FY06 Roll Out Questions and Answers

PLEASE NOTE: There are additional Q&As at the end of the document which were added after February 3, 2005.

Text as of: 2/2/2005

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NOS

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Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Coastal Observation Technology System

Question: **More than $75M has been provided to NOAA over the past four years to foster a national Coastal Observing system based on regional coastal observation programs that are currently in place. NOAA claims to support such a system, yet there is no funding in the FY 2006 budget for regional observation systems. Why?**

Answer: **• While NOAA has not requested a specific budget item for IOOS, much of NOAA's existing observational data collection contributes to IOOS, including the regional observation systems.**

• Congress has indeed been supportive of the Coastal Observation Technology System (COTS).

• NOAA has been working with our partners to help establish the foundation of an Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).

• The full benefits of an Integrated Ocean Observing System will only be realized through comprehensive planning and implementation, as indicated in the US Ocean Action Plan (the Administration's response to the US Commission on Ocean Policy).

• With leadership provided by NOAA, the interagency Ocean.US office is completing its comprehensive First Annual IOOS Development Plan, which will allow for coordinated efforts across the US for establishment of IOOS.

• Once the First Annual IOOS Development Plan is approved by the National Ocean Research Leadership Council, NOAA will be in an improved position to request support for IOOS.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
COTS Earmarks	$16.157	$28.692	$0.000	$25.429	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Coastal Observation Technology System

Background: • NOAA is a primary contributor to the Ocean.US IOOS Development Plan and is the lead Federal agency for IOOS as directed by Congress in the FY2005 Omnibus report language.

• COTS projects support development of regional capacity for coastal ocean observations by:

1) Creating infrastructure (e.g., sensors, data management systems) and methodologies to collect, share, and integrate environmental data and create useful information products; and

2) Developing organizational/governance structures for regional associations as components of IOOS.

Member(s): House: Ehlers (R-MI), Hoyer (D-MD), Young (R-FL), Farr (D-CA)
Senate: Snowe (R-ME), Gregg (R-NH), Vitter (R-LA), Warner (R-VA), Stevens (R-AK), Boxer (D-CA), Feinstein (D-CA), Cochran (R-MS)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

Question: **Does the Administration intend to put forward legislation to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act?**

Answer: **• The Administration plans to work with Congress, States, Tribal and local governments on the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).**

• NOAA will continue to interact with key constituent groups through national and regional meetings, topic based workshops, and other fora.

• Results from these activities will help inform reauthorization of the CZMA.

• Several necessary CZMA changes include:

requiring States to develop measurable objectives;

broadening the scope of CZMA to include watershed efforts;

amending the objectives of the Act to correspond to the performance measure system.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
CZMA Grants	$68.518	$67.399	$63.963	$66.039	$63.963	$63.963	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • The Administration will work with the Congress to reauthorize CZMA.

• The Nation's coasts are managed by the coastal States and territories, in part through financial grants from the Coastal Zone Management Program. This program is a Federal-State partnership, which encourages restoration and sustainable development of the coastal communities and resources.

• 34 out of the 35 coastal states participate in the CZMA program. (Illinois is the one coastal state that does not participate)

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL), Saxton (R-NJ), Farr (D-CA), Ehlers (R-MI), Gilchrest (R-MD), Capps (D-CA)
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Coral Reef Conservation Program

Question: **What are NOAA's priorities for coral reef spending in 2006?**

Answer: **• This year NOAA is asking for a $1.5M increase to support coral reefs in accordance with the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.**

• This was announced by CEQ Chairman Connaughton at the Coral Reef Task Force meeting on December 2, 2004.

• The increase will support 3-year Local Action Strategies designed to address key local threats to coral reef ecosystems. Increased funding for this effort will result in 42 additional Local Action Strategy projects in 7 U.S. states and territories.

• We will continue our efforts to characterize and map all U.S. shallow coral reefs, with the goal of completing this task by 2009.

• The program will also target research to promote understanding of coral reef ecosystem function and the impact of human activities on reefs. This information allows managers to target actions that will help reduce and eliminate threats to coral reef ecosystems.

• NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program works with hundreds of partners to leverage millions of dollars to help reduce threats to coral reefs and conserve these valuable resources and the communities that depend on them.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOS Coral Reef	$11.923	$26.321	$13.462	$24.641	$24.462	$25.962	$1.500
NMFS Coral Reef	$10.929	$0.000	$11.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
NESDIS Coral Reef	$0.745	$0.000	$0.737	$0.739	$0.700	$0.737	$0.037
OAR Coral Reef	$0.497	$0.495	$0.500	$0.493	$0.500	$0.500	$0.000
Hawaii, Florida, Puerto Rico Coral Reef	$1.987	$2.721	$0.000	$2.957	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$26.081	$29.537	$25.699	$28.830	$25.662	$27.199	$1.537

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Coral Reef Conservation Program

Background: • Coral reefs are one of the most diverse, productive, and economically important habitats found in tropical and semitropical areas.

• According to the" 2004 Status of Coral Reefs of the World", coral reef ecosystems continue to decline because of global changes, direct human pressures, and inadvertent human activities and neglect.

Member(s): House: Gilchrest (R-MD); Pallone (D-NJ); Faleomaveaga (D-AS); Abercrombie (D-HI); Bordallo (D-GU); Christensen (D-VI); Acevedo-Vila (D-PR); Miller (D-CA); Case (D-HI); Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Senate: Snowe (R-ME); Inouye (D-HI); Lautenberg (D-NJ); Nelson (D-FL); Akaka(D-HI)

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs)

Question: **What is the anticipated schedule for when NOAA will provide complete Electronic Navigational Chart coverage for the nation?**

Answer: **• At the funding level requested in 2006, the target for complete Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) coverage for the Nation is late FY 2008.**

• To date, 425 ENCs have been built.

• With the $1.9M funding increase requested in 2006, NOAA will add 145 ENCs in 2006, for a total of 670 ENCs by the end of 2006.

• ENCs are an important component of the coordinated coastal mapping activities identified in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Electronic Navigational Charts	$3.328	$4.304	$6.190	$4.239	$4.300	$6.190	$1.890

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • After initial construction, (which is a one-time expense), ENCs must be maintained and verified to be of continuous use to the mariner.

• Without the $1.9M funding increase, NOAA will cease building new ENCs at about 700. 1000 ENCs are required for full coverage.

• ENC maintenance is divided into two components: analysis and application of new material and validation of charted hydrographic and geographic data by NOAA regional Navigation Response Teams (NRTs).

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA); Gilchrest (R-MD); Young (AK)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK); Gregg (R-NH); Nelson (D-FL)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

Question: **How much does NOAA intend to spend implementing the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) in FY 2006?**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 budget request includes at least $8.9M for HABHRCA related research grants, and potentially more.**

• Since the extramural research dollars are funded through the competitive grants process, it is too early to determine how much will be provided for HABHRCA implementation.

• This compares favorably to the $6.5M in HABHRCA related research grants that were awarded in FY 2004.

• NOAA will strive to meet the highest priorities identified in HABHRCA legislation through a competitive, merit-based review and selection process to address those areas which are most pressing to our Nation's coastal resource managers, and most consistent with NOAA's mission.

• For example, HABHRCA funding has allowed us to develop the Gulf of Mexico HAB Bulletin, which produces daily information and twice weekly forecasts that are used to determine the current and future location and intensity of harmful algal blooms, and the likely impacts to the environment. In addition, NOAA is training local government officials on how to use these forecasts for coastal management purposes.

• In 2005, we will commence work on the President's US Ocean Action Plan commitment to update the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan, which will specify science and management goals for understanding and reducing hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
ECOHAB	$4.173	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Hypoxia	$1.078	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Harmful Algal Blooms	$4.968	$0.000	$0.000	$4.933	$4.933	$4.933	$0.000
Pfiesteria/HAB Rapid Resp	$3.974	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
SC HAB/Pfiesteria Earmarks	$0.596	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Ocean Assessment Program	$0.000	$0.000	$8.925	$8.797	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Extramural Research (HABHRCA related)**	$0.000	$4.000	$0.000		$8.925	$8.925	$0.000
Woods Hole HAB	$0.000	$2.473	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$14.789	$6.473	$8.925	$8.806	$8.925	$8.925	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** FY05 Enacted amount of Extramural Research (HABHRCA related) is currently unknown, pending completion of the FY2005 competitive grants process.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

Background: • On December 10, 2004 the President signed the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act (HABHRCA) of 2004.

• The Act calls on NOAA to advance the scientific understanding of and ability to detect, monitor, assess, and predict harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxia (low oxygen conditions). Further, it allows NOAA to broaden existing programs in additional geographic areas such as the Great Lakers and upper reaches of estuaries. The Act also establishes several reporting requirements on HAB and hypoxia research. NOAA will continue to coordinate with the Task Force and other agencies in responding to these reporting requirements.

•For NOAA, HABHRCA reauthorizes and expands efforts to combat two coastal phenomena which routinely threaten human health, kill marine animals, impact fisheries, and cost millions of dollars each year.

• Also, HABHRCA reconstitutes the Federal Interagency Task Force on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

• In response to comments from Stephaine B. -- Congress cut funding for HABHRCA and other external research grants in FY 2004, which is why the FY 2004 awards were low. NOAA's requests in 2004, 2005, and 2006 have always included at least $8.9M for HABHRCA related research. NOAA's 2006 Request does not place a higher priority on HABHRCA research than past requests.

Member(s): House: Boehlert (R-NY), Ehlers (R-MI), Gilchrest (R-MD), Baird (D-WA)
Senate: Snowe (R-ME), McCain (R-AZ)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Marine Protected Areas

Question: **We understand that the Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee pursuant to Executive Order 13158 is now active. Can you tell us what the committee is working on? What is the status of the MPA inventory?**

Answer: **• The MPA Advisory Committee has formed three subcommittees:**
(1) National System of MPAs;
(2) MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness; and
(3) National and Regional Coordination of MPA Efforts.

• NOAA is currently building the Marine Managed Area inventory in cooperation with the Department of Interior and coastal states, territories and commonwealths.

• The three MPA Advisory subcommittees are developing recommendations for consideration by the full committee. These recommendations will be delivered to the Departments of Commerce and the Interior in June 2005. Key recommendations being developed by the MPA FACA include:

o Principles and guidelines for the National System of MPAs;

o Recommendations relating to stakeholder participation, MPA planning processes, MPA implementation, and adaptive management; and

o A proposed process to maximize inter-governmental coordination in the development of the national system.

• The National MPA Center estimates that when the inventory is complete, there will be between 1,500 and 2,000 sites in the database.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Marine Protected Areas	$3.974	$4.485	$2.802	$2.957	$2.802	$2.802	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Marine Protected Areas

Background: • The MPA FACA is comprised of 30 non-federal scientists, resource managers, and representatives of interests and organizations involved with or affecting marine conservation. The MPA FACA met for the first time in June 2003, and has met three times since then.

• Additionally, the MPA FACA will meet from February 15-17 in Washington, D.C., and May 17-19 in New England to review and finalize their recommendations.

Member(s): House: Pallone (D-NJ), Gilchrest (R-MD)
Senate: Snowe (R-ME), Inouye (D-HI)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

National Marine Sanctuary Program

Question: **Given that over $50M was appropriated for the National Marine Sanctuary Program in FY 2004 and FY 2005, why has NOAA requested only $36.6M for this program in FY 2006?**

Answer: **• The 2006 Request will allow us to meet the highest priority needs of the Sanctuary program, and is consistent with the Administration's request levels of the past several years.**

• The Administration recognizes the importance of programs such as the National Marine Sanctuary Program in NOAA, and supports these on-going efforts to conserve our Nation's ocean and coastal treasures.

• However, the NOAA budget balances high priority activities with growing fiscal concerns.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
National Marine Sanctuary Program (ORF)	$32.787	$53.604	$34.974	$50.319	$35.651	$35.651	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • In the past two fiscal years, Congress has been very supportive of the NMSP.

• The President's budget requests have not provided as much as the Congress ($50.2M in FY 2005).

Member(s): House: Farr (D-CA); Case (D-HI); Capps (D-CA); Abercrombie (D-HI); Dicks (D-WA); Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Stupak (D-MI), Miller (D-CA)
Senate: Inouye (D-HI); Nelson (D-Florida), Akaka (D-HI); Levin (D-MI), Stabenow (D-MI)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NWHI Sanctuary Designation

Question: **How is the sanctuary designation process for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) progressing?**

Answer: **• The process is moving along on schedule. NOAA expects that the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Reserve will be designated as a National Marine Sanctuary in early 2006.**

• Sanctuary designation is a lengthy process, requiring extensive public involvement and review; development of a draft management plan; proposed regulations and designation document; and preparation of draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

• In fact, we recently worked out an agreement with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in order to grant them an extension for providing input to NOAA concerning fishing regulations in the proposed sanctuary.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOS Coral Reef (approximate NWHI portion)	$3.000	$3.000	$3.000	$3.000	$3.000	$3.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • In 2000 and 2001, two Executive Orders established the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act (NMSA) of 2000. The Amendments Act and Executive Orders also called for NOAA to begin designation of the Reserve as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS.)

• The public release of the final Reserve Operations Plan is imminent and is receiving final review.

• In response to Stephanie B. comment -- NOAA is currently working on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. On September 20, 2004, NOAA provided the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) with the opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations for the proposed sanctuary, as required by Section 304 (a) (5) of the NMSA, which by regulation are required 120 days after submission of a letter to the appropriate Fishery Management Council. The initial due date for the response from WPRFMC would have been January 18, 2005. However, WPRFMC requested and was granted an extension. A response from WPRFMC is now expected by April 2005.

Member(s): House: Abercrombie (D-HI); Case (D-HI)
Senate: Inouye (D-HI); Akaka (D-HI)

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NWLON/PORTS

Question: **How is NOAA implementing the requirement to provide real-time hydrographic monitoring systems to enhance navigation safety and efficiency, as called for in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002?**

Answer: **• Over the next 3 years, NOAA will be upgrading the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) to provide quality controlled water level data in real time (hourly updates currently available).**

• NOAA is actively taking steps to address the language in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act.

• This is made possible by a $2.7M increase for the program, which was requested and received in 2005.

• Upgrading NWLON is a cost-effective approach, which will provide a baseline level of service to many US seaports, and is a logical first step to meeting the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA).

• In FY 2006, NOAA is also requesting a $1.5M increase to update its tidal current tables. This data is an important component of several NOAA real time oceanographic products.

• A real time NWLON will provide a solid foundation for the Physical Oceanographic Real Time System to build on. In many cases, NWLON stations also have other sensors such as wind speed and direction, air and water temperature, and barometric pressure that will also be made available in real time.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NWLON/PORTS

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Tide and Current Data (NWLON portion)	$12.564	$14.877	$17.315	$20.015	$18.030	$18.030	$0.000
Tide and Current Data (National Current	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$2.100	$1.500
PORTS	$2.981	$5.278	$3.000	$2.938	$3.000	$3.000	$0.000
Great Lakes NWLON	$1.987	$1.966	$0.000	$1.971	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Alaska Tide and Current Data	$0.000	$1.484	$0.000	$1.478	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Upper Cook Inlet Tidal Research	$0.497	$0.492	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$18.629	$24.697	$20.915	$27.002	$21.630	$23.130	$1.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NWLON/PORTS

Background: • On December 19, 2002, the President signed "An Act To Reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998" into law (PL 107-372).

• Section 103 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act provides that NOAA "shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, design, install, maintain, and operate real-time hydrographic monitoring systems to enhance navigation safety and efficiency."

• NOAA currently implements PORTS on a cost shared partnership basis. However, many constituents view PORTS as being a national responsibility that should not be subject to the ability and variability of local entities to fund. They are concerned about being able to afford safety.

• The NWLON will be upgraded over a period of three years and will provide a baseline level of real time service to many US seaports. In some cases, this may be all a seaport needs. In other cases it provides a baseline upon which to build a PORTS.

• Quality controlled real time data is critical to safe and efficient marine navigation. The 1999 Marine Transportation System report to Congress cited the need for accurate, timely, reliable information as the highest priority for MTS stakeholders.

• As components of the national ocean observing backbone, improvements to NOAA's water level and tidal current observations will strengthen our ability to interact with regional observing systems to increase the geospatial availability of oceanographic data, as envisioned by OCEAN.US.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA); Gilchrest (R-MD); Kennedy (D-RI); Miller (R-FL); Serrano (D-NY); Reguia (R-OH)

Senate: Stevens (R-AK); Mikulski (D-MD); Hutchison (R-TX); Kohl (D-WI); Reed (D-RI); Murray (D-WA); Vitter (R-LA); Snowe (R-ME)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Oceans and Human Health Initiative

Question: **The Oceans and Human Health Initiative was funded at approximately $18 million in FY 2005. Why hasn't NOAA requested funding for this program in 2006, especially in light of its new statutory responsibility/authorization and strong USCOP support?**

Answer: **• The interaction between oceans and human health is recognized as an important area of research within NOAA, and while NOAA has not requested a specific budget item for Oceans and Human Health, we support many related activities through our Ecosystems Mission Goal.**

• NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) has a long history of work in areas covered within the Oceans and Human Health Initiative, such as harmful algal blooms, marine toxins and pathogens, chemical contaminants, seafood safety, beach and shellfish bed closings, and other coastal public health issues.

• In fact we are requesting $2.6M over current levels for NCCOS this year for more Harmful Algal Bloom research, and to improve our knowledge of the linkages between various environmental stressors and marine diseases found in important commercial and recreational species.

• We appreciate Congress's continued augmentation for our current programs related to human health and the oceans.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Ocean Health Initiative	$7.948	$9.894	$0.000	$17.742	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Oceans and Human Health Initiative

Background:

• With funding provided in prior years, NOAA has established external and internal peer-reviewed grant programs, distinguished scholars and traineeship programs, education and outreach activities, and three Centers of Excellence in Seattle, WA, Charleston, SC, and Ann Arbor, MI

• These Centers are focusing on issues of beach safety and water quality, seafood quality, coastal pollution, marine genomics, and marine toxins and pathogens.

• The Oceans and Human Health Initiative began in FY03 with $8M of Congressionally-added funds. The add-ons have continued with an appropriation of $10M in FY04 and $18M in FY05.

• Funds were appropriated to OAR in ’03 and ’04. The appropriation was moved to NOS in ‘05

• In 2005 we will build on our successes to date by strengthening the management infrastructure of the program, convening an external advisory panel, and developing a Science Plan to guide the various elements of the program as a coordinated whole.

• This plan will delineate the linkage between the oceans and human health and lead to the development of defined products and services that will better protect human health.

• In FY05 Congress passed the Oceans and Human Health Act. Section 902 establishes an Interagency Oceans and Human Health Research Program to "... improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health." This Interagency Program is to be coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council, and to deliver an implementation plan within 1 year of enactment.

• Section 903 establishes a NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI) as part of the interagency program. The language authorizes NOAA to support 1) centralized program and research coordination; 2) an advisory panel (FACA exempt); 3) one or more NOAA Centers of Excellence; 4) research grants; and 5) distinguished scholars and traineeships.

