



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

FY 2012 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests \$1,001.1M in FY 2012, reflecting a net decrease of \$15.1M from the FY 2010 Enacted. This budget request supports NOAA and the Department of Commerce's (DOC) efforts to conserve, protect, and manage living marine resources in a way that ensures their continuation as functioning components of marine ecosystems, affords economic opportunities, and enhances the quality of life for the American public.

Protected Species Research and Management-Environmental Consultations and Stock Assessments +\$5.5M: To support the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act, NMFS will improve the capacity to deliver environmental consultations and protected resource stock assessments. Stock assessments (\$2.5M) provide the scientific basis for decision makers to design conservation and mitigation measures, while scientifically sound and legally defensible consultations (\$3.0M) tailor the actions of other federal agencies to avoid harm to listed species. With this funding NMFS can support a balance between conservation objectives and economic activities such as commercial fisheries and energy development activities.

Species Recovery Grants +\$8.0M: These funds will allow NMFS to conduct cooperative conservation and recovery efforts with states and tribes. Funding will be targeted to priority recovery actions for listed species including restoring habitat; monitoring population trends; developing conservation plans to address incidental take; and educating the public about conservation of ESA listed species.

National Catch Share Program +\$36.6M: Catch share programs give fishermen a stake in the benefits of a well-managed fishery, and therefore, greater incentive to ensure effective management. The request supports analysis and evaluation of new programs across the Nation, the development of fishery management plans and regulations to support catch shares, observing and monitoring programs at sea and on shore for specific fisheries, and enforcement activities. This will specifically support catch share operations of the Northeast multispecies fishery, Gulf of Mexico Grouper and Tilefish, West Coast Trawl fishery, and additional programs in the North Pacific.

NMFS FY 2012 Budget Request (\$ Millions)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request	FY 2012 Request vs. FY 2010 Enacted
ORF	\$904.5	\$895.0	\$910.4	\$5.9
PAC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$103.6	\$122.4	\$90.7	(\$12.9)
TOTAL	\$1,008.2	\$1,017.4	\$1,001.1	(\$7.1)

Expand Annual Stock Assessments +\$15.0M: The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) mandates establishment of annual catch limits (ACLs) in all fisheries by 2011 to prevent overfishing. NMFS will increase capacity to conduct stock assessments in FY 2012. Adequate stock assessments increase economic opportunities by allowing optimum catch levels to be set without risking overfishing and harm to the marine ecosystem. NMFS will prioritize assessments using the following criteria: 1) valuable stocks and associated fishery-limiting stocks with high uncertainty influencing ACLs, 2) intensity of fishing, 3) stock abundance, 4) updating outdated assessments, 5) economic and ecologic importance of the stock, and 6) synergistic factors.

Recreational Fisheries Statistics +\$3.0M: NMFS has made a commitment to work more closely with the recreational fishing community. Currently fisheries managers lack timely recreational catch monitoring which leads them to set catch limits that are too low in order to avoid harm to the fishery resource. The consequences of such actions to fishermen include less catch, shorter fishing seasons, and lost economic opportunity. In FY 2012 this request will support more timely and improved tracking of recreational fisheries. NMFS will provide monthly rather than bi-monthly telephone and shore side sampling surveys and implement electronic logbook reporting programs for charter boats and headboats.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION