse businesses and communities rely on NOAA's data and products to make important decisions. So while NOAA takes significant steps within this budget to help reduce government spending, it also makes key investments in the next generation of research and informational products to meet the growing demand for NOAA's science and services and to drive economic recovery. Ultimately, supporting America's businesses, communities, and people is NOAA's business.

Climate is everyone's business. NOAA is working to understand and predict near- and long-term changes in our climate and provide this information to inform real decisions. Farmers across the country need climate information to make choices about what crops to plant and when to plant them. City planners armed with predictions about future sea level rise can direct coastal development to safer locations – protecting lives, property, and commerce. The construction industry needs information on climate variability in order to adequately design new projects and materials that are resilient to the projected range of heat and cold. To ensure that NOAA can provide these data and products in a timely way, this budget proposes a reorganization of NOAA to create a Climate Service. The Climate Service will be a single, reliable, and authoritative source for products and information that address people's needs. Additionally, this budget supports increases in our regional climate services to provide regionally tailored climate products in six U.S. regions.

Weather is everyone's business. No business or community is spared the impacts of severe weather. Storms can wreak havoc on transportation, bringing air, rail, and highway travel to a standstill, stranding thousands of travelers, and impeding the transport of goods and services. Accurate NOAA weather forecasts help the airlines and others plan in advance to avoid these impacts, lessening the economic toll and enhancing public safety. Agriculture, tourism-related businesses, emergency managers, and fishermen are all directly impacted by weather and rely on accurate weather forecasts to plan accordingly. This budget provides improvements to key Weather Service infrastructure necessary for the timely delivery of more complex and tailored weather forecasts and continues the successful implementation of NOAA's satellite program.

Energy is everyone's business. Solar, wind, and wave energy generation are closely tied to weather and climate trends – and therefore new research in these areas is essential to the growth of the renewable energy sector. Energy companies and businesses looking to increase the generation and use of renewable energy will need forecasts to understand when renewable generation is likely, and equally

importantly, when it is not. NOAA proposes budget increases that will improve our capabilities to understand and forecast atmospheric conditions amenable to wind energy generation, and proposes improvements to the Integrated Ocean Observing System that will aid in generating wave forecasts. The budget also continues to support regional planning efforts so that all offshore uses – include renewable energy – are sited in a manner that reduces user conflicts and limits site-specific and cumulative impacts to the ecosystem.

Healthy oceans and coasts are everyone's business. In 2010, the White House released the first National Ocean Policy – reinforcing the notion that “Healthy Oceans Matter.” The far reaching impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill further demonstrated the close tie between healthy oceans and healthy coastal economies and communities. NOAA is committed to providing the information necessary to promote environmental stewardship, support a range of coastal-based industries, and benefit coastal communities and economies. Sustainable fish stocks support robust commercial and recreational fisheries, which in turn support numerous associated onshore businesses. NOAA's efforts to sustainably manage fisheries nationwide – including the budget proposal for increasing baseline stock assessments – will add value to coastal communities over the long term. NOAA also provides nautical charts and high-resolution port information critical to America's shipping industry and the transportation of billions of dollar in goods. Modest proposed increases in our mapping program through this budget will significantly improve the accessibility of NOAA mapping data.

I believe this budget has achieved balance between fiscal responsibility and promoting the next generation of science, products, and services to improve American competitiveness. NOAA and the Department of Commerce will continue to pursue innovation throughout our mission and to support advances in the green economy as avenues to promote economic recovery and growth. I look forward to continuing to work with excellent people throughout NOAA, our partners in the Federal government and nationwide, and with the Congress to ensure that we collectively achieve these goals and continue to serve America's businesses, communities, and people.



Jane Lubchenco

TERMINOLOGY The reader should be aware of the specific meaning of several terms as they are used throughout this budget summary:

“FY 2010 Enacted”

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Appropriations (P.L. 111-117)

“FY 2011 Annualized CR”

An annualized version of P.L. 111-322, this represents NOAA's estimated funding levels throughout FY 2011.

“Climate Reorg”

In the FY 2012 President's Request, NOAA proposes consolidating climate related activities into a new line office the Climate Service. As part of this process, technical adjustments are made to the budget, transferring funds and FTEs from the OAR, NWS, and NESDIS line offices to the proposed line office, the Climate Service.

“Adjustments-to-Base”

Program totals will provide inflationary increases for non-labor activities, including service contracts, utilities, field office lease payments, and rent charges from GSA. In addition, ATBs include unique/technical adjustments to the base program, for example transfers of base resources between budget lines

“FY 2012 Base”

Fiscal year (FY) 2011 Annualized CR plus Adjustments-To-Base including those related to the proposed Climate Reorganization and other Adjustments

“Program Change”

Requested increases/decreases over the FY 2012 base

“FY 2012 Request”

FY 2012 Base, plus Program Changes