• The Act requires an annual report from the OHHI and language explicitly states that ‘not less than 50% of the amounts appropriated to carry out the initiative shall be utilized in each fiscal year to support the extramural grant and traineeship programs of the initiative.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

PORTS

Question: **Is NOAA seeking to expand the Physical Oceanographic Real Time Systems (PORTS) program in FY 2006?**

Answer: **• While NOAA has not requested any new funds for the PORTS program in FY 2006, the PORTS program can continue to expand at the requested funding level by adding new PORTS through the existing cost sharing partnership arrangement.**

• NOAA has 2 new PORTS in development (in agreement phase) for FY 2005 -- the Lower Columbia River and Port Charles, Louisiana.

• These 2 PORTS will provide service to 5 US seaports through which 5% of the total US cargo by tonnage transits annually.

• NOAA did request and receive an increase of $2.7M in FY 2005 to upgrade the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) to provide quality controlled water level data in real time. In many cases, NWLON stations also have other ancillary sensors such as wind speed and direction, air and water temperature, and barometric pressure that will also be made available in real time.

• The NWLON will be upgraded over a period of three years and will provide a baseline level of real time service to many US seaports. In some cases, this may be all a seaport needs. In other cases it provides a baseline upon which to build a PORTS.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
PORTS	$2.981	$5.278	$3.000	$2.938	$3.000	$3.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
PORTS

Background: • There are currently 12 existing PORTS

Tampa Bay
New York/New Jersey
San Francisco
Chesapeake Bay
Narragansett Bay
Long Beach/Los Angeles
Houston-Galveston
Delaware Bay
New Haven
Tacoma
Soo Locks
Anchorage

• These 12 PORTS provide service to 34 US seaports through which 37% of the total US cargo by tonnage transits annually.

• On December 19, 2002, the President signed "An Act To Reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998" into law (PL 107-372).

• Section 103 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act provides that NOAA "shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, design, install, maintain, and operate real-time hydrographic monitoring systems to enhance navigation safety and efficiency."

• NOAA currently implements PORTS on a cost shared partnership basis. However, many constituents view PORTS as being a national responsibility that should not be subject to the ability and variability of local entities to fund. They are concerned about being able to afford safety.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA); Gilchrest (R-MD); Kennedy (D-RI); Miller (R-FL); Serrano (D-NY); Regula (R-OH)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK); Mikulski (D-MD); Hutchison (R-TX); Kohl (D-WI); Reed (D-RI); Murray (D-WA); Vitter (R-LA)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

US Commission on Ocean Policy

Question: **What is included in the FY2006 budget to support the recommendations of the recent US Commission on Ocean Policy Report?**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 budget includes a number of increases to address the Commission's recommendations, including base increases for the:**

Sea Grant program (+$3.7M);
Ocean Exploration (+$11.0M);
Joint Hydrographic Center (+$4.8M);
Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (+$0.9M).

• In addition, the budget includes program increases for

NOAA's coral program (+$1.5M),
the National Currents Program (+$1.5M)
Coastal Ocean Science (+$2.6M)
Aquatic Invasive Species Program (+$2.5M)
the NOAA Marine Aquaculture Program (+$1.7M)

• The US Ocean Commission on Ocean Policy's final Report,"An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," was released on September 20, 2004, and the President released the Administration's response, the "U.S. Ocean Action Plan," on December 17, 2004.

• Efforts to implement the Action Plan are already underway:

• On January 25, the first meeting of the Administration's Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration was held, where agency official began developing options for the 18 month work plan called for in the President's Ocean Action Plan.

• These options will be taken up at the first meeting of the Cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy, which will meet as soon as the President's cabinet is confirmed by the Senate.

• The Joint Subcommittee on Oceans met on February 2 to begin finalizing the Administration's 10 year ocean research priorities plan, which it expects to have completed by April 2005.

• NOAA's request also includes hundreds of millions of dollars in base activities to support the US Ocean Commission on Ocean Policy's recommendations.

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
US Commission on Ocean Policy

• As outlined in the NOAA statement,"this is a commitment we are making not just for the short term. We can look no further than the President's commitment to promote lifelong ocean education as a sign that the Ocean Commission will have an impact for generations to come."

Background: • The Ocean Commission provided the Administration, Congress and the Nation's Governors with 212 recommendations to make the oceans better and cleaner. This report was released on September 20, 2004.

• On December 17, 2004 the President released the Administration's response to the Ocean Commission. The President's Open Action Plan highlights the need for stronger science and improved public awareness of our oceans and greater conservation.

• President Bush has established by Executive Order a Cabinet-level "Committee on Ocean Policy" to coordinate the activities of executive branch departments and agencies regarding ocean-related matters in an integrated and effective manner.

• The U.S. Open Action Plan also calls for a "Global Earth Observation Network, including an Integrated Ocean Observation System." The U.S. is playing a lead role in bringing the international community together to develop an integrated, comprehensive and sustained global earth observing system of system that includes an ocean component, "Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)". The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System will be a major element of GOOS.

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL); Gilchrest (R-MD); Jerry Lewis (R-CA); Abercrombie (D-HI); Farr (D-CA); Weldon (R-FL); Ehlers (R-MI); Allen (D-ME); Dicks (D-WA); Case (D-HI); House Oceans Caucus

Senate: Stevens (R-Alaska); Gregg (R-NH), Snowe (R-ME), Vitter (R-LA); Warner (R-VA); Boxer (D-CA); Feinstein (D-CA); Cochran (R-MS); Inouye (D-HI); Nelson (D-FL);

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Vessel Time Charter

Question: **Has the Time Charter proven to be an effective option for collecting hydrographic survey data? NOAA's FY 2006 request does not appear to include funding for the Time Charter. Does NOAA plan to cancel the contract?**

Answer:

- **The Time Charter has been operationally successful, but it is too early to tell whether it is the most cost effective-approach.**
- **The FY 2005 enacted level for the time charter ($1.9M) will be used to continue operations into early September, at which point NOAA will be contractually unable to exercise the first option year.**
- **The contract will terminate automatically due to lack of funding, rather than non-performance.**

- The cost effectiveness of the Time Charter will be evaluated after the FY 2005 survey season.

- The FY 2006 President's Request rolls all funds previously requested for the Time Charter into the"Address Survey Backlog" line. This approach provides flexibility to employ a variety of outsourcing vehicles for hydrographic surveys, in order to apply the best and most cost-effective method to a particular survey need.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Vessel Time Charter	$7.452	($0.500)	$11.850	$1.971	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Address Survey Backlog/Contracts	$20.318	$23.413	$19.637	$18.727	$21.000	$31.487	$10.487
Other Hydro contracting earmarks	$0.000	$6.654	$0.000	$6.604	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$27.770	$30.017	$31.487	$27.302	$21.000	$31.487	$10.487

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NOS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Vessel Time Charter

Background:

• After numerous protests, the Time Charter finally got underway in late FY 2004.

• Hydrographic survey data is the foundation of NOAA's nautical charts as well as a basic parameter of our Integrated Ocean Observing System.

• NOAA is working to reduce the backlog of charted areas in need of survey, and to improve the accuracy of the data collected. NOAA effectively uses contract and in-house resources to survey U.S. waterways for safe maritime transit.

• Ninety-five percent of America's non-NAFTA trade moves through the marine transportation system. The combination of high vessel traffic, hazardous cargo, and ships operating close to the ocean bottom make accurate navigation information ever more essential for the safety of lives, property and the environment.

• Requested funding provides critical survey data to directly enhance the safety of mariners, the public and the Nation's economy.

Member(s):

House: Young (R-AK); Northup (R-KY); Saxton (R-NJ)
Senate: Stevens (R-AL); Vitter (R-LA)

NMFS

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NOAA
Questions and Answers

Amendment 13/ New England Groundfish

Question: **What is the status the New England groundfish Fishery Management Plan?**

Answer: **• As the Council recommends additional measures such as Framework 40-B to allow increased fishing on healthy stocks, NOAA Fisheries will review and approve those measures to ensure they are in compliance with Magnuson-Stevens or other appropriate legislation.**

• Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP) became effective on May 1, 2004.

• The Framework 40-A Interim Final Rule became effective on November 19, 2004. This action helped mitigate the social and economic impacts of Amendment 13 by providing the industry with two additional special access programs (SAPs), that is, areas where vessels would be allowed to fish additional days-at-sea (DAS), referred to as B DAS, on stocks of fish that are relatively healthy.

• On November 17, 2004, the Council approved Framework 40-B. This action includes one additional SAP, provides incentives to participate in the DAS transfer program by reducing the conservation tax and eliminating the tonnage criterion, provides vessels that received 0 DAS under Amendment 13 with a minimum of 10 B DAS, and removes the gillnet limitations for Trip gillnet vessels. The Council forwarded Framework 40-B to NOAA Fisheries in mid-January for review and approval.

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Amendment 13/ New England Groundfish

Background: • Amendment 13 was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council primarily to end overfishing on all groundfish stocks and to rebuild all groundfish stocks that are overfished. Development of the amendment is governed in part by a settlement agreement in a lawsuit filed by various environmental interests. As part of the court action, the amendment was implemented by May 2004.

• The rule included a new DAS baseline allocation based on historic participation of vessels in the northeast multispecies fishery, and a reduction in the baseline allocation of DAS to achieve a target fishing mortality level.

• Amendment 13 also provides a procedure for development of special access program (SAP's) that can be developed for a given gear type in a limited area for a limited number of vessels. The SAP would be developed to target fish stocks that are in greater abundance on a limited basis—wherein the plan has a total allowable catch (hard TAC) for that stock.

Member(s): House: Allen (D-ME)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Snowe (R-ME), Collins (R-ME), Kerry (D-MA) and other members of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Crab Rationalization/ Individual Processor Quotas

Question: **What is the status of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization program, including Individual Fishing Quotas and Individual Processor Quotas?**

Answer: **• The Fishery Management Plan amendment to implement rationalization in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner crab fisheries was approved in November 2004--one and a half months ahead of the January 2005 deadline.**

• The implementing regulations were published for comment last year. The comment period recently ended and the Alaska Region is working on the final rule, which will include the response to comments.

• The amendment implements the rationalization program required in the FY 2004 appropriations bill. Under the 'three-pie' rationalization program, harvesters will receive individual fishing quotas (IFQ), processors get individual processor quotas (IPQ), and communities are protected with community quotas, regionally designated landing provisions and other community protection measures.

Background: • The North Pacific Fishery Management Council decided that a rationalization program was needed, studied various options, and approved the voluntary three-pie program by a unanimous 11-0 vote in June 2002.

• Implementation of this program was legislated in January 2004 as an amendment to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004. By this action, Congress amended Section 313 [North Pacific Fisheries Conservation] of the Magnuson-Stevens Act directed the Secretary to approve the amendment that addresses the Alaska crab rationalization program by January 2005.

• IPQ's, as a management tool, are an innovative measure that do not exist in any other Federally managed fishery. While IFQ's are harvest privileges, IPQ's ensure that those harvests must be sold to buyers (processors) who hold processor quota shares. In other words, IPQ's regulate the sale, and not the harvest, of Alaska crab. Under the terms of the Alaska crab rationalization program, 'A' shares must be sold to designated buyers, and these shares amount to 90 percent of the total allowable catch. The remaining 10 percent, the 'B' shares, may be sold by IFQ fishermen to any buyer.

• NOAA Fisheries worked closely with the Alaska Congressional delegation to develop the amendment.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Stevens (R-AK)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Economics and Social Science Research

Question: **What is included within the FY 2006 request for Economics and Social Science Research? What will NOAA do with the increased funding?**

Answer: **• The $9.62M requested will result in complete economic data on commercial harvesters for 26 Fishery Management Plans (FMP) by FY 2006, compared to a projected 12 FMPs in 2005.**

• Funds will enhance economic and socio-cultural data collection programs. This data is necessary to estimate both the market and non-market benefits society derives from living marine resources, and to assess the human impacts from and responses to management decisions.

• A three-fold increase over FY 2005 projections in the number of coastal states with sufficient economic and social data available on fishing communities (20 versus 7).

• A greater than three-fold increase over FY 2005 projections in the number of Federal, year-long (vs. seasonal) marine managed areas for which sufficient data exists to estimate economic impacts on recreational and commercial fishers from effort displacement (20 versus 6).

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fish Statistics- Economics & Social Science	$2.500	$3.900	$5.200	$4.000	$4.100	$9.620	$5.510

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Economics and Social Science Research

Background: •Economic and social science research enables managers to:

o Estimate the habitat restoration costs and non-market values and other benefits associated with ESA recovery plans.

o Assess the cost effectiveness of and benefits derived from protecting and restoring habitat and protected species.

o Estimate the economic impact of fishing on the local, state, and national economies as well as assess the economic and socio-cultural impacts of regulations on shoreside industry and fishing communities.

o Conduct legally mandated economic analyses of proposed fishery management options for fishery management plans, thus enhancing the Agency's ability to identify the management option that will achieve the conservation standard at least cost to society and thereby increasing the benefits derived from marine resources and reducing the risk of court challenges due to inadequate economic analyses.

Member(s): House: Pallone (D-NJ)
Senate: Snowe (R-ME)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Ecosystem Approach to Management

Question: **What is NOAA doing to promote an Ecosystem Approach to management?**

Answer: **• NOAA is currently working on an ecosystem research review that will enhance NOAA's ability to provide information needed to improve resource management.**

• An ecosystem approach to management is management that is adaptive, specified geographically, takes into account ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties, considers multiple external influences and strives to balance diverse social objectives.

• NOAA is coordinating its current observations, research, and modeling and management responsibilities to advance the ecosystem approach to management.

• NOAA is expanding observations and research to identify and monitor indicators of ecosystem health and to understand interactions between living marine resources and their environment, which is fundamental to an ecosystem approach to management.

• NOAA has awarded grants to four Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic,South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico) to conduct ecosystem management pilot projects, which are necessary to engage the Councils and their constituents in a public debate on establishing goals for Ecosystems Approaches to Fisheries (EAF).

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Ecosystem Approach to Management

Background: • NOAA is improving the integration of multiple marine and coastal activities in specific regions including protection of listed (i.e., depleted, threatened, and endangered) species, fisheries management, habitat protection and restoration, coral conservation and protection, and National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserve program management.

• In FY 2004, Congress directed NOAA to establish ecosystem management pilot projects, which would engage the Fisheries Management Councils and their constituents in a process of identifying and prioritizing ecosystems objectives, requirements and goals. Congress allocated $1.948 million for the pilots. NOAA has used the investment to enhance regional ecosystem governance structures through the Fishery Management Councils; conduct workshops to assess the community's technical needs; and develop quantitative decision support tools (e.g., models, GIS capabilities, software) to assist decision makers with complex management options.

• NOAA's Chesapeake Bay program pilot is developing a regional ecosystem approach to management. NOAA, in partnership with Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and other federal agencies are working collaboratively as the Chesapeake Bay Program to restore and protect Chesapeake Bay. The 2004 "Fishery Ecosystem Planning for Chesapeake Bay" guides NOAA's program for linking habitat to fisheries for the Chesapeake, the largest estuary in North America.

Member(s): House: Gilchrest (R-MD), Farr (D-CA), Dicks (D-WA)
Senate: Inouye (D-HI)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Expand Stock Assessments/ Improve Data Collections

Question: **What will the Expand Stock Assessment initiative fund?**

Answer: **• NOAA expects to deliver assessments for 4 additional major fish stocks with this investment.**

• NOAA is requesting $23.4 million for expanding stock assessments and improving data collection, an increase of $4.5 million.

• Funds will help address long-standing shortfalls in fisheries science, fishery monitoring, and fisheries data management capabilities identified by internal and external NOAA review panels.

• With this incremental investment in staff and program improvements, NOAA can provide more comprehensive and additional data streams that are necessary to support new fish stock assessments and the evolution to whole ecosystem assessments in each of the NOAA Fisheries regions.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Expand Stock Assmt- Improve Data Collection	$16.900	$18.100	$18.900	$18.600	$18.900	$23.400	$4.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Expand Stock Assessments/ Improve Data Collections

Background: • New fishery management plan assessments will cover the Pacific Coast starry flounder, Pacific Coast blackgill rockfish, Caribbean yellowtail snapper, and Western Pacific striped marlin. Each has an unknown status with respect to overfishing.

• FY 2006 funds will support new staff to increase the quantity and quality of data collected and processed from NOAA Fisheries resource surveys and from the commercial and recreational fisheries.

• The Sustainable Fisheries Act - National Standard 1 Guideline requires NOAA Fisheries undertake actions to determine maximum sustainable yield or suitable proxy, end overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and achieve optimum yield. Stock assessments provide the basis for determining these conditions in the fisheries.

• The Marine Fisheries Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP) guides NOAA's investments in fishery science infrastructure and staff resources to improve the comprehensiveness, timeliness, quality, and communication of state-of-the-art stock assessments. The SAIP also provides new national standards to evaluate stock assessment performance. The SAIP identifies how many stock assessment personnel are required to collect and process biological samples, build and maintain fishery-independent, and commercial and recreational fisheries, databases (including data integration and management through the National Fisheries Information System), synthesize and model the data, research improved assessment methodologies, and communicate stock assessment results and forecasts to fisheries managers.

Member(s): House: Gilchrest (R-MD), Pallone (D-NJ), Saxton (R-NJ)
Senate: Smith (R-OR), Wyden (R-OR), Murray (D-WA)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Groundfish- Northeast Observers

Question: **Does the FY 06 request provide for sufficient observers for the NE Groundfish fishery?**

Answer: **• The FY 2006 request will provide adequate, statistically valid observer coverage in the New England groundfish fisheries.**

•Compared to previous years, NOAA's FY 2006 request will provide observer coverage at a lower level. However, NMFS has conducted analyses on the New England multi-species groundfish fishery and has determined that 5% coverage was adequate and statistically valid.

• NOAA requests a total of $26M for the Fisheries Observer program.

• At least 21% of the total request, $5.5M, will be directed towards the Northeast groundfish observers program.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NE Groundfish Court-Ordered Observers	$0.000	$9.400	$0.000	$9.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Observers- Fishery Observers	$0.300	$0.000	$5.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Observers/Training- NE Groundfish Observers	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$5.500	$5.500	$0.000
MMPA Implementation (NE Groundfish sink	$0.800	$0.800	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Saltonstall-Kennedy	$2.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Fishery Statistics- ACCSP	$0.300	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$3.900	$10.200	$5.500	$9.000	$5.500	$5.500	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Groundfish- Northeast Observers

Background: Observer coverage improves and enhances the collection of data on target catch and bycatch of discarded finfish species and protected species.

The court order relating to observer coverage in the New England multispecies groundfish fishery initially required a minimal level of 5% followed by an increase to 10% coverage by May 1, 2003, unless NMFS could statistically prove an increase was not necessary. In FY 2004, Congressional language directed NMFS to provide 10% coverage and the appropriate funds were allocated. Subsequently, NOAA Fisheries conducted analyses on the Fishery and determined that 5% coverage was an adequate level for assessment of the catch, bycatch, and discards of the New England multispecies groundfish fishery.

The request will also fund approximately 10% observer coverage in the herring fishery.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Groundfish- West Coast

Question: **What is included within the FY 06 request for West Coast Groundfish?**

Answer: **• The West Coast Groundfish line funds major resource assessment surveys and stock assessments critical to monitoring the rebuilding of 8 overfished stocks in order to restore fisheries to optimum levels.**

• NOAA is requesting $10.2 million for West Coast groundfish issues.

• The West Coast Observers budget line provides funding for the observer program initiated in FY 2001.

• The resource monitoring associated with west coast groundfish is a key component of the Pacific Coastal Ocean Observation System and provides the primary information on Essential Fish Habitat for west coast groundfish.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
West Coast Groundfish	$5.200	$4.600	$5.200	$4.700	$4.800	$5.100	$0.400
NW Fish Sci Ctr-W Cst Groundfish Team	$0.000	$1.700	$0.000	$1.700	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Observers/Training- W Coast Observers	$3.700	$4.700	$3.700	$3.900	$5.000	$5.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$8.900	$11.000	$8.900	$10.300	$9.700	$10.100	$0.400

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • These assessments are the foundation for determining the status of west coast groundfish stocks and the level of their optimum yield. Implementation of the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan requires these surveys, observer monitoring and stock assessments.

• In 2000, a federal court ordered NOAA Fisheries to prepare an EIS to evaluate the effects of fishing and determine alternatives for establishing "essential fish habitat" as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. A court stipulation requires NOAA Fisheries to have the draft completed no later than February 11, 2005 -- a draft is currently being reviewed by HQ.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Murray (D-WA), Smith (R-OR), Wyden (D-OR)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Gulf of Mexico

Question: **How much is NOAA spending on Fisheries activities in the Gulf of Mexico? How does this compare to NOAA Fisheries activities in Alaska and the Northeast?**

Answer: • **In FY 2005, NOAA Fisheries is expecting to spend approximately $50.5 million in the Gulf of Mexico.**

• This is half of what we typically spend in Alaska and the Northeast region

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Gulf of Mexico**	$68.200	$57.700		$50.500			
Alaska***	$187.100	$144.200		$163.000			
Northeast***	$110.000	$101.300		$110.000			

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***We do not prepare numbers for Regional office and Science Center spending in our budget request and cannot provide estimates for the FY 2006 request. The FY 2005 allocation is not available as of 1/04/05 for AK and the Northeast. The FY 2005 Gulf of Mexico number is an estimate provided in previous submission to the Department of Commerce.*
**** We do not yet have enacted numbers for FY05 Alaska and the Northeast Region. These numbers are estimates based on past funding levels for these regions.*

Background: • NOAA's budget structure is functional rather than organizational, so none of the Regional offices or Science Centers within NOAA Fisheries have their own budget line items.

• The Gulf of Mexico spending numbers are estimates based on a portion of the funding for the Southeast Regional Office and Science Center.

• By region, the approximate percentage spending breakout is:

NE- 13%
SE- 12%
NW- 19%
SW- 7%
AK- 19%
PI- 5%
HQ- 22%
Other- 4%

Member(s): House:
Senate: Lott (R-MS)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ)

Question: **What is going to be done with the increased funding for IFQ's?**

Answer: **• $1.0 million from the Regional Councils and Commissions will be used for Regional Fishery Management Councils to develop dedicated access privilege (DAP) programs such as individual fishing quotas (IFQ's).**

• The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommended increasing use of DAP in fishery management and the Administration supports their use.

• These funds would be made available on a competitive basis to support Councils with projects that advance DAP systems.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Regional Councils and Commissions	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.000	$1.000

Background: •Dedicated access privileges such as IFQ's provide many benefits. They end the 'race for fish' inherent in open access fisheries, which leads to over-capitalization and contributes to overfishing of resources. They contribute to safer fisheries, as vessel operators can choose to not fish in bad weather without fear that the quota will be taken by someone else. They increase the availability of high quality fresh fish and improve economic performance of the fishery.

•Development of DAP programs requires significant resources for economic analysis and design of programs for eligibility determination, permit issuance, and fishery monitoring.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NEPA

Question: **What is the FY 2006 request for fisheries related NEPA activity?**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 budget requests a total of $8.0 million for the implementation of NEPA. This is a $5.0 million increase over the FY 2005 appropriation, but equal to the FY 2005 President's Budget request.**

• NOAA Fisheries success rate in cases involving fish management has increased markedly from a success rate of 45% between 1997 and 2001 to a success rate of 93% in 2004. Improved NEPA analysis has contributed to the increased success rate and, over time, a high success rate is likely to lead to a decrease in the number of lawsuits filed.

• The combination of improved NEPA analysis and better procedures will result in better managed stocks, less litigation, and enhanced ability to implement the law as intended as demonstrated by success in litigation.

• These funds would be used to expand training, address regional and headquarters staffing needs to perform more comprehensive analyses, and assist the Regional Fishery Management Councils in implementing NEPA.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NEPA	$5.000	$3.000	$8.000	$3.000	$3.000	$8.000	$5.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NEPA

Background: • The Agency's ecosystem-based approaches to management will increase our need for NEPA expertise, given the analytical complexity of this management task.

• The NEPA Coordinators frequently identify program actions that require new or more comprehensive NEPA analyses than have previously been conducted. Almost one-half of the requested $5.0 million will be allocated to meeting regional and headquarters staffing needs.

• The eight Regional Fishery Management Councils (FMC) need assistance in implementing NEPA. We would continue our traditional support of this FMC role, with approximately 15 per cent of the requested funds.

• Expand our NEPA training program to all staff with NEPA implementation duties. Funds would also support contractors hired on a multi-year basis to assist in designing and conducting these courses. Courses will be specifically designed for each of our major program offices so that the courses address those environmental impacts and issues that are most likely to be triggered by a specific program's range of eligible activities.

Member(s): House: Gilchrest (R-MD), Pallone (D-NJ)
Senate: Kerry (D-MA), Stevens (R-AK)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Pacific Salmon

Question: **What is included within the FY 06 request for Pacific Salmon? Of this request, what is the breakout for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)?**

Answer: **• NOAA is requesting a total of $182.7 million for Pacific salmon activities. This includes:**

• $67.3 million for recovery efforts for 26 Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Pacific salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) (including an increase of $11.1 million for Columbia River Biological Opinion Implementation),

• $25.4 million for management of non-ESA listed Pacific salmon stocks, and

• $90.0 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund, which benefits both ESA listed and non-listed Pacific salmon stocks.

• Restoration of base funds is critical to meeting Endangered Species Act mandates for section 7 consultations and recovery planning. Without the restoration of these funds, consultations for Federal land management and development activities will be significantly delayed and development of recovery plans will continue to be delayed.

• The Pacific salmon program represents 85 percent of the ESA consultation workload for NOAA Fisheries. Recovery plans must be developed for all 26 listed ESUs of Pacific salmon.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Protected Species- Pacific Salmon	$51.000	$44.100	$67.900	$45.200	$47.000	$66.600	$19.600
Fisheries Mgmt- Salmon Mgmt Activities	$25.800	$24.900	$25.400	$27.700	$25.400	$25.400	$0.000
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	$129.200	$89.100	$100.000	$88.700	$90.000	$90.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$206.000	$158.100	$193.300	$161.600	$162.400	$182.000	$19.600

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Pacific Salmon

Background: • NOAA's ESA Pacific salmon recovery funding is used to cover ESA responsibilities for 26 Pacific salmonid ESUs listed as threatened or endangered throughout the west coast, encompassing 159,000 square miles, or approximately 40 percent of the land base of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. These salmon listings involve major urban and metropolitan areas thereby compounding the complexity and controversies for effective salmon recovery efforts. This workload does not include increased demands due to the need to consult on EPA pesticides.

• Some funds are for necessary costs to meet court-ordered time lines to conduct ESA section 7 consultations with EPA. These consultations are required by rulings against EPA on pesticide lawsuits in California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Other lawsuits are pending.

• Fisheries Management Pacific salmon activities include the following:
o Mitchell Act Hatcheries and Screen Program (Columbia River Facilities, Hatcheries, and Operations)

o Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation, including the Chinook salmon agreement

Member(s): House: Thompson (D-CA), Eshoo (D-CA), Dicks (D-WA)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Wyden (D-OR), Murray (D-WA), Cantwell (D-WA)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Protected Species Recovery Plans

Question: **Please explain the FY 06 request for recovery plans. What plans does NOAA not have for listed species and what plans are outdated? What plans will be developed?**

Answer: **• With increased funding NOAA Fisheries will revise critically out-of-date plans for Atlantic green turtles, Kemp's ridley turtles, and Humpback whales. With increased funding, NOAA Fisheries will also complete plans for smalltooth sawfish and 3 pacific salmon ESU's (Hood Canal Summer-run chum, Puget Sound Chinook, and Ozette Lake sockeye)**

• NOAA has requested an increase of $1.9 million in FY 2006 for Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery planning and implementation.

• The requested funding will allow NOAA Fisheries to fulfill its mandates of completing and implementing recovery plans for species threatened and endangered with extinction.

• Without an increase in FY 2006, there will not be recovery plans for 22 species and 3 plans will be out of date.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Protected Resources Research & Mgmt	$12.200	$12.200	$12.800	$12.200	$12.200	$12.800	$0.600
Atlantic Salmon	$1.300	$1.300	$1.400	$1.300	$1.300	$1.400	$0.100
Other Protected Species	$2.500	$0.400	$1.800	$1.500	$1.500	$1.800	$0.300
Pacific Salmon	$15.100	$14.200	$15.100	$14.200	$14.200	$15.100	$0.900
TOTAL	$31.100	$29.000	$31.100	$29.200	$29.200	$31.100	$1.900

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Protected Species Recovery Plans

Background: • New funding will also be used to implement recovery actions identified in recovery plans. These actions will be implemented through ESA section 6 grants with states. Recovery actions will be implemented for Atlantic salmon, marine turtles, marine mammals, white abalone, and shortnose sturgeon.

• The completion and implementation of recovery plans is critical to bringing species back from the brink of extinction. Recovery plans detail the actions necessary to remove threats to a species, objective measurable criteria that determine when a species no longer needs the protection of the ESA, and the time and cost to carry out recovery actions. Without this analysis and guidance, it is very difficult to enlist support from Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities to complete recovery actions, and to ensure that actions are being undertaken in the most efficient and effective manner.

At the end of FY 2006 plans will have not been completed for the following 23 species/DPSs/ESUs:

• Salmon, chinook (Central Valley spring-run ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (Lower Columbia River ESU)
• Salmon chinook (Upper Willamette River ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (Snake River fall-run ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (Snake River spring/summer-run ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (Upper Columbia River spring-run ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (California coastal ESU)
• Salmon, chinook (Sacramento River winter-run ESU)
• Salmon, chum (Columbia River ESU)
• Salmon, coho (Oregon Coast ESU)
• Salmon, coho (Central California Coast)
• Salmon, coho (Southern Oregon/ Northern California Coast ESU)
• Salmon, sockeye (Snake River ESU)
• Steelhead (Central California Coast ESU)
• Steelhead (Central Valley, California ESU)
• Steelhead (Lower Columbia River ESU)
• Steelhead (Middle Columbia River ESU)
• Steelhead (Northern California ESU)
• Steelhead (Snake River Basin ESU)
• Steelhead (South-Central California ESU)
• Steelhead (Southern California ESU)
• Steelhead (Upper Willamette River ESU)
• Steelhead (Upper Columbia River ESU)

The Pacific sea turtle recovery plans are currently under review and may also need updating.

Member(s): House: Gilchrest (R-MD), Andrews (D-NJ)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA

Questions and Answers

Protected Species Recovery Plans

Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Cantwell (D-WA), Inouye (D-HI)

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Reducing Bycatch

Question: **What has NOAA Fisheries accomplished in the area of reducing bycatch?**

Answer: **• NOAA is requesting $2.8 million for bycatch reduction activities in FY 2006.**

• These funds will provide critical support to conduct public-private gear research and testing and to enhance and coordinate technical expertise to respond to fisheries bycatch issues.

• These funds also provide significant support to observer programs with inadequate or non-existing levels of observer coverage, and fund critical analyses, program management, and support.

• Specific initiatives expected to be funded in FY 2006 include:

o Continued observer coverage of approximately 1,600 days in 2005-2006 to monitor levels of critical bycatch species (e.g., sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds, and non-target finfish) in eight different fisheries across the nation.

o Continued support for five research investigations, analytical support, and coordination of observer programs nationwide in five regions.

o Continued support of the NOAA Fisheries' National Seabird Program, which will carry out three to five year development, monitoring, and/or outreach activities to reduce incidental seabird takes in fishing operations.

o International and domestic technology transfer of gear modifications and fishing practices to reduce turtle takes in pelagic longline fisheries.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Reducing Bycatch	$0.000	$3.600		$3.700	$2.800	$2.800	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Reducing Bycatch

Background: • The bycatch of fishery resources, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and other living marine resources has become a central concern of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, resource managers, conservation organizations, scientists, and the public. During the past 26 years, the regional fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries have responded to this concern by taking a variety of actions to address the issue of bycatch. The actions have included research to develop better methods for monitoring and reducing bycatch, outreach programs to explain the bycatch problem and search for solutions, and regulatory actions to monitor and decrease bycatch.

Member(s): House: Young (R-AK), Saxton (R-NJ), Gilchrest (R-MD) and other members of the House Resources Committee

Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Snowe (R-ME), Kerry (D-MA) and other members of the Senate Commerce Committee

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Regulatory Streamlining Program

Question: **What does NOAA's requested funding for Regulatory Streamlining provide?**

Answer: **• The combination of improved quality and timeliness of regulatory processes and policy development will result in better-managed stocks and decreased litigation.**

• NOAA requests a total of $5.8 million, an increase of $3.3 million for regulatory streamlining.

• NOAA will develop and maintain an electronic rulemaking system and associated databases. This will speed up the review and processing of rules and regulations and increase public participation.

• NOAA will implement an electronic permitting system for fisheries and protected species that will allow applicants to apply for and receive routine renewals and some first-time permits via the Internet.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Regulatory Streamlining Program	$0.000	$1.000	$2.500	$2.500	$2.900	$5.800	$3.300

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Regulatory Streamlining Program

Background: • NOAA will improve the quality and timeliness of regulatory processes and policy development for its Fishery Management Program through comprehensive impact analyses, full and timely consideration of all relevant issues, and compliance with all applicable laws and procedures.

• Funds will allow for analyses that withstand legal challenge and keep NOAA Fisheries success in withstanding legal challenges high, enhancing the ability to implement the law as intended (NOAA Fisheries was successful in 93% of its legal challenges in 2004—an increase from a 45% success rate between 1997 through 2001).

• These funds will enable NOAA to more fully assist in the development, review, and implementation of Regional Fishery Management Council proposed actions. Additional staff will be used to expand regional capacity to meet Council demands, including efforts to facilitate and expedite Secretarial approval and implementation of Fishery Management Plans and amendments and preparing analytical documents in support of rulemaking.

• NOAA is currently piloting an electronic rulemaking system as a prototype for the entire Department of Commerce. NOAA efforts will focus on elements necessary to participate in the President's Online Rulemaking Initiative to utilize the government-wide, central docket system, including information technology (IT) infrastructure, IT tools for developing regulations, and the business process, training and constituent outreach necessary to adapt to electronic rulemaking.

Member(s): House: Young (R-AK), Saxton (R-NJ), Gilchrest (R-MD) and other members of the House Resources Committee

Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Snowe (R-ME), Kerry (D-MA) and other members of the Senate Commerce Committee

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Right Whales

Question: **What is included in the FY 2006 request for Atlantic Right Whales?**

Answer: **• The FY 2006 request includes $5.8 million (the same amount requested in FY 2005) to continue support for North Atlantic right whale protection and recovery activities, research on ways to reduce human impact, and population assessment studies.**

• There have been a number of North Atlantic right whale deaths off the east coast recently: 6 in the last 12 months, 4 in the last 4 months. Several of these are confirmed ship strike deaths, the cause of mortality in the remainder is not known. In addition, there have been a number of severe right whale entanglements in fishing gear.

• NOAA Fisheries is working to address these threats. The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan includes measures to address the issue of entanglement. NOAA Fisheries has developed a draft Ship Strike Reduction Strategy that has been the subject of many public hearings in 2004. Both of these strategies require a NEPA analysis and proposed rulemaking before the new actions can take effect.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Protected Species- Marine Mammals (Right	$9.900	$9.800	$4.400	$9.900	$8.400	$4.300	($4.100)
Cooperative State Plans	$0.000	$1.900	$1.500	$2.000	$1.500	$1.500	$0.000
TOTAL	$9.900	$11.800	$5.900	$11.800	$9.900	$5.800	($4.100)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Right Whales

Background: • This funding is critical to continuing the successful protection and rescue of right whales. The importance of this work was just recently highlighted in early January of 2005 where NOAA successfully disentangled a right whale of the coast of South Carolina.

• Also, in January of 2005, off the coast of Georgia, NOAA Fisheries relocated a right whale that had been partially disentangling from fishing gear in March of 2004. This animal appeared to be doing well.

• This investment will continue the following activities, some at a reduced level:

o Aircraft surveys to reduce the likelihood of ship strikes in right whale aggregation areas off New England, mid-Atlantic, and southeast U.S. coasts

o The Mandatory Ship Reporting systems (in collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard)

o The coast-wide right whale disentanglement program (through a contract to the Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA)

o Research into fishing gear modification to reduce the likelihood of entanglement or enhance the likelihood of an entangled whale to free itself (including a mini-grants program for innovative ideas and various pilot studies)

o Regular assessments of the North Atlantic right whale population, and

o Assessment of human impacts (e.g., necropsies and scarring from entanglement analyses).

• The following activities would be reduced or eliminated in FY 2006:

o Right Whale research activities on whale detection technologies, ship strike reduction, and gear modification

o Right whale reproduction and health assessments

o Right whale management activities including the experimental gear buyback program and implementation of the ship strike reduction strategy.

As in the past, NOAA Fisheries will support Atlantic state right whale protection programs through competitive bid. These will include coastal surveys, entanglement reduction, and other programs.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Gregg (R-NH), Stevens (R-AK), Snowe (R-ME)

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Right Whales

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** NMFS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Scallop Management- F/V Northern Edge Incident

Question: **What is NOAA Fisheries doing to improve safety after the F/V Northern Edge Incident?**

Answer: **• NOAA Fisheries has committed to provide funding for a pilot program to develop a Survival & Safety Training course for all crewmembers of the scallop fleet.**

• NOAA officials are engaged in discussions with New England stakeholders related to safety at sea for fishermen participating in the scallop fishery.

• If necessary, NOAA Fisheries will consider Secretarial emergency action to implement a solution in time for the next fishing season (June 15).

Background: The F/V Northern Edge capsized and sank in December 2004 while on a compensation trip in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area. The crew had returned to the area due to an interrupted trip in November 2004. After the accident, some public officials and stakeholders questioned whether the fishery management measures in place at the time were to blame for the sinking.

On November 2, 2004, NOAA implemented measures to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan allowing scallop vessels to fish in areas previously closed to protect groundfish species. Vessels fishing in these areas are subject to a possession limit and a limit on the number of trips a vessel can take in each area. The regulations provided compensation to vessels if extenuating circumstances forced the crew to terminate a trip prior to catching the allowed limit.

On January 4th, Dr. Hogarth met with the Mayor of New Bedford, MA to address some of his concerns related to the safety of scallop crewmembers. In addition, NOAA Fisheries is collaborating with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop the pilot program on safety training for scallopers.

A follow-up meeting with the Mayor and his Fisheries Task Force is scheduled for January 31st. Dr. Hogarth, representatives from NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region and the U.S. Coast Guard will continue discussions related to the development of the course.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Snowe (R-ME)

OAR

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Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Abrupt Climate Change

Question: **Does the Administration's request include funding for Abrupt Climate Change? What is NOAA doing in this area?**

Answer: **• Yes, the Administration's request includes $5.1M for abrupt climate change research. Through programs such as the Climate and Global Change Program, Ocean Observations, and Carbon Cycle Observations, NOAA describes and assesses the likelihood of environmental changes to cause the climate system to abruptly switch to a drastically different state.**

• NOAA's Abrupt Climate Change research generates paleo-climate data sets, interprets them and evaluates what additional observations are needed to detect early warnings of a future abrupt climate change.

• The Global Ocean Observing System contributes to NOAA's abrupt climate change work by providing critical information on the role of the ocean in climate and the rate of climate change through changes in heat storage. The ocean data will be used to monitor key locations in the ocean for signs of possible abrupt climate change.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Climate and Global Change Program (OAR)	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$0.000
Ocean Observations	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000
Carbon Cycle Observations	$1.000	$1.300	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.000
Abrupt Climate Change Research (earmark)	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
World Data Ctr for Paleoclimatology (NESDIS)	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.000
TOTAL: OAR	$5.100	$5.900	$5.100	$5.600	$5.100	$5.100	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Abrupt Climate Change

Background: The following describes NOAA's activities in more detail.

• Research Programs: Consortium on the Ocean's Role in Climate/Abrupt Climate Change Studies (CORC/ARCHES): Grant to Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for studies of abrupt climate change using paleo and modern observations and models. The outcome of this program is a "Description and explanation of the four-dimensional changes (including abrupt changes and extremes) of (1) temperature and water vapor in the atmosphere; (2) snow cover over land; (3) precipitation and temperature over the land and ocean; (4) temperature, salinity, sea ice, sea level, and carbon in the oceans; and (5) the response of the biosphere to these changes."

• Observation Activities: NOAA monitors changes in the thermohaline circulation and its role in abrupt climate change at key locations: Gulf Stream, Greenland Current. NOAA is also responsible for long-term Weddell Sea observations from CORC/ARCHES in FY05; measure and model changes in heat and fresh water fluxes from the Arctic to the North Atlantic and monitor sea ice thickness in the Arctic; lastly, Global methane monitoring for abrupt changes in emissions from methane clathrate (hydrate) deposits on continental shelves and thawing of permafrost in the Arctic regions.

• Modeling Activities: NOAA performs climate reconstruction from a partnership between NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and NOAA Joint Institute at Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to model climate over the past 2000 years and identify abrupt changes.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Snowe (R-ME)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Air Quality Research

Question: **Please describe the air quality research activities planned for FY 2006.**

Answer: **• In FY 2006, NOAA requests $14.9M for air quality (AQ) activities - $9.1M for AQ research and $5.8M for AQ forecasting operations. NOAA AQ research programs will focus on conducting a regional AQ assessment in Texas, continuing long-term monitoring, and improving AQ forecasting.**

• NOAA will conduct a large field study around Houston, Texas, during the summer of 2006 to characterize the key causes of air-pollution problems in the region. This regional assessment will inform policy makers and will provide data to improve NOAA air quality forecasts. The request includes an additional $1.7M to support development and application of new particulate matter observing technologies which will be used in the Texas study as well as in future AQ assessments.

• NOAA will continue to monitor key long-term AQ trends, such as gaseous and particulate pollutants that settle onto land and water surfaces and the distribution of ozone. No new funding is requested in FY 2006 for this work.

• NOAA will develop advanced air quality modeling capabilities to support its operational air quality forecast guidance. In FY 2004, NOAA began forecasting ozone concentrations. The request includes an additional $1.0M for research (via an NWS-OAR partnership) leading to new AQ forecasting capabilities, e.g., particulate matter forecasts, as well as an additional $0.3M for AQ forecasting operations.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Air Quality Research

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Regional Air Quality Assessment- OAR	$8.900	$9.900	$5.000	$9.200	$5.000	$6.700	$1.700
Laboratory Base	$5.000	$5.000	$5.000	$5.000	$5.000	$6.700	$1.700
New England Air Quality Study	$1.700	$3.000	$0.000	$2.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
AIRMAP	$2.000	$2.000	$0.000	$2.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Central CA Ozone Study	$0.200	$0.000	$0.000	$0.200	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Long-Term Monitoring- OAR	$4.300	$4.100	$0.900	$4.100	$0.900	$0.900	$0.000
Laboratory Base	$1.000	$0.900	$0.900	$0.900	$0.900	$0.900	$0.000
AIRMAP	$3.000	$2.900	$0.000	$2.900	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
East TN Ozone Study	$0.300	$0.300	$0.000	$0.300	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Air Quality Forecasting- OAR	$3.500	$3.500	$6.000	$5.200	$6.000	$7.300	$1.300
Air Quality Forecasting Research (OAR)	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.000
Air Quality Forecasting Research- NWS	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.000	$1.000
Air Quality Forecasting Ops (NWS)	$3.000	$3.000	$5.500	$4.700	$5.500	$5.800	$0.300
TOTAL	$16.700	$17.500	$11.900	$18.500	$11.900	$14.900	$3.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Air Quality Research

Background: Air pollution is a significant cause of death and illness. EPA estimates that by 2015 federal air quality (AQ) standards (which will get us part of the way toward clean air) will save 15,000 lives each year—total current deaths due to poor AQ significantly exceed that number.

NOAA supports the Nation's response to this problem in two ways:

• Provides scientific information and tools to AQ decision-makers so they can protect public health while maintaining a vital economy

• Provides AQ forecast guidance so communities can better ameliorate and protect themselves from unhealthful air pollution episodes

Background on research areas:

Regional Air Quality Assessment

• NOAA conducted a more limited assessment around Houston in 2000. NOAA discoveries during that study allowed the state of Texas to develop a more targeted pollution control strategy than had been planned. The revised strategy is projected to save the state more than $9B and 64,000 jobs by 2010. One of the objectives of the 2006 study is to observe progress since 2000.

• The 2006 assessment is part of an ongoing effort to provide AQ decision-makers (e.g., policymakers at all levels of government, industrial planners) objective scientific information for regions that have serious AQ problems. NOAA conducts comprehensive air quality assessments every other year. New England was studied in 2004. California is a likely location for the 2008 study.

• The field study will measure dozens of meteorological and air quality parameters, including characteristics of fine particulate matter.

• Collaborators will include EPA, the State of Texas, and multiple universities and companies.

Long-Term Monitoring

• As part of a national network, NOAA will measure pollutants in precipitation at five sites. This provides information on a key source of pollution that affects water bodies, such as nitrogen compounds that contribute to eutrophication of estuaries.

• Working with partners such as EPA, NOAA will evaluate advanced technologies for measuring gaseous and particulate pollutants that settle onto the land surface.

• NOAA will measure weekly ozone profiles at four locations, providing much needed information

about the distribution of ozone aloft.

Air Quality Forecasting

• NOAA is providing operation ozone forecast guidance information in partnership with EPA to federal, state and local users.

• NOAA research will continue to develop advanced air quality modeling capabilities to support the expansion of operations air quality forecast guidance.

• The primary foci of the work will be: (1) creating an air quality model with the accuracy and efficiency required for operational forecasts of fine particulate matter and (2) developing approaches for using current observations (e.g., forest fire and resulting plume locations and characteristics, pollutant concentrations) to improve air quality forecasts. A prototype for particulate matter forecasting will be available for testing by FY2010, two years prior to currently scheduled implementation.

• Collaborators will include EPA, NASA, USDA's Forest Service, and multiple universities.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Judd Gregg (R-NH)

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Arctic Research

Question: **In light of the recent Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Report finding of rapid warming in the Arctic, with potentially severe environmental and societal impacts, why is the Administration proposing decreases for its Arctic Research Program activities in FY 2006?**
What is the Administration's plan for the Arctic Research Program activities at the reduced funding levels in FY 2006?
What is the Administration's plan for the Arctic Research Program activities at the reduced funding levels in FY 2006?

Answer: **• We believe that we can operate a productive Arctic program within the $3M requestsed in the President's FY 2006 Budget. An additional $1M is requested under Ocean Exploration for expeditions to the Arctic in anticipation of the International Polar Year. NOAA takes the issue of global climate change very seriously , and Arctic research is an integral part of the strong climate program that the President has proposed for FY 2006.**

• For FY 2006, we have focused our Arctic research effort on climate observations and analysis and will continue our efforts to deploy critical pieces of an eventual comprehensive Arctic climate observing system.

• With our national and international partners, we will move toward full implementation of the Arctic climate observing system. For example, we are analyzing newly obtained upper-atmosphere data from Russia for the early 20th century to increase our knowledge of how the Arctic climate has behaved over the last 100 years.

• NOAA, along with the National Science Foundation, was a major sponsor of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment; and we intend to pursue a program of research in the Arctic that reflects the recommendations coming from this assessment.

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Arctic Research

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Arctic Resarch Program **	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$3.000	$3.000	$0.000
SEARCH	$2.000	$1.900	$2.000	$2.900	($2.000)	$0.000	$0.000
Arctic Research Initiative	$2.000	$1.700	$1.100	$2.000	($1.000)	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$4.000	$3.600	$3.100	$4.900	$3.000	$3.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***Consolidated in the FY 2006 Base.*

Background: Key findings of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment "Impacts of a Warming Arctic" Report include:

• Arctic Climate is now warming rapidly, and much larger changes are expected: annual average Arctic temperature has increased at almost twice the rate as that of the rest of the world over the past few decades and is expected to warm an additional 4-7°C over the next 100 years.

• Arctic warming and its consequences have worldwide implications.

• Arctic vegetation zones are very likely to shift, causing wide-ranging impacts.

• Animal species' diversity, ranges, and distribution will change.

• Many coastal communities and facilities face increasing exposure to storms.

• Reduced sea ice is very likely to increase marine transportation and access to resources.

• Thawing ground will disrupt transportation, buildings, and other infrastructure.

• Indigenous communities are facing major economic and cultural impacts.

• Elevated ultraviolet radiation levels will affect people, plants, and animals.

• Multiple influences interact to cause impacts to people and ecosystems.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Stevens (R-AK)

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Climate and Global Change Program

Question: **Why is NOAA cutting funding in the Climate and Global Change (C&GC) Program for the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI) after the Congress has rejected the approach? Why is the shift needed? What is being cut and why?**

Answer: **• In keeping with the Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan, the President's Budget focuses on the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI). The requested increase of $10.6M for CCRI is offset by reductions in the Climate and Global Change Program. This shift in climate programs is needed to reduce some of the largest uncertainties in climate science regarding aerosols and improving global ocean observing systems.**

• Specifically, the reductions will be proportionately made in the following Climate and Global Change programs: Atmospheric Composition and Climate Program, Global Carbon Cycle, Climate Change Data and Detection program, Climate Prediction Program for the Americas, Climate Dynamics and Experimental Prediction, and Climate and Societal Interactions.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Climate and Global Change Program	$74.200	$69.700	$59.300	$67.500	$57.400	$57.400	$0.000
Climate Observations & Services**	$16.000	$22.400	$50.600	$39.400	$37.000	$47.600	$10.600
TOTAL	$90.200	$92.100	$109.900	$106.900	$94.400	$105.000	$10.600

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** The difference between the FY 2005 enacted and FY 2006 current program for Climate Observations & Services consists of a $3.2M transfer of TAO operations to NWS, partly offset by ATBs and restoration of rescissions.*

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Climate and Global Change Program

Background: NOAA is investing a net additional +$10.6M in CCRI for the following:

+$2.1M in aerosols research

+$6.7M in expanding ocean observations

+$0.8M in the Regional Integrated Science Assessments program

+$2.0M to deliver a key CCSP product that explains the causes for observed climate variability and change

-$1.0M in Global Climate Atmospheric Observing System

Member(s):

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI)

Question: **How does NOAA's FY06 budget request for the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI) address NOAA's commitments to the US Climate Change Science Program and international climate research programs and assessments?**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 request represents a significant net increase of $10.6M over the Base for the Climate Change Research Initiative. CCRI products that support the Climate Change Science Program include nine of 21 synthesis and assessment products outlined in the CCSP and the global ocean observing system.**

• The areas we are focusing on include:

• the North American carbon budget,

• aerosol properties and their impacts on climate,

• climate projections based on emission scenarios, and

• decision support experiments utilizing seasonal to interannual forecasts.

By reducing present uncertainties in climate science and developing new research and data products, NOAA will best support the Nation's ability to understand and respond to climate variability and change.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Climate and Global Change Program	$1.900	$8.600	$6.800	$6.700	$6.800	$6.800	$0.000
Climate Observations & Services**	$16.000	$22.400	$50.600	$39.400	$37.000	$47.600	$10.600
TOTAL	$17.900	$31.000	$57.400	$46.100	$43.800	$54.400	$10.600

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***The difference between the FY 2005 enacted and FY 2006 Current Program consists of a $3.2M transfer of TAO to operations under NWS, partly offset by program adjustments and restoration of rescissions.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI)

Background: • Resources in other budget lines are being directed in order to meet NOAA's commitments to the CCSP. Many NOAA activities supporting CCSP synthesis products will also support the 2007 IPCC 4th Assessment Report.

• NOAA has advanced the deployment of a global ocean observing system in support of long-term observational requirements of operational forecast centers, international research programs, and major scientific assessments.

• Two significant observing system milestones were reached in FY 2004; first, the ARGO*** deployment is 50% complete, and expected to be finished by 2007; second, the 1st tropical moored buoys were installed in the equatorial Indian Ocean to provide critical data from a data-sparse region.

(***ARGO is an international program that calls for the deployment of 3,000 free drifting profiling floats, distributed over the global oceans, which will allow continuous monitoring of the climate state of the ocean.)

• NOAA has the lead on nine of 21 synthesis and assessment products outlined in the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). These deliverables are scheduled for completion in the next 1-3 years. The nine products are:

1. Temperature trends in the lower atmosphere—steps for understanding and reconciling differences. (FY2007)

2. Reanalyses of historical climate data for key atmospheric features; Implications for attribution of causes of observed change. (Early FY2006)

3. North American carbon budget and implications for the global carbon cycle.(FY2006)

4. Trends in concentrations of ozone-depleting substances, ozone-layer recovery, and implications for ultraviolet radiation exposure and climate change. (FY2007)

5. Aerosol (airborne fine particles) properties and their impacts on climate. (FY2007)

6. Climate projections for research and assessment based on emissions scenarios developed through the CCTP. (FY2007)

7. Climate extremes including documentation of current extremes. Prospects for improving projections. (FY2007)

8. Coastal elevation and sensitivity to sea level rise. Progress for a North Carolina Pilot Project. (FY2006)

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI)

9. Decision support experiments and evaluations using seasonal to interannual forecasts and observational data. (FY2006).

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL)
Senate:

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Climate Change Science Plan (CCSP) Budget

Question: **Please provide the total amount of NOAA's FY 2006 contribution to the interagency Climate Change Science Program.**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 Budget request is $180.6M for the Climate Change Science Program.**

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Laboratories & Joint Institutes**	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$48.000	$48.000	$0.000
Climate and Global Change Program	$74.200	$69.700	$59.300	$67.500	$57.400	$57.400	$0.000
Climate Observations & Services	$39.300	$47.700	$72.800	$53.100	$51.200	$64.700	$13.500
Research Supercomputing (PAC)**	$0.000	$3.500	$3.500	$3.100	$9.500	$10.500	$1.000
TOTAL	$113.500	$120.900	$135.600	$123.700	$166.100	$180.600	$14.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

***Beginning in FY 2006, the definition of CCSP has been broadened to include Labs and Cooperative Institutes and related PAC amounts, but also narrowed to exclude Climate Operations and Climate Data and Information.*

Background:

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Global Warming

Question: **2004 was the hottest year on record. There were also several hurricanes that hit the United States in 2004. Are these signs that Global Warming is actually occurring?**

Answer: **• Though the surface of the earth is warming, there is not enough scientific evidence to determine whether the warming has increased the frequency of hurricanes.**

• 2004 was not the warmest year. Based on preliminary data, the average global temperature for land and ocean surface from January-November 2004 would make 2004 the fourth warmest year since 1880 (the beginning of reliable instrumental records).

• The surface of the Earth is, in fact, warming. Global surface temperatures have increased about 0.6 degrees C (±0.2 degrees C) since the late 19th century, and about 0.2-0.3 degrees C over the past 25 years (the period with the most credible data).

• Last year brought major hurricanes to the U.S., but there is no observed evidence tying this to global climate change. Historically, there is a large amount of natural variability in Atlantic basin hurricane activity from year to year and decade to decade.

• Climate model studies have suggested a slight increase in hurricane intensity as climate warms, but there are no observations indicating an increase in winds or precipitation.

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Global Warming

Background: • In FY 2005, Congress did not appropriate any funding under COSP for NOAA's Climate Reference Network, which provides high quality information about the variation and change in surface temperature and precipitation across America and Alaska.

• In FY 2005, Congress did not appropriate funding for NOAA's baseline observatories, which are located in Hawaii, American Samoa, Antartica, and California. These stations measure up to 250 different atmospheric parameters relevant to climate change and ozone depletion.

• The Climate Reference Network and Baseline Observations provide critical scientific data and information on the state and recovery of the ozone layer, global carbon dioxide and other trace gases impacting global climate, the quality of air entering California, and changes in surface temperature and precipitation across the U.S.

• Regarding hurricane intensity: In 2004, research at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory showed that the potential exists for slight (less than 10% over the next century) increases in wind speeds and precipitation rates under warmer, higher CO2 conditions.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Great Lakes Funding

Question: **How much is NOAA spending in the Great Lakes region? Please provide a historical funding summary starting with FY 2002. (OAR to coordinate with other Line Offices)**

Answer: **• The President requests a $3.1M increase over the FY 2006 Current Program level to fund programs in the Great Lakes region. This is about $70.2M in FY 2006 to fund programs in the Great Lakes Region.**

A historical funding summary with program and line office totals is listed in the table below.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Great Lakes Funding

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
OAR							
Weather & Air Quality Research (ARL)	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
Sea Grants to Great Lakes States	$11.100	$11.000		$11.000	$11.000	$11.000	$0.000
GLERL	$8.400	$8.700	$8.900	$8.700	$8.700	$8.700	$0.000
Ballast Water Demonstrations***	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000	$0.800	$0.000		
Prevent and Control Invasive Species***	$0.200	$0.000	$0.100	$0.000			
Aquatic Invasive Species Program (AISP)	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.600	$1.600
OAR SUBTOTAL	$19.800	$20.300	$19.300	$20.600	$19.800	$21.400	$1.600
NMFS							
Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.500	$1.500
Var. Anadromous & Interjurisdictional Grants	$0.200	$0.100	$0.300	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
NMFS TOTAL	$0.200	$0.100	$0.300	$0.100	$0.100	$1.600	$1.500
NOS							
Coastal Zone Management Grants	$14.100	$14.000	$12.900	$13.300	$12.900	$12.900	$0.000
Nonpoint Pollution Control Implementation	$1.300	$1.200	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Marine Sanctuaries (Thunder Bay)	$0.800	$0.800	$0.800	$1.800	$0.800	$0.800	$0.000
NERRS	$0.500	$1.000	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.600	$0.000
NWLON Great Lakes	$2.000	$2.000		$2.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Height Modernization Study- WI	$0.500	$3.000	$0.000	$3.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
CELCP	$6.700	$10.100	$0.000	$6.400	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
SUBTOTAL- NOS	$25.900	$32.100	$14.300	$27.600	$14.300	$14.300	$0.000
NWS							
Local Warnings & Forecasts (Great Lakes	$24.500	$25.800	$26.700	$26.500	$27.100	$27.100	$0.000
SUBTOTAL- NWS	$24.500	$25.800	$26.700	$26.500	$27.100	$27.100	$0.000
NESDIS							
CIMSS- WI	$4.500	$4.300	$4.600	$4.600	$4.600	$4.600	$0.000
Coastwatch (MI)	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
National Ice Center	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
SARSAT	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
RCC (NE & MW)	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.000
SUBTOTAL- NESDIS	$5.000	$4.800	$5.100	$5.100	$5.100	$5.100	$0.000

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Great Lakes Funding

NMAO							
NMAO charter vessel- Sea Grants Projects	$0.100	$0.100	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.000
NMAO charter vessel- GLERL	$0.000	$0.000	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.500	$0.000
SUBTOTAL- NMAO	$0.100	$0.100	$0.700	$0.700	$0.700	$0.700	$0.000
TOTAL NOAA	$75.500	$83.200	$66.400	$80.600	$67.100	$70.200	$3.100

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***Funding for competitive programs such as Sea Grant funding in FY 2005 and FY 2006 is TBD depending on the quantity and quality of applications submitted.*
**** FY06 requests for these programs is included in the $1.6M request for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program (AISP).*

Background:

Member(s): House: Kirk (R-IL)
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Great Lakes Mercury

Question: **What steps is NOAA taking to monitor and to ensure that the mercury levels in the great lakes did not institute a health risk? What is NOAA's role?**

Answer: **• NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory spends $100,000 of its Base funding to model the deposition of mercury to the Great Lakes from the atmosphere in partnership with the U. S. EPA, Environment Canada, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and the International Joint Commission. The EPA, Canadian and various state governments assess the concentrations of mercury in fish and other routes of exposure that present a human health risk.**

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Air Resources Lab- Current Program	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
Other Sources	$0.100	$0.000	$0.100	$0.100			
EPA*	$0.100	$0.000		$0.100			
Ontario Ministry of Env't**							
Commission for Env'tl Cooperation	$0.000	$0.100					
TOTAL	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200	$0.200			

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***EPA, Ontario Ministry of Env't and Commission for Env'tl Cooperation 06 Current Program Level, 06 Request and Deltas are TBD*

*** Ontario Ministry of Env't contributions in FY 02-FY 05 were In Kind contributions- not monetary*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Great Lakes Mercury

Background: • Given that direct discharges of mercury to the Great Lakes have decreased over the years, deposits from the atmosphere are believed to be the dominant pathway for mercury entering the lakes.

• Data modeling and simulation research provides estimates of the contribution of mercury sources (i.e. incineration, coal combustion) from individual industrial facilities, as well as for various industrial sectors of the economy to atmospheric deposition to the Great Lakes.

• Given that direct liquid effluent discharges of mercury to the Great Lakes have decreased over the years (e.g., due to the shutdown or conversion of many mercury cell chloralkali plants), deposition from the atmosphere is believed to be the dominant pathway for mercury entering the lakes.

• Atmospheric modeling based on an ARL dispersion model (including a complete mercury chemical module) is used to provide estimates of the individual contribution of each of thousands of different mercury sources (e.g., incinerators, coal-fired power plants) in emissions inventories to atmospheric deposition for the Great Lakes and other receptors of interest (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Gulf coast, Lake Champlain). The model makes use of NWS meteorological model data and EPA and Canadian emissions inventories. This work has recently been published: [Cohen, M., Artz, R., Draxler, R., Miller, P., Poissant, L., Niemi, D., Ratte, D., Deslauriers, M., Duval, R., Laurin, R., Slotnick, J., Nettesheim, T., and McDonald, J. (2004). "Modeling the Atmospheric Transport and Deposition of Mercury to the Great Lakes." Environmental Research 95(3), 247-265.]

• There is considerable debate regarding whether the primary source of atmospheric mercury to the Great Lakes is primarily from regional (US and Canadian) sources or from global emissions. The Electric Power Research Institute contends that US emissions barely impact US receptors. Other groups, including many NOAA scientists, would contend that the US emissions contribute a substantial and in some cases dominant portion of mercury deposited to many receptors in the US. The use of models – coupled with ambient data for ground-truthing – is perhaps the best (and maybe only) way to determine the relative importance of different sources and source regions to atmospheric mercury deposition to a given lake.

• Some effort has been made by NOAA and other groups to stage field programs evaluate models and to better understand the physics and chemistry of mercury in the atmosphere in an effort to better assess deposition pathways. New information is incorporated into ARL models as it becomes available.

• Key arguments are focused on the question of whether water soluble forms of mercury (aka Reactive Gaseous Mercury, or “RGM”) emitted to the atmosphere from power plants and other sources remain in that form long enough to permit scavenging by precipitation or through dry deposition. Many industry groups contend that the RGM rapidly converts to the elemental form which does not readily deposit. If this is true, massive global sources of mercury dwarf North American emissions making North American control of deposition impossible without global reductions. Studies in Florida and elsewhere do not support this scenario and suggest that US emissions are responsible for much of the

mercury deposited to many receptors in the US, e.g., in areas of the U.S. with significant regional mercury sources (e.g., much of the eastern half of the country). In region with few sources, there is less deposition and what little there is likely contributed by a combination of domestic, global, and natural emissions sources.

• Simulations are based on EPA and Canadian emission inventories and are verified using available monitoring data. Modeling is performed with the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, the International Joint Commission between the US and Canada, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and Meteorological Service of Canada.

• Data from model simulations also contribute to estimating the overall mass balance of mercury levels in the Great Lakes.

Member(s): House: Kirk (R-IL)
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Invasive Species

Question: **Has NOAA made any headway in reducing the impacts of invasive species?**

Answer: **• In FY04, there were 93 cases involving NOAA pending at some time during the year, including 36 new lawsuits filed during the year. Approximately 95% of these lawsuits challenged actions taken by NOAA Fisheries. Yes, NOAA has made progress to reduce the impacts of invasive species, and is working to prevent new species invasions. The FY 2006 President's budget requests $7.9M total to continue NOAA's valuable work to prevent invasive species through programs such as the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Sea Grant, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, and National Center for Coastal Ocean Science.**

Examples of progress include:

• NOAA worked with federal, state, and private interests to prevent the invasive seaweed Caulerpa taxifolia from successfully invading southern coastal California.

• NOAA research has significantly advanced the techniques available to stop invasive species transfer through ship ballast water.

• NOAA has partnered with other agencies and the private sector to initiate the "Habitattitude" public awareness campaign, to reach millions of aquarium and water garden hobbyists and vendors with an invasive species message.

• NOAA, through its Sea Grant network, adapted the principles of the Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points food safety program to develop a powerful tool to prevent invasions from occurring, which is now in wide use.

• NOAA has made considerable headway in documenting the ecological impacts of the introduced finfish lionfish and in developing a model that forecasts the propagation potential of this invasive species.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Invasive Species

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
GLERL Base (OAR)	$1.600	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$0.000
Sea Grant Base (OAR)	$0.400	$0.400	$2.000	$1.400	$2.400	$2.400	$0.000
SG Aquatic Nuisance Species/Zebra Mussel	$2.900	$2.900	$0.000	$1.000			
SG Marine Invasive Species Program- HI	$0.000	$0.200	$0.000	$0.200	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
NH Milfoil (OAR)	$0.000	$0.600	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
NISA/AK (OAR)	$1.500	$1.300	$0.000	$1.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
NISA/Ballast Water Demonstration Project	$0.300	$3.400	$0.000	$3.500			
NISA/Prevent & Control Invasive Species	$0.800	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000			
NISA/Aquatic Invasive Species Program-	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$2.500	$2.500
NCCOS (NOS)	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000
TOTAL****	$8.500	$11.800	$5.500	$10.600	$5.400	$7.900	$2.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** Sea Grant Aquatic Nuisance Species/Zebra Mussel funds included in Sea Grant Current Program for FY 06 and in FY06 Request*
**** NISA/Ballast and NISA/Prevent and Control FY06 Base and FY06 Request funds are included in the Aquatic Invasive Species Program*

*****NMFS money for the grants given through the Restoration Center are not provided in this table. The total budget of the Restoration Center is $7.0M per year (including $4.5M for DARP), however, only a small portion of this money goes to fund invasive species projects. For example, in 2004, the Center spent less than $0.1M on projects for which the primary purpose was eradication of invasive species and native restoration. The Center also indicates that an additional 25 projects had an invasives component.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Invasive Species

Background: Caulerpa Taxifolia:

The tropical seaweed Caulerpa taxifolia has fouled hundreds of miles of Mediterranean coastal waters since it was accidentally released from an aquarium in Monaco. When small patches of the seaweed were discovered in 2000 in a San Diego lagoon, NOAA was the lead federal agency in a federal-state-private action team led by California to assess, isolate, and eradicate the so-called "killer seaweed of the Mediterranean" before it spread any further. By 2002, the seaweed seemed to have been successfully eradicated. After several years of careful monitoring to ensure no underground shoots re-sprout, the area will soon be officially declared "Caulerpa-free." NOAA provides coordinated support for this effort with funds from NOAA Research, scientific expertise from the California Sea Grant College Program, and onsite leadership from the NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional Office.

Ballast Water:

NOAA-supported research has led to a better understanding of the ballast water management practices of ballast and no ballast on board ships, and has identified a number of procedures that can further increase effectiveness of these practices against invasive species in the Great Lakes and other areas. With NOAA support, several ballast water treatment technologies have been developed from laboratory experiments to full-scale ship pilot installations that will soon be seeking Coast Guard approval for use on commercial ships.

Aquarium fish and plants:

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, NOAA Sea Grant, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and others have created the "Habitattitude" partnership, an alliance between the pet industry, academia and government to raise consciousness about invasive species among both aquarium and water garden hobbyists, and the vendors who supply them, and to show them how to avoid introducing invasive species. NOAA provided initial funding of $300,000 through its Sea Grant program and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provided $150,000. The pet industry responded by contributing over $1 million to support a outreach blitz involving more than 5,000 pet stores representing over 90% of the aquarium and water garden trade. More than 20 million plastic bags with preprinted messages will be delivered nationally to Wal-Mart, PETCO, PetsMart, and independent outlets. This year, an estimated 20 million hobbyists will be reached with messages of responsible behavior to avoid turning their hobby fish and plants into new aquatic invasive species.

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System:

The NOAA Sea Grant program adapted to invasive species the HACCP quality assurance process developed by the Pillsbury Corporation to make food safe for space travel, and is now active in teaching this process to stakeholders. To prevent the spread of invasive species through the sale and distribution of baitfish, the Sea Grant Network has taught the HACCP process to bait dealers. NOAA

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Invasive Species

Sea Grant has also trained conservation agents from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies how to use the HACCP process to avoid invasive species transfer through fish management trap and transfer programs. The process is becoming standard practice in many conservation agencies and private entities.

Lionfish, Pterois spp:

Lionfish--and there may be more than one species at large--were introduced into the Western North Atlantic Ocean in the mid 1990's. Since that time, observations of this or more lionfish species have dramatically increased. Because lionfish are venomous and because of the potential of significant ecological impacts to reef communities, NOAA has undertaken research to document the status and trends of lionfish populations. An integrated assessment of the lionfish fish invasion has been published as a NOAA publication for use by state and local governments. Significant progress has been made in documenting the spatial expansion of lionfish distribution, and work is underway to document population increase. Determination of the number of species at large is also underway. A model that forecasts the propagation potential of lionfish in the Atlantic has been erected and parameter estimates for this model are being derived. This model, when tested, will be transferable to other invasive finfish. Progress in determining ecological impacts has also been made through laboratory experimentation.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Ocean Exploration

Question: **What is the Administration's plan for the Ocean Exploration Program in light of increased appropriations in FY 2005. What is requested for this initiative in FY 2006?**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 request of $22.2M is consistent with the FY 2005 Congressional appropriation. With the additional funding in FY 2005 and FY 2006, Ocean Exploration will: expand seagoing expeditions; construct a deep-ocean Remotely Operated Vehicle; and fund centers to link the public to the newly dedicated vessel.**

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Ocean Exploration Base	$13.100	$13.000	$11.200	$22.700	$22.200	$22.200	$0.000
NMNH East Wing (Oceans)	$2.000	$15.800	$0.000	$5.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Submersible Micro-technology Research	$0.000	$1.000	$0.000	$1.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$15.100	$29.800	$11.200	$28.700	$22.200	$22.200	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Ocean Exploration

Background: Congress appropriated $22.7M to the Ocean Exploration Program in FY 2005, a $9.7M increase over the FY 2004 enacted level.

With the additional funding in FY 2005, Ocean Exploration will:

• Increase funding for proposals for projects and seagoing expeditions. ($9.7M.)

• Fund key instrument systems, including a deep-ocean Remotely Operated Vehicle, for the Ocean Exploration program's newly dedicated vessel. (ROV and camera: $2.0M)

• Fund several command/control centers which will link shore-based scientists, educators, and the public by means of satellite-based broadband and real-time visual and data streams to the newly dedicated vessel, due to become operational in FY 2007. (Silver Spring, University of New Hampshire, and Smithsonian: $1.2M)

In FY 2006, highlights of the Ocean Exploration include:

• Fund a major Atlantic expedition to explore deep coral habitats and ecosystems. ($1.0M)

• Complete construction of the deep-ocean Remotely Operated Vehicle for the newly dedicated vessel. ($1.0M)

• Fund expeditions to the Arctic in anticipation of the International Polar Year in 2007. ($1.0M).

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Phased Array Radar

Question: **What is included in the Administration's request for the Phased Array Radar program? What is the status of this effort?**

Answer: **• The President's Budget Request for FY 2006 for $1.0M continues the third year of dedicated research for the Phased Array Radar program. The phased array radar has been acquired and tested and has been collecting data since 2004. The data show promising signs of improving tornado warning lead times.**

• The funding level in the President's FY 2006 request allows NOAA to continue to collect data from the phased array radar and compare it directly with the existing NWS Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR-88D) in terms of lead time and accuracy of severe weather forecasting.

• By 2013, we will make a decision as to the value of the phased array radar compared to our existing radar programs.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Tornado Severe Storm Research		$1.000	$1.000	$2.000	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Phased Array Radar

Background: Phased array offers the ability to reduce the delay in gathering meteorological data from five minutes to one minute over the current NEXRAD radar.

The National Severe Storms Lab took possession of the phased array radar system in 2003.

Following Congressional direction in the FY 2003 and FY 2004 Appropriations, the National Weather Service delivered a report to Congress on the feasibility of using the phased array technology to support the weather sensing mission. The report finds:

• significant reductions in the projected costs of commercially available phased array radar hardware (e.g., transceiver modules costing $1200 in 1999 down to $100 - $250 by 2010),

• the promise of greater mechanical reliability (reducing maintenance costs),

• predictable maintenance cycles and performance, and

• endorses the value and suitability of the phased array radar facility at NSSL as a prototype for research into phased array radar applications to detect weather.

Member(s): House: Cole (R-OK)
Senate: Inhofe (R-OK), Coburn (R-OK)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Research Review Team Report

Question: **What actions is NOAA taking in response to the recommendations in the Research Review Team's final report?**

Answer: **•The Administration submitted its response to Congress to the recommendations in the Research Review Team Report on December 20, 2004. NOAA is taking actions to address each recommendation in the report. Some highlights include:**

• NOAA has published a 20-year vision and a five-year research plan.

• NOAA will consolidate its laboratories currently located in Boulder, Colorado. We have created a Boulder Planning and Transition Team, which is working to define a new consolidated structure for laboratories in Boulder.

• NOAA is revamping its policy on the transfer of research to operations.

• NOAA is engaging the external research community for input to NOAA's fiscal planning.

• NOAA is reviewing the management structure of OAR to strengthen the leadership and oversight of its research programs and labs.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Research Review Team Report

Background: Additional responses of note:

• The Deputy Administrator, working with the NOAA Executive Council, will provide active oversight of NOAA's research.

• NOAA's Research Council and new Ecosystems Task Team will develop criteria for determining the location of research in NOAA.

• NOAA's Research Council will develop guidelines for awarding and operating Cooperative Institutes across NOAA.

• NOAA is undertaking rigorous assessment of reimbursable work done by research organizations and will propose revisions to current policy as needed.

• NOAA will conduct a core capability analysis of the Air Resources Laboratory.

• NOAA will ask the Science Advisory Board to appoint an external team in August 2005 to review progress in implementing recommendations of the Research Review Team Report.

The Research Review Team report recommended that NOAA should:

• Develop a 20-year Research Vision and a 5-year Research Plan.

• Consolidate the laboratories in Boulder, Colorado.

• Establish an Associate Administrator for Research and a Research Board.

• Formalize the process to transition research to operations and information services.

• Develop criteria to determine where research in located within NOAA.

• Establish an External Task Team to evaluate and strengthen the structure and function of ecosystem research programs.

• Better articulate the importance of extramural research throughout the budget process.

• Standardize the processes for Cooperative Institutes and other cooperative arrangements.

• Establish clear guidelines to ensure reimbursable work directly supports NOAA's mission.

• Strengthen management processes in OAR.

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Research Review Team Report

• Conduct a core capability analysis of the Air Resources Laboratory.

• Review progress in implementing the recommendations from the Research Review.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Sea Grant

Question: **What is the Administration's request for Sea Grant in FY 2006? Please describe the "Regional Ecosystems Approach" that NOAA is implementing in the Sea Grant program.**

Answer: **• The President's FY 2006 budget is requesting $61.5M for Sea Grant, consistent with recent congressionally appropriated levels. NOAA will work with other interested parties to develop this regional approach.**

•The Administration proposes to make Sea Grant a key tool in NOAA's Regional Ecosystem Approach.

• Sea Grant resources will support the priority actions identified in the regional information plans. Sea Grant research, education, extension, and outreach will be targeted at the regional level. With this new regional focus, Sea Grant will make a critical contribution to this effort.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Nat'l Sea Grant College Program Base**	$54.000	$53.800	$57.500	$57.200	$61.200	$61.200	$0.000
Fish Extension	$0.000	$2.000	$0.000	$1.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Aquatic Nuisance Species/Zebra Mussel	$3.000	$2.900	$0.000	$1.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Gulf of Mexico Oyster Initiative	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000	$1.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Marine Invasive Species Program	$0.000	$0.200	$0.000	$0.200	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Oyster Disease Research	$2.000	$2.000	$0.000	$1.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$60.000	$61.900	$57.500	$61.900	$61.200	$61.200	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

*** Funding for Sea Grant is rolled up into Base in the request for FY 2006.*

Goal **Ecosystems** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Sea Grant

Background: The Ocean Commission recommends that NOAA move to a regional ecosystem management approach and develop information plans to coordinate ocean and coastal activities in each region.

Building on decades of regional planning experience, including leading development of the multi-agency Regional Marine Research Program, Sea Grant will initiate development of the regional research priorities and take steps to address them. This will enhance our ability to apply an ecosystem-based approach to management as outlined in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. Three regions will be selected competitively to develop regional research and information plans in FY 2005, and the remaining regions will be brought into the planning process in FY 2006-2007.

NOAA Sea Grant will utilize its unique ability on the ground to:

• gather stakeholder input to produce a needs assessment for each region;

• identify research and information priorities for the region and for NOAA;

• get research results to managers and other policymakers; and

• translate those results into critical products for end users.

These planning efforts will be coordinated within NOAA; with other Federal, regional, and state agencies; with scientists, management officials, and industry; and with other appropriate regional entities, such as the Regional Fishery Management Councils and the emerging regional associations for ocean observing systems. Once the plans are in place, they will be used to guide NOAA Sea Grant's regional research, education, extension and outreach activities.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Multiple: Climate, Weather & Water** **Line Office:** OAR

NOAA

Questions and Answers

Transfer of Research to Operations

Question: **What are some examples of the transfer of research into operations over the past several years, and what have been the results?**

Answer: **• NOAA regularly transfers research projects into operations for the economic and social benefit of society. Pertinent examples include the DART buoys used to detect tsunamis, the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab Hurricane Model which improved prediction of the paths of hurricanes, and air quality forecast research which is being used to predict ground-level ozone.**

• Significant improvements have been made in the detection of tsunamis because of NOAA's DART buoys. DART buoys were developed and operated by NOAA to sense deep ocean waves that could generate tsunamis in the Pacific basin. With the expansion of this buoy network, NOAA will improve its tsunami warning capabilities.

• The Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab Hurricane Model plays a critical role in producing NOAA's hurricane forecasts. GFDL's hurricane researchers collaborated with forecasters at the National Hurricane Center to determine the path of the storms that pummeled Florida and Alabama this past summer, giving residents and businesses warnings before the hurricanes struck.

• In FY 2004, NOAA began operational production of air quality forecasts as a result of NOAA's earlier Air Quality Forecast research. The initial operating capability provides next-day ground-level ozone predictions for the northeastern US. NOAA Research will work with the National Weather Service to extend these forecasts nationwide by FY 2006 in the continental U.S., and NOAA also expects to initiate particulate matter forecast capability by FY 2011.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Transfer of Research to Operations

Background: Further examples

Weather Radar and Supporting Software -

Weather Surveillance Radars, model 88D (WSR-88D) network radars, developed by NOAA Research, were developed in the late 1970's and 80s, then deployed for National Weather Service (NWS) operational forecasters in the early 1990s. There have been major computer software and communications advancements since the original deployment that provide improved weather radar derived products for NWS forecasters and external partners and customers to use to issue weather forecasts and warnings.

• Warning Decision Support System: Provided NWS forecasters with additional information which can be integrated into one display system. This assisted them, along with training, in increasing their tornado warning lead-time from 9 minutes in 1999 to 12 minutes in 2004.

• National Radar Mosaic: In 2004, for the first time a full national composite of all the radar images are available to customers to use in improving forecasts and providing valuable radar data to users.

• Dual Polarization Radar: The first dual polarized testbed radar started collecting data for both researchers and operational users in 2003. This radar will greatly improve NOAA's ability to estimate rainfall and snowfall amounts improving severe weather and flood warning lead times and accuracy.

Long Range Weather Forecasts-

• Reforecasting Products: The Medium Range Forecast Model (MRF) Reforecast Project is now being used at CPC as a tool in producing their medium range forecasts (e.g. 6-10 and 8-14 day forecasts).

CDC has undertaken the MRF Reforecast Project based off a version of the Medium Range Forecast Model (MRF) frozen from a run used at CPC from January – June 1998. . The model uses a 15-member ensemble run daily. Additionally, the ensemble run was made daily from November 1978 to present in order to develop a sufficiently long dataset to calibrate and correct for model biases.

Climate -

• TAO Array: In FY05, the transfer of TAO array operations was started from OAR/PMEL to NWS/NDBC. This reflects the successful development of an ocean observing system that is now a critical forecasting tool for ENSO and seasonal forecasting.

Monitoring El Nino is critical from an observational and forecast point of view. This was a prime motivation for NOAA developing the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) project .TAO consists of

approximately 70 moorings in the tropical Pacific Ocean designed to transmit ocean and meteorological data in real-time via the Argos satellite system. Applications for scientific applications of this data are numerous: from improved data initialization for use in El Nino-predicting models to improved understanding of the genesis and development of El Nino. Since El Nino impacts weather/climate on a global scale, it is clear that these scientific applications are important in NOAA achieving its goal of understanding and predicting global climate.

• The NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS): The CFS model has been run in two different ways to develop the following operational capabilities:

1) Long-term climate simulation- The CFS model was initialized on 1 January 2002 and run to simulate a 32-year period. The purpose of the run is to illustrate the model's climatology and interannual variability (i.e. ENSO). The CFS model can produce a realistic ENSO signal, which has important applications for the model as a potential tool in ENSO prediction.

2) Operational Seasonal Forecasts- A 15-member ensemble of the CFS was run from 1981-2003. The runs were done based on initial atmospheric states from the Reanalysis-2 archive. Each run was done for a 10-month period. The results will serve as a benchmark for future model runs, as improvements in the CFS model (either technical or physical) will ultimately enable it to outperform statistical tools with time.

The NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS) is a fully coupled global ocean/atmosphere general circulation model developed by the Environmental Modeling Center (EMC). The atmospheric component of the model is the NCEP Global Forecast System (GFS), which is an atmospheric spectral model run at a T62 horizontal resolution with 64 vertical layers. The oceanic component is the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab (GFDL) modular ocean model (MOM3) run on a quasi-global domain (74º S to 64ºN); the horizontal resolution is 1/3º x 1º in the tropics and 1ºx 1º horizontal in the extratropics with 40 vertical layers throughout the domain. Coupling is accomplished once per day. Initial conditions for the CFS include data from the NCEP/DOE Reanalysis-2 for the atmosphere and NCEP global ocean data assimilation system (GODAS) for the ocean. Flux correction was not used in running the CFS model.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

NWS

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Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Air Quality Forecasting

Question: **How much is being requested for Air Quality Forecasting and what is the plan for nationwide implementation?**

Answer: **• In total, $6.79M is requested for Air Quality Forecasting (AQF). This includes a requested FY2006 increase ($1.29M) to accelerate the nationwide deployment of ozone forecast capabilities to FY2008: one year earlier than currently scheduled.**

• The initial air quality forecast capability for next-day ground-level ozone, now operational over the Northeastern U.S., will be extended through phased development and testing, by FY2008 nationwide (see planned implementation schedule).

• A prototype for particulate matter (PM) forecasting will be available for testing by FY2010, two years prior to currently scheduled implementation.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Air Quality Forecasting Pilot (NWS)	$2.981	$2.968	$0.000	$2.927	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Air Quality Forecasting (NWS)**			$5.500	$1.726	$5.500	$6.790	$1.290
TOTAL	$2.981	$2.968	$5.500	$4.653	$5.500	$6.790	$1.290

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***The $1.29M in FY 2006 is requested under the USWRP/THORPEX program.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Air Quality Forecasting

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• $1.29M is requested to accelerate the deployment of the Air Quality Forecast Capability.

• For most of the U.S., implementation will be as much as 2 years ahead of the current schedule (see implementation schedule).

• The initial air quality forecast capability for next-day ground-level ozone, now operational over the Northeastern (NE) U.S., will be extended nationwide through phased development and testing, by FY2008.

• During FY2006, ozone forecasts will be implemented over the entire Eastern U.S.

• By FY2007, ozone forecasts will be deployed over the continuous U.S. (CONUS).

• Congress directed NOAA to implement a nationwide operational AQ forecasting. (FY02 for NOAA research; FY03 and subsequently to NWS)

• Operational Air Quality Forecasting Program is partnership between NOAA and EPA

• NOAA's numerical AQ forecasts:

• Integrated with the Nation's operational weather prediction models to provide timely, reliable and accurate forecast information nationwide.

• Updated twice daily, providing hour-by-hour predictions of ground-level ozone concentration, currently on a 12-km grid.

• Verification against monitoring data during summer, 2004 demonstrates accuracy to be better than the required 90%.

• NWS forecasts delivered to operational NWS dataservers and EPA for users: State/Local AQ forecasters, public

• Links to public, private sector.

• State & Local AQ forecasters coordinated with EPA - supportive

• Public and Private Sector AQ constituents meeting – supportive.

• Request additional community-scale information

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Air Quality Forecasting

• 2005 NWS Partners meeting: briefed additional private sector weather providers. No issues.

• Private sector efforts to produce numerical air quality (AQ) forecasts, began in 1998 by predecessors to Barons Meteorological services. NOAA's initial efforts at real-time forecasts began in 1997. Barons test-produced real-time forecasts for customers in recent summers. NOAA's operational AQ forecasts deployed initially in September, 2004 over NE US.

• Private sector has shown interest in providing tailored forecast information for communities. Potential for using NOAA forecast guidance as background data to "zoom-in" at higher resolution. NOAA resolution linked to national weather forecast models; private sector focus on specific communities allows higher than 5km resolution

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA)
Senate: Gregg (R-NH)

Goal: Weather and Water **Line/Staff Office(s): NWS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Air Quality Forecasting

Planned Implementation Schedule:

Air Quality Forecast Capability: Planned Implementation Schedule	**FY06**	**FY07**	**FY08**	**FY09**	**FY10**
Operational Products					
Ozone forecast guidance provided 2X daily: Domain	East US	CONUS	Nation	Nation	Nation
Research Demonstrations/Prototypes					
PM Forecast Model Prototype					NE US
Technology Updates: Current AQF Capability	X	X	X	X	X

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Aviation Weather Program

Question: **What is the increase for the NWS Aviation Weather Program?**
What is the status of planned aviation weather service improvements?

Answer: **• Increased funding of $1.0M supports the scheduled deployment of 50 additional aircraft**
mounted water vapor sensors.

• The planned aviation weather service improvements are on track. This multi-year effort
has already demonstrated improvements in ceiling and visibility forecasts.

• These real-time water vapor profiles will provide robust data streams, driving improvements in the accuracy and reliability of the Nation's aviation weather forecasts and prediction models.

• The derived water vapor profiles will constitute a critical portion of NOAA's Integrated Upper Air Observing System.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Aviation Weather Program	$2.500	$2.500	$2.500	$2.367	$2.400	$3.500	$1.100

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Commerce and Transportation** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Aviation Weather Program

Background: • Today, weather accounts for 70% of all air traffic delays within the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) indicates these delays cost the U.S. economy $10B/year of which an estimated $4B is avoidable. On average, 200 general aviation pilots are killed every year in weather-related accidents across the U.S.

• In response to these trends and the projected growth in NAS traffic volume, a FAA joint safety implementation team (JSIT) recommended the development and delivery of pilot-friendly, real-time depictions of weather hazards; a reduction in forecast errors while increasing the precision of aviation parameters; and an improvement in weather training for controllers and pilots.

• This NWS initiative leverages successful applied research efforts conducted by NOAA, NASA and FAA to accelerate the aviation weather forecast and observation portion of the FAA modernization and leverages the NWS aviation forecast infrastructure to make new aviation products and services operational.

• Results seen in the first two years of this program are very positive with accuracy goals attained in icing, turbulence, convection.

o Low ceiling and visibility (our GPRA performance measure) was 0.01 below the goal for FY04.

o Ceiling and visibility forecast for false alarm rates was .05 better than the FY04 goal--a 13% improvement over our goal.

o Much of this improvement is attributed to training contributed by this program as well as the development of the Aviation Forecast Preparation System (AVNFPS) which is an application on AWIPS to improve TAF performance.

• The addition of water vapor observations from aircraft has the potential to improve numerical weather prediction (NWP) of moisture fields which will directly improve forecasts for low ceiling and visibility, convection, and icing. If we assume the same extent of improvement seen when we added temperature and wind information from aircraft into NWP, we would see over a 10% improvement in these forecasts.

• The increased funding will result in an increase to the GPRA performance goal for Forecasts of Ceiling and Visibility Accuracy (%) by 2%.

• The planned aviation weather service improvements are on track. The program includes several core components:

o new and improved observations

o new forecast techniques/applications

o Improved forecast products for aviation users

o training for forecasters and pilots

o verification of all aviation weather products.

• The aviation forecaster preparation system continues to rapidly provide forecasters new tools to provide better terminal aerodrome forecasts. Over the next 3 years, 11 new products will be transitioned to the field, 8 of which will come from the FAA's Weather Research and Development.

Member(s): House: Science Committee Chair
Senate: Commerce Committee Science Subcommittee Chair

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
AWIPS

Question: **We understand the AWIPS contract will be recompeted. What is the status of the AWIPS recompete contract?**

Answer: **• The AWIPS contract is expiring on September 30, 2005. Therefore, NWS is currently conducting a recompete of this contract with an expected award date of July 15, 2005.**

• This new contract will be performance-based and cost-effective.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
AWIPS Product Improvement (PAC)	$16.158	$13.985	$12.894	$12.718	$14.134	$14.134	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
AWIPS

Background:

- AWIPS existing prime contract was awarded on December 29, 1992 and expires on September 30, 2005
- Prime contractor -- Northrup Grumman Information Technology Corporation
- Follow-on contract necessary for continuity of service; Performance-Based Contracting approach
- Contract Term: 5 Year Base + Five 1 Year Award Terms
- Budget: $200-$330M over 10 years
- Full & Open Competition with planned down-select
  - o RFP released August 16, 2004
  - o Phase I down select completed November 10, 2004
  - o Due Diligence sessions on-going
  - o Phase II proposals due April 8, 2005
  - o Contract Award July 15, 2005

Member(s): House: Wolf; Hoyer, Science Committee Chairs
Senate: Warner; Allen; Mikulski, Science Subcommittee Chairs

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Cooperative Observer Network (COOP) Modernization

Question: **$4.3M is requested for the COOP Modernization. What does this buy? Is this related to NOAA's initiative to establish a national mesonet? What link does COOP Modernization have with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)?**

Answer: **• COOP Modernization is the cornerstone program required to establish a National Cooperative Mesonet which is the foundation for building a NOAA Integrated Surface Observing System (ISOS).**

• FY2006 funds will be used to continue the U.S. COOP Modernization Program that began in FY2003 and FY2004.

• FY2006 funds will be used to:

o Operate and maintain the 104 newly modernized sites and convert to a two-way telecommunications system using the national law enforcement networks (NLETS).

o Modernize 189 stations in the North East for a total of 293 modernized stations (completes New England modernization with 220 stations)

o Integrate 335 non-federal partner sites into the national Mesonet

• The Western Governors' Association has recommended the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) utilize the modernized National Cooperative Mesonet (i.e., COOP) as its core infrastructure. The modernized COOP will provide real-time precipitation and soil-moisture data which is critical for drought monitoring and forecasting.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
High Res Temp Forecasting (NWS)	$2.981	$4.155	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
COOP Modernization (NWS PAC)	$0.000	$0.000	$1.277	$0.865	$0.877	$4.277	$3.400
TOTAL	$2.981	$4.155	$1.277	$0.865	$0.877	$4.277	$3.400

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Cooperative Observer Network (COOP) Modernization

Background: • FY2006 Program Change requests $3.5M above the FY2005 Enacted Level.

• The COOP network is a nationwide weather, water, and climate-monitoring network of volunteer citizens and institutions that have observed and reported weather information on a regular basis during the past 115 years. Unfortunately, this network is at the end of its productive life due to its reliance on antiquated technology and an all-manual mode of operation.

• The modernized COOP network, as the New England example already is demonstrating, will provide the U.S. with a network of accurate, surface weather data (e.g., temperature and precipitation and eventually soil moisture and much more) with a 5-minute temporal resolution using commercially available measurement, monitoring, and communications equipment.

• FY 2002: 118 temperature demo sites were established in New England

• FY 2003/2004: 4 prototype modernized stations were designed and installed and 100 modernized stations were acquired.

• FY 2005: 100 modernized stations will be deployed (begins upgrade of temperature demo sites); 50 public/private partner mesonets will be added and OT&E of data monitoring and processing system will be performed.

• Quality assured, real-time surface data will lead to improvements in the skill of temperature and flood forecasts, drought monitoring and assessments. Each degree (F) of improvement in temperature forecasts equates to $1B in energy savings/year.

Member(s): House: Hastings
Senate: Gregg (R-NH)

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Data Assimilation

Question: **There is a $1M increase for Data Assimilation in the Administration's request. What will you hope to achieve with this additional funding?**

Answer: **• This increase will support activities to effectively use satellite and high resolution radar data in daily weather forecast models. To date, NOAA has invested a lot in satellite development without commensurate investment in data assimilation.**

• Through the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation, a NOAA, NASA, Department of Defense (DOD) partnership, NOAA plans to achieve:

o Improved data assimilation for increased forecast model accuracy and computational efficiency

o Improved use of satellite imagery and data for better understanding of clouds in model initialization

o Improved characterization of land surface features in the models, using data from currently available and future satellites

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Central Forecast Guidance/Data Assimilation	$1.173	$1.181	$1.181	$1.181	$1.181	$2.181	$1.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• NCEP, Environmental Modeling Center (0 FTE, $1,000,000):

Member(s): House: Ehlers
Senate:

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Drought

Question: **Drought is an increasing problem for resource managers in the Western Unted States. What is NOAA doing to improve drought forecasting?**

Answer: **• Beginning in FY2006, three programs will contribute to drought mitigation activities:**

o Cooperative Observer Network (COOP) Modernization with the modernization of 189 COOP sites in the North East and the integration of 335 partner sites in to the Cooperative Observer Mesonet.

o Water Resources will deliver a national database of drought analyses and predictions, and generate user friendly GIS products for monitoring drought.

o Regional Decision Support to address NOAA field training and the development of localized climate products.

• In FY2006, with this increase, NOAA will continue its support for drought mitigation activities, through:

-- field training shortfalls for climate services and climate operations, one aspect of which isdrought.

-- development of localized climate products, which may lead to improved water resourcesinformation for decision makers

-- strengthening NOAA partnerships with climate service provides at theregional and state levels.

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Drought

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Climate Operations**	$0.547	$1.105	$1.105	$0.000	$0.000	$1.105	$1.105
COOP Modernization ***	$0.000	$0.000	$1.277	$0.865	$0.877	$4.277	$3.400
Water Resources	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$4.000	$4.000
TOTAL	$0.547	$1.105	$2.382	$0.865	$0.877	$10.905	$9.505

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

*** $650K provided by the NOAA Climate Office in FY05 Enacted amount (not shown in table)*

*** COOP Modernization falls within the NOAA NWS PAC line but has significant Climate requirements, one of which is NIDIS*

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Drought

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Climate Operations ($1.105M): This increase will return Regional Decision Support funding to FY2004 levels. Funding will address:

o NOAA field training shortfalls for climate services and climate operations, one aspect of which is drought.

o The development of localized climate products, which may lead to improved water resources information for decision makers

o Provide rudimentary operational decision support climate services at the local level.

o This increase will also aid in strengthening NOAA partnerships with climate service provided at the regional and state levels.

• COOP Modernization ($3.412 M): This increase will permit modernization of 189 COOP sites in the North East and the integration of 335 partner sites in to the Cooperative Observer Mesonet.

• Water Resources ($4.0M): This activity will initiate a national database of drought analyses and predictions, and generate user friendly GIS products for monitoring drought.

• In FY2003-- FY2004, NOAA provided support to the Western Governors' Association to produce a vision and requirements document for a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) of drought observations, research, and forecast improvement, and services.

• New support for NIDIS activities, including expanded decision support services, some tool development and forecast improvement, and minimal observing system improvements, are planned for the FY2007 NOAA budget submission.

States which have felt significant impacts and might pose the question:
Montana, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Nebraska, Florida

Member(s): House: Rehberg (R-MT), Hastings (D-FL)
Senate: Domenici (R-NM), Bingaman (D-NM), Burns (R-MT), Baucus (D-MT)

Goal **Multiple: Weather & Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Fairweather Policy

Question: **NOAA released its "Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information" on December 1, 2004. What are some of the key elements of this policy and what reaction has NOAA received?**

Answer: **• Under this proposed policy, NWS will carry out activities in support of its mission, providing its information to the general public at the lowest possible cost, and give due consideration to the ability of the private sector entities, academia, and research community to provide diverse services. This proposed policy has generally been well received.**

• Key provisions of the new policy require NOAA to:

o adhere to applicable law regarding government information, based on the premise that government information is a valuable national resource and the benefits to society are maximized when such information is available to all.

o carry out activities that contribute to its mission and provide open and unrestricted access to publicly funded information at the lowest possible cost.

o provide information in forms accessible to the public at the lowest possible cost as well as the underlying data in forms convenient to additional processing

o give due consideration to the ability of private sector entities and the academic and research community to provide diverse services and will consider the effects of its decision on the activities of these entities, to serve the public interest and advance the environmental information enterprise as a whole.

o use appropriate mechanisms to encourage input from and collaboration with others on decisions affecting the environmental information enterprise.

o promote the open and unrestricted exchange of environmental information worldwide.

• Feeback Received: NOAA released the proposed policy for public comment in January 2004

o A total of 1,473 comments were received and all were considered in developing the NOAA policy.

o 1,190 supported the proposed policy and 176 opposed it.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fairweather Policy

o NOAA received uniformly favorable press, including in the New York Times, Government Executive, Government Computer News, Federal Computer Week.

o A broad range of organizations, including the Weather Risk Management Association, National Farm Bureau Federation, Center for Democracy, emergency manager groups, etc., support the policy.

o The Commercial Weather Services Association (led by AccuWeather) and the National Council of Commercial Meteorologists oppose the policy, as they prefer that NWS not make its information available to the general public for free or at low cost over the internet and other media.

Background: • Prior year legislation was introduced to privatize elements of the NWS' mission. This legislation was not enacted but prompted questions regarding the respective roles of the NWS and the private sector. The National Research Council (NRC) was asked to conduct a study on this issue.

• The new policy responds to recommendations contained in the NRC's study, "Fair Weather: Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services," (National Academy Press, 2003).

• The NRC's study and the need for a new policy was bred from a recognition that the U.S. weather and climate enterprise -- considered one of the best in the world -- is composed of a dynamic partnership among government, academic and private entities engaged in complementary and sometimes overlapping activities. The study found advances in science and technology have blurred the distinctions between the sectors.

• Among its chief recommendations, the NRC identified the need for a new policy to replace the NWS' outdated and "untenable" policy on public/private roles that would recognize advances in technology and relevant law, and that would define processes for decision making rather than defining roles.

Member(s): House: Peterson (R-PA), House Science Committee
Senate: Conrad (D-ND), Burns (R-MT)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Hurricane Isabel Service Assessment

Question: **The Hurricane Isabel Service Assessment report was critical of storm surge forecasting efforts, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay.**
What is NOAA doing to address this concern?

Answer: **• In response to the Service Assessment, NOAA is addressing these storm surge forecasting issues by:**

o Studying the adequacy of tide gauge monitoring sites and the implementation of new gauges

o Making necessary investments to improve the SLOSH model to better predict storm surge

o Providing forecasts containing greater detail on the localized effects of storm surge and information regarding evacuations.

• Overall, NOAA did an outstanding job forecasting Hurricane Isabel. NOAA provided an accurate five day track forecast. NOAA also provided an exceptional landfall prediction for the storm. Feedback from emergency managers and the public regarding the timelines, accuracy and reliability of NWS forecasts was overwhelmingly positive.

• During Hurricane Isabel's approach, Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) along the coast had access to Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model guidance for their coastal basins. SLOSH did extremely well along the east coast and into Chesapeake Bay, but under-forecast surges which traveled up some of the tidal rivers as well as the upper reaches of the Chesapeake.

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Hurricane Isabel Service Assessment

Background: • SLOSH guidance is usually generated only within 24 hours of a tropical cyclone affecting the coast. Coastal offices were pleased with the guidance but believe they should start within 12 hours of landfall.

• After the storm, additional analysis showed that more frequent runs more accurately predicted the timing and maximum surges which impacted the upper reaches of the Chesapeake.

• Also, significant manual modification and expansion of the forecast wind radii needed to be done to more accurately capture the surges on Chesapeake Bay because the storm surge guidance did not account for the unusual (non climatological) size of the storm.

• NOAA has formed a Storm Surge Team which will:

o Complete a comprehensive assessment of users and user needs

o Explore outside research and development activities relative to a community storm surge model

o Identify issues, challenges, and opportunities and a plan for NOAA for implementation of a comprehensive storm surge forecast, including the associated observational requirements, capabilities, and opportunities

o Ensure all entities with interests in surge modeling are engaged actively and part of developing the plan for resolution.

o Identify gaps and ensure existing NOAA efforts are complementary and not duplicative

o Integrate all information into a storm surge forecast, and for assisting in graphically depicting the information in an easily understandable format

• The Team will complete its actions by June 2005

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA), Scott (D-VA), Forbes (R-VA)
Senate:Allen (R-VA), Senate Commerce Committee

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Hurricane Research

Question: **What efforts is NOAA undertaking to improve hurricane track and intensity forecasting?**

Answer: **• $1.0M will be used to accelerate hurricane model development and their transition to operational use**

• $1.0M will be used to perform necessary research that will lead to improved hurricane intensity forecasts.

• As you are aware, as a result of the active 2004 hurricane season, NOAA received $2M in supplemental FY05 funding to improve hurricane intensity and track forecasting.

• Ongoing observational improvements include:

o Radar system upgrades to the NOAA G-IV hurricane surveillance platform are expected to provide critical detail of the inner core storm structure through high quality hurricane scale observations.

o Better dropsonde targeting strategies are being developed for determining where dropsondes observations are most likely to have positive impact on global hurricane models.

o Stepped Frequency Microwave Radiometer instrument will be installed on Air Force Reserve C-130 "hurricane hunter" aircraft to provide better, continuous surface wind speed estimates vital for determining evolution of surface wind field.

• Ongoing model improvements include:

o First Generation Hurricane Weather Research Forecast Model (HWRF) is expected to be implemented in FY2007. This system will be a high resolution coupled air-sea-land prediction system with advanced physics. The HWRF will utilize advanced observations from the NOAA G-IV aircraft to better define the initial structure of the hurricane core circulation in addition to optimizing the use of the large scale advanced ocean and atmosphere observations.

• NOAA’s Tropical Prediction Center will continue Joint Hurricane Test Bed projects (through the USWRP) aimed at accelerating proven research results to operational forecasting with a focus on improvements in dynamic models, improvements to track and intensity forecast algorithms, enhancements to observed data and data assimilation, initial intensity estimation and tropical cyclogenesis.

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Hurricane Research

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOAA Research	$6.900	$7.000	$7.000	$7.000	$7.000	$7.000	$0.000
NWS	$1.466	$1.773	$2.173	$2.173	$2.173	$2.173	$0.000
NESDIS	$0.285	$0.285	$0.285	$0.285	$0.285	$0.285	$0.000
NMAO	$0.459	$0.735		$2.000	$2.000	$2.000	$0.000
Hurricane Supplemental	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$2.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$9.110	$9.739		$12.193	$10.193	$10.193	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • In FY2005 NOAA received $2.0M in hurricane supplemental funding of which $1.0M will be used to accelerate its hurricane model development and their transition to operational use. This effort will be led by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) in partnership with NOAA Research.

• NOAA will use the remaining $1.0M in supplemental hurricane spending to perform necessary research that will lead to improved hurricane intensity forecasts. Examples of such research include:

o complete prototype system to allow transmission of airborne Doppler radar data in real time to provide more timely wind data for operational hurricane forecasting and numerical models.

o complete evaluation of new commercial Step Frequency Microwave Radiometer (SFMR) and its ability to measure surface wind speeds (and hence intensity) in tropical storms.

o develop new techniques to evaluate new model, HWRF, forecasts for three-dimensional oceanic and atmospheric structures for improved intensity forecasts.

o test and evaluate advanced physical representations of atmospheric and oceanic processes in the new hurricane model HWRF for improved intensity forecasts.

o This $1.0M includes $0.3M for EOS/POES microwave data

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL)
Senate: All

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
International Efforts

Question: **Please outline NOAA's international efforts, specifically in regard to providing weather and climate information to developing nations, particularly in Africa.**

Answer: **• NOAA's international efforts in Africa are carried out by NWS, NESDIS and OAR.**

• NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues a weekly weather hazards assessment to provide an overview of weather and climate conditions that may have an effect on food security (such as drought, flooding, cyclones or extreme temperatures).

• The CPC also produces additional products, reports and briefings when conditions warrant, such as in the event of an imminent tropical cyclone.

• CPC and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) collect and process satellite data that are used to monitor the vegetation condition (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, or NDVI) and rainfall (RainFall Estimate, or RFE) across the entire African continent for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET).

• The CPC African Desk hosts visiting meteorologists from African countries for the purpose of training, information exchange and capacity building.

o The African Desk prepares and distributes probabilistic seasonal rainfall forecasts for sub-Saharan Africa as well as regional and global model data.

o Trainees spend four months at the NOAA/CPC Africa Desk and then return to their host institution in Africa with new knowledge and skills.

• NOAA/NWS are working with the WMO on reconstituting real-time data ability in Africa and other countries via the NOAA GCOS (Global Coastal Observing System) program.

• NOAA Satellites and Information Service has taken the lead in establishing and sustaining an African Advisory Group of remote sensing specialists on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), a group of 25 international space agencies.

o The African Advisory Group has sustained linkages between leaders in remote sensing throughout the region and encouraged them to coordinate and communicate about shared issues related to data access and capacity building.

NOAA
Questions and Answers

International Efforts

o This group has also served as a forum for these leaders to be informed and contribute to important international efforts such as the NOAA-led ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

• The NOAA Office of Global Programs (with support from USAID, the State Department, and the WMO) has worked with national and regional partners in Africa to develop Regional Climate Outlook Forums.

o Each forum brings together meteorological experts from various countries to produce seasonal outlooks of rainfall or temperature -- typically for 1 to 3 month periods.

o The forums have served as a means of technical transfer, development of intra-regional collaboration, and a venue for interaction with various user groups such as farmers, water managers, media, health sector professionals, and others.

• NOAA participates in the International Charter on Space and Disaster, allowing other member countries, including African countries, to access critical satellite imagery during emergencies.

• NOAA's Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) program (with support from the State Department) supports a number of data recovery activities and meteorological observation networks, including pilot projects of the WMO regional maintenance centers for atmospheric observations. The resulting data from these programs provides the basic information necessary for any functioning meteorological service or related agency in Africa.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOAA NCEP (Base)	$0.062	$0.066	$0.069	$0.069	$0.069	$0.069	$0.000
NOAA NCEP/Africa Desk	$0.086	$0.090	$0.095	$0.100	$0.100	$0.100	$0.000
NOAA Research/OGP for CPC	$0.054	$0.057	$0.060	$0.060	$0.060	$0.060	$0.000
Reimbursable (USAID)	$0.270	$0.284	$0.000	$0.299	$0.299	$0.299	$0.000
TOTAL	$0.476	$0.502	$0.229	$0.528	$0.528	$0.528	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
International Efforts

Background: o FEWS NET is an information system designed to identify problems in the food supply system that potentially lead to famine, flood, or other food-insecure conditions, in sub-Saharan Africa. The goal of FEWS NET is to lower the incidence of drought- or flood-induced famine by providing to decision makers timely and accurate information regarding potential food-insecure conditions. With early warning, appropriate decisions regarding interventions can be made. Countries with FEWS NET representatives are Burkina Faso, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, (southern) Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA)
Senate:

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Iraq and Afghanistan

Question: **Is NOAA providing any weather information in support of DOD activities in Iraq and Afghanistan?**

Answer: **• NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) currently supports DOD operations in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing a 1-day forecast of solar ultraviolet radiation to help protect against skin/eye damage.**

• At the beginning of hostilities in the region, CPC was asked to provide a week-2 weather hazard assessment for the area to aid the field campaign. However, this is no longer required by DOD and it has migrated to a week-1 weather hazard assessment in support of humanitarian relief efforts by USAID.

• NWS staff are working with the Central Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq to assist in establishing an Iraq Meteorological Service. We currently have two senior NWS staff in Amman, Jordan, to work on this important issue.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOAA NCEP (Base)- Afghanistan	$0.039	$0.041	$0.048	$0.048	$0.048	$0.048	$0.000
Reimbursable (USAID)-Afghanistan	$0.050	$0.053	$0.000	$0.056	$0.056	$0.056	$0.000
NOAA NCEP (Base)- Iraq	$0.000	$0.005	$0.005	$0.005	$0.005	$0.005	$0.000
TOTAL	$0.089	$0.099	$0.053	$0.109	$0.109	$0.109	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background:

Member(s): House: All
Senate: All

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NOAA Ctr. for Weather & Climate Prediction (NCWCP)

Question: **What activities are planned for facility design and construction during FY06?**

Answer: **• In FY2006, actual construction of the NCWCP facility will begin (December).**

• In FY 2005, the NCWCP design/construction contract will be awarded and the design will be completed.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NCWCP	$0.000	$10.291	$2.300	$2.269	$2.300	$8.500	$6.200

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NOAA Ctr. for Weather & Climate Prediction (NCWCP)

Background: • Facility required to house National Center for Environmental Prediction(NCEP); Air Resources Laboratory (ARL); and NESDIS satellite processing components

• Replaces World Weather Building in Camp Springs, Maryland currently inadequate to support NOAA's mission and IT needs

• Location near the University of Maryland will accelerate transition of science infusion into operations and attract top scientists

• In FY2006, the following activities support the construction and preparation for the move to the new facility:

o Procurement and installation of Government Furnished Equipment in the new facility, which includes modular and other furniture, (this represents the initial installment and additional furniture acquisition and installation will take place in FY07)

o Initial effort to relocate mission critical (24/7) systems. This activity includes moving or installing new critical infrastructure into the NCWCP such as high speed communications and computer systems. (This activity will continue in FY07).

o Above standard construction/tenant improvements (TI) are necessary enhancements. This activity includes:

- General TI; framing and build out, painting; carpeting, lighting, molding and trim, window treatments;

- Custom TI: enhanced lighting, additional electrical outlets, additional telephone jacks, special ADP space, audio/visual equipment, roof mounted antennae/equipment platforms

o NOAA and GSA Project Management will continue and this activity includes oversight of construction and the installation of Government furnished equipment

Member(s): House: Hoyer
Senate: Mikulski, Sarbanes

Goal: Weather and Water **Staff/Line Office: NWS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP)

Construction Schedule

Site Acquisition	**Projected Completion Date**
Environmental Assessment	January 2004
Site Due Diligence	February 2004
Site Option Negotiation	March 2004
Site Option Executed	August 2004
Lease Acquisition	
Procurement	March 2005
Design	March 2005
Construction	December 2005
Occupancy	
Relocation	August 2007
Final Occupancy	February 2008
Lease for World Weather Building Expires	April 2008

Budget for the NOAA Center for Weather & Climate Prediction

	Initiative Budget Submission Window					Steady State	Acquisition Cost at
($ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Recurring	Completion
One-time investments							
Tenant Improvements	9.50	1.00	1.00	-	-		11.50
Govt Furnished Eq.	-	-	2.70	10.90	2.50		16.10
Move/Transition	-	-	3.40	10.50	-		13.90
Project Management	0.90	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.50		6.60
subtotal one-time	**10.40**	**2.30**	**8.50**	**22.90**	**4.00**		**48.10**
Recurring O&M/support							
Rent Delta*	-	-	-	-	5.80	5.80	5.80
Utiilities Delta**	-	-	-	-	0.90	0.90	0.90
sub-total recurring	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6.70**	**6.70**	**6.70**
Total	**10.40**	**2.30**	**8.50**	**22.90**	**10.70**	**6.70**	**54.80**

* Estimate of costs above current rent, including building maintenance
** Estimate of utility costs above current utilities, not including telecommunications costs

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

Question: **What is the status of your efforts to extend NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) coverage into areas at risk for severe weather that are currently not covered by the network?**

Answer: **• The FY2006 budget request includes $1.19M to cover the one-time deployment costs for the remaining 17 high risk sites accelerating the implementation of these sites.**

• The FY2006 budget request also includes $1.068M for the O&M funding necessary to sustain the initial investment ensuring the NWR transmitters are operational when required.

• The FY2006 budget request also includes $3.392M for refurbishment of 64 of the 400 total NWR transmitters to be refurbished.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOAA Weather Radio O&M	$1.168	$2.295	$2.320	$2.288	$2.320	$2.320	$0.000
NOAA Weather Radio PAC	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$5.650	$5.650
TOTAL	$1.168	$2.295	$2.320	$2.288	$2.320	$7.970	$5.650

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• The total request for FY2006 is $5.650M.

o Of this, $1.19M is for deployment costs for 17 high risk sites, $3.374 is for refurbishment of older NWR transmitters, and $1.086M is for additional O&M for the NWR program.

• The NWS continues to pursue partnerships with local and state governments and private organizations to deploy, operate and maintain NWR transmitters throughout the U.S. When partnership and cost sharing agreements are finalized implementation is initiated.

• As of the end of 2002, there were 25 high risk sites that are not covered by the network.

• During 2003-2004, the NWS installed transmitters at 6 of these high risk sites.

• During 2005, the NWS plans to install 2 additional transmitters to high risk sites.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Status

Question: **What is the status of the NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards capability?**
What are NOAA/NWS plans for making NOAA Weather Radio a major component in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Warning Network?

Answer: **• The system will be fully operational January, 2006.**

• DHS has concluded that NWR should be a major component in a National Warning Network.

• The All Hazards Emergency Message Collection System (Hazcollect) will provide an automated and secure capability for Emergency Managers and First Responders to issue civil emergency messages over the NWR network.

• In FY 2005 NOAA is expecting a concept demonstration and functional tests to be completed

• In FY2006, operational testing will be completed

• NOAA/NWS plans for NWR are first to implement the all hazards capability as described above. This enables NWR to quickly receive and transmit any emergency related message. NWS is working with DHS to define NWR's role in a National Warning Network, its requirements, and identify additional capabilities needed.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
All Hazards National Warning Ntwrk: NWR	$0.000	$5.442	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Status

Background: • The FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations conference mark included $5.5M to develop the Hazcollect system to automated collection and dissemination of civil emergency messages over NWR with secure authentication capability.

• In FY 2004, the following was accomplished:

o Finalized operational and functional requirements of the Hazcollect System

o System architecture was defined consisting of the FEMA Disaster Management Interoperability System (DMIS) infrastructure, the AWIPS infrastructure, the NWR infrastructure and a new server was designed to handle DMIS and AWIPS interoperability.

o NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory began development of the required Weather Forecast workstation AWIPS code modifications to handle the new automated EM emergency messages.

o Battelle Corp, the FEMA DMIS developer, began modification to DMIS and development of the new Hazcollect server to meet Hazcollect functional and operational requirements.

o Northrop Grumman Information Technology (NGIT) was tasked to upgrade AWIPS Data Server and to support end-to-end testing of the Hazcollect capability.

• The initial schedule has been pushed back 6 months due to delays in receiving the FY04 appropriation and improvements in the Hazcollect functional and operational design/architecture.

• NWR is the only Government owned and operated radio network. It used to disseminate weather warning, advisory, and forecast information as well as civil emergency messages to the public.

• NWR has a direct link to the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS).

• Begun in 1996, the NWR expansion includes cooperator efforts and Government investments. NWR Currently provides 97% U.S. population coverage

• The DHS House appropriations mark language directs DHS to include NWR as a component in a National Warning Network.

Member(s): House: Boehlert, Ehlers, Wolf, Rogers, Granger
Senate:

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Office Closures

Question: **Please provide a status of remaining NWS office closures.**

Answer: **• The NWS has closed 157 offices as part of its Modernization and Associated Restructuring with 3 still planned for closure**

o Williston, North Dakota

o Erie, Pennsylvania

o Evansville, Indiana

• Issue with remaining closures is radar coverage for the local area. In each case, the NWS is taking mitigation actions:

o Williston, North Dakota -- NWS is using a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar to provide coverage to detect lake effect snow. The needed software is installed on the FAA equipment. During this winter FY2005, the NWS will be evaluating the data from the FAA radar to confirm adequacy and evaluate services.

o Erie, Pennsylvania -- FAA Airport Surveillance Radar-11 (ASR-11) is installed. Data from the radar are being evaluated by the NWS Cleveland Weather Forecast Office to help detect low level snow in the Erie area. NWS plans to evaluate the impact on services this winter season, but the results depend on the utility of the data, which is being evaluated at this time.

o Evansville, Indiana -- New commercial radar became operational October 2003. Prior to NWS acceptance of the new radar data, the NWS must evaluate services during the past severe weather season (FY04). Results of this 1 year evaluation are expected in spring of 2005).

• Once evaluations are completed, NOAA will provide recommendations to DOC on next steps.

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Office Closures

Background: • The National Weather Service Modernization Act (Public Law 102-567) requires:

o The NWS to certify "no degradation of services" prior to consolidating or closing any weather office.

o A public comment period and NWS certification of no degradation.

o Outstanding closures require mitigation actions to correct radar coverage deficiencies for low-level snow and severe weather.

Member(s): House: Pomeroy; English; Hostettler
Senate: Conrad; Dorgan; Specter; Santorum; Lugar; Bayh

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Profiler

Question: **Does the FY 2006 President's budget request include funding for the profiler network? What will this funding provide?**
How does this request take recommendations from the Congressionally-mandated NPN Cost and Operational Effectiveness Analysis (COEA) report into account?

Answer: **• Yes, there is $2.9M in the FY2006 President's budget for the NPN.**

• This funding supports only the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the existing NPN. The funding includes maintenance personnel to repair failed equipment, logistics spares, telecommunications, facility power, and property rents.

• The COEA recommendations include:

o Transitioning the NPN into an operational system as one of several sources for upper air wind data

o Modifying its frequency so as to not interfere with the search and rescue satellites (SARSAT) reception of signals from Search and Rescue beacons

o Developing a plan for an Integrated Upper-air Observing System with the NPN as a key component.

• The FY2006 request fully funds the O&M requirement critical for continuing the availability of this operational data set.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
National Profiler Network (NOAA Research)	$4.150	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
National Profiler Network (NWS) O&M	$0.000	$4.107	$0.000	$3.156	$0.000	$2.900	$2.900
TOTAL	$4.150	$4.107	$0.000	$3.156	$0.000	$2.900	$2.900

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Profiler

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• (-$0.256M) Reflects FY 2006 NPN O&M Requirements:

o The COEA recommends the NWS replace the demonstration NPN with an operational system that includes resolution of the current frequency interference with the new search and rescue (SAR) satellites. Replacing the demonstration NPN is estimated at $13.2M.

o The Wind Profilers, vertically pointed radars, installed in 1988, are used for a variety of analytical forecasting tasks. Wind profile data are included in numerical (computer) weather models that predict clouds, precipitation, and temperature. The data provide important environmental indicators for where severe weather such as tornadoes and winter storms may form thereby allowing for the timely issuance of weather watches, warnings, and advisories. Similarly, wind profiler data support the issuance of aviation Significant Meteorological (SIGMET) advisories and wildfire suppression predictions.

o The NPN radars operate on an experimental transmitter frequency of 404 mega hertz (MHz) issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Recently, the NTIA gave the 404 MHz frequency to SARSAT and granted the NPN permanent use of 449 MHz. Thirty 404 MHz wind profilers will transfer from research to operational status. This will require the transmitters to be converted to 449 MHz by the end of the FY08 when the new SARSATS are launched.

o The NPN must be upgraded to operate at a different frequency than the new SAR satellites. The SAR beacons and the NPN operate at the same, 404 MHz, frequency. Whenever a SAR satellite is overhead, the NPN is turned off to prevent any interference. Now this only occurs about 90 minutes per day. The European Space Agency will begin launching a constellation of satellites called Galileo. These satellites will have a SAR capability operating at the 404 MHz frequency. These SARSATS will be in the sky for hours instead of minutes. Under these conditions, NPN profilers will be shut down more than 23:30 hours per day rendering the network useless. The solution is to change the operating frequency to the non-interfering 449 MHz assigned for wind profilers.

Member(s): House: Cole (R-OK), Saxton (R-NJ), Istook (R-OK), LoBiondo (R-NJ); Boehlert
Senate: Nickles (R-OK), Inhofe (R-OK)

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Strengthening the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program

Question: **In light of the recent Indian Ocean Tsunami, what is needed to improve tsunami protection for the US?**
What steps (in FY2005 and FY2006) is NOAA taking to ensure U.S. coastal communities are protected
against the threat of a Tsunami?

Answer: **• Additional deep-sea DART buoys and other sensors need top be added to the existing (limited) tsunami detection array to provide more accurate/earlier tsunami detection along each of the US coasts (real time monitoring of the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico).**

• In order to improve the current US Tsunami Warning Program the following actions need to taken:

Improve the availability of real-time seismic sensor data and upgrade infrastructure for improved earthquake detection and warning including instrumentation in the Caribbean (goal: more accurate/timely earthquake location and magnitude determinations).

Expanded research on seismic, tsunami processes to improve forecasting.

Improve the US response capacity with enhanced emergency warning systems, community response plans and public education (community inundation mapping, evacuation routing, Tsunami Ready communities)

• The $14.5M Emergency Supplemental NOAA received in FY 2005 to upgrade its tsunami warning program in the Pacific and establish a tsunami warning program in the Caribbean/Atlantic, will be used to:

o Procure 32 new DART Buoys (25 for the Pacific Ocean Basin and 7 for the Caribbean/Atlantic)

o Procure and install 38 new sea level monitoring stations (30 in the Pacific; 8 in the Caribbean)

o Initiate staffing increases to provide 24/7 warning coverage at the Pacific and Alaska Tsunami Centers (Goal: add 13 FTEs by 09/30/05)

o Upgrade 20 NWS-owned seismometers used to improve Local Tsunami Warning

capabilities (coordinated with the USGS)

o Accelerate NOAA's Tsunami Ready program to improve US community preparedness

o Begin Tsunami Inundation Mapping in the Caribbean/Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico

• The FY06 program adjustment ($9.5M) will continue this effort with the following activities planned:

o Deploy 20 new DART Buoys (13 in the Pacific and 7 in the Caribbean/Atlantic) (Balance of 12 to be deployed by Mid-2007)

o Procure 10 spare DART buoys for inventory/replacement purposes (balance in FY 2007)

o Procure/Deploy 3 redundant DART buoys in Alaska (Aluetian Island Chain) to insure continuity of data stream during Alaska's winter season (limited buoy repair season)

o Operate and maintain the 38 new near real-time sea level monitoring stations (30 in the Pacific; 8 in the Caribbean)

o Provide 24/7 warning coverage at the Pacific and Alaska Tsunami Centers and in the Caribbean/Atlantic Region (+13 FTEs: 6 at the WC/ATWC and 7 at the PTWC)

o Operate and maintain 20 upgraded seismometers used to improve tsunami detection (in cooperation with the USGS)

o Continue to accelerate NOAA's Tsunami Ready program to improve US community preparedness

o Continue to accelerate community Tsunami Inundation Mapping for the Caribbean/Atlantic

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Strengthening the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Operations & Research (NWS)**	$2.914	$3.456	$3.456	$3.266	$3.456	$12.956	$9.500
Pacific Ocean DART Augmentation (NWS)	$0.000	$0.593	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program	$4.274	$4.225	$2.300	$4.238	$2.300	$2.300	$0.000
TWEAK- Alaska	$0.000	$1.979	$0.000	$1.971	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
PMEL (OAR)	$0.745	$0.814	$0.814	$0.850	$0.850	$0.850	$0.000
TOTAL	$7.933	$10.173	$6.570	$10.325	$6.606	$16.106	$9.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** The FY 2005 Supplemental included $14.5M for NWS Operations and Research not displayed on this chart*

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (+$9.5M and 13 FTE)

Member(s): House: Boehlert
Senate: Inouye (D-HI), Stevens (R-AK), Boxer (D-CA)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Structural Deficit

Question: **Our constituents tell us that NWS has instituted budget cuts to address a shortfall. Please describe the shortfall, and what actions NWS is taking to address it.**

Answer: **• The key reason for the shortfall is the accumulation of unfunded payraises in the last four years.**

• Yes, NWS is experiencing base operating budget shortfalls.

• NWS has implemented short term, one time cost savings to address this issue.

• NWS is looking at options in the FY 2007 budget development cycle.

o NWS is labor intensive, and consequently is impacted more than most other agencies by the unfunded payraises.

• The Administration expressed concern about the accumulation of unfunded payraises in the Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) on the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Structural Deficit

Background: • In FY2005, the NWS is able to mitigate the structural deficit through one-time actions.

• The impacts of further FY2006 program cuts will result in a medium to high risk of not attaining GPRA Performance Improvements in FY06 and beyond if the structural deficit is not resolved.

• Unfunded pay raises and mandatory costs have created a cumulative gap in base operations budget due to:

o The cumulative Pay Raise shortfall FY2001 -- FY2005 alone is $19.6M; this could grow to more than $70M by FY 2010 if trends continue.

o Other unbudgeted labor related cost increases include: benefit increases, higher average steps, and increased overtime

o Unbudgeted mandatory non-labor costs include: transition to operations costs for NWR, snow/upper air observations, security costs, and rent increases

o Net Reductions and Rescissions in FY2005

o The FY04 Omnibus Appropriation provided a “breather”, a separate Appropriation for NOAA Corporate Cost with no reduction in the NWS Appropriation, the FY2005 Appropriations requires NWS to pay its share of NOAA Program Support -- a $33.2M delta.

• FY05 net shortfall (after accounting for FY04 one-time costs) is currently estimated at $37.1M (incorporates FY05 Omnibus Appropriation).

• The FY2005 shortfall of $37.1M has been mitigated through the following one-time credits and cutting programs and activities which add risk to current services and attainment of outyear performance goals:

o Increased labor lapse which will require workforce reduction.

o PCS Reductions which constrain employee mobility and could lead to staffing shortages

o Non-Labor cost reductions including travel, supplies, and cyclic IT replacements

o Program deferrals delaying implementation schedules and inventories

o Program Reductions including training reductions and external research awards

• The structural deficit continues to grow larger in FY2006 and beyond with significantly fewer options

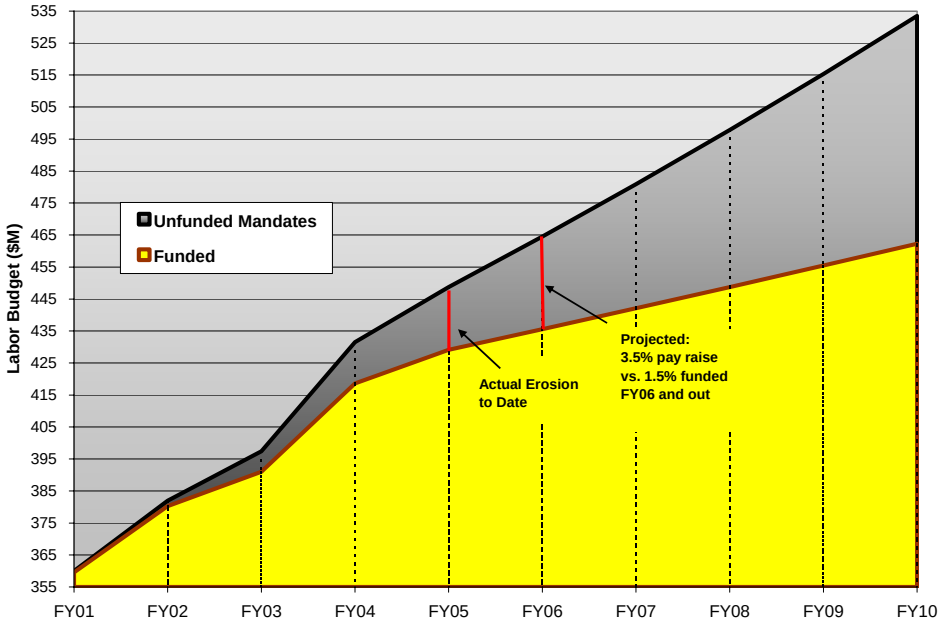
for mitigation.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA), All CJS Appropriations
Senate: All CJS Appropriations

Goal: Weather & Water **Line/Staff Office(s): NWS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Structural Deficit



Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Telecommunications Gateway Backup Status (NWSTG)

Question: **What is the status of the NWS Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) backup system? What is the status of the NWSTG Legacy System replacement?**

Answer: **• Current targets for full operational capability are 2nd Quarter FY2006 for NWSTG Legacy Replacement and 1st Quarter FY2007 for NWSTG Backup.**

• The NWSTG is the NWS communications hub for collecting and distributing weather information to its field units and external users.

o The NWSTG Legacy Replacement will be located in Silver Spring, MD.

o The NWSTG Backup system will be located at FEMA's Mount Weather facility in Berryville, VA.

• Due to the $1.2M reduction in FY2005 Legacy Replacement Budget, the overall program schedule has slipped 6 months.

• NWS has combined implementation of the NWSTG Backup and NWSTG Legacy System Replacement projects under an integrated project team to facilitate Project Management, achieve economies of scale where possible, and ensure system interoperability and compatibility.

• The NWSTG Backup and NWSTG Legacy System Replacement projects are highly integrated, using like architecture and system components. An integrated project team ensures seamless operations during backup mode.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NWSTG Backup**	$0.000	$3.010	$3.042	$3.042	$3.042	$3.042	$0.000
NWSTG Legacy Replacement	$0.000	$2.840	$3.412	$2.478	$3.740	$1.729	($2.021)
TOTAL	$0.000	$5.850	$6.454	$5.520	$6.782	$4.771	($2.021)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** The FY05 Enacted value was derived from the FY2005 allocation of $86.798M for Total Systems O&M*

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Telecommunications Gateway Backup Status (NWSTG)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Legacy Replacement (0 FTE, - $2.021M):
This decrease reflects the completion of one-time costs planned for the deployment of the NWSTG Legacy Replacement. The remaining $0.5M is needed to meet the requirement for cyclic IT refresh capability and avoid a future need to incrementally replace the NWSTG system.

• The NWSTG provides national and global real-time exchange services using automated communication resources to collect and distribute a wide-variety of environmental data such as observations, analysis, and forecast products.

o Replacing the NWSTG system with up-to-date technology will reduce the current delays in collecting and disseminating data by reducing transit time through the NWSTG.

o The NWSTG backup facility will provide backup operations for the primary NWSTG within 12 hours of a failure.

Member(s): House: Hoyer (D-MD); Wynn (D-MD)
Senate: Mikulski (D-MD); Sarbanes (D-MD)

NOAA
Questions and Answers
USWRP/THORPEX

Question: **What is the increase for the USWRP/THORPEX? Please describe the key activities under this program and their benefits, specifically programs directed to improve hurricane forecasting and research.**

Answer: **• The increase of $2.964M from USWRP/THORPEX FY2005 enacted appropriation ($4.931M) to FY2006 request ($7.895M) consists of three components:**

• $1.29M for accelerating deployment of the air quality forecast capability

• $1.056M to accelerate improvements in global weather forecasting

o $0.618M to accelerate hurricane and other high-impact weather research activities.

• The key USWRP/THORPEX activities directed to hurricane forecasting and research include:

o Development, testing and transition to operations of the hurricane weather research and forecasting (HWRF) community model.

-- HWRF development will provide an advanced operational hurricane numerical model that promises to significantly improve predictions of the intensity and precipitation of hurricanes at landfall.

o Testing and development of promising hurricane research at the Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT) which can be adopted to improve warnings and forecasts by operational centers.

-- The JHT accelerates the transition of research to operations, which demonstrably improve the forecasts of hurricanes.

o Numerical assimilation of tropical cyclone data for use in numerical weather prediction models.

-- Better use of tropical cyclone observational data in numerical weather models will improve the prediction of the structure and evolution of hurricanes.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
USWRP/THORPEX

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
USWRP/THORPEX- NOAA Research	$3.781	$5.146	$0.000	$0.492	$0.500	$0.500	$0.000
USWRP/THORPEX- NWS	$0.000	$0.000	$6.115	$4.439	$6.553	$6.553	$0.000
Air Quality Forecasting						$1.290	$1.290
TOTAL	$3.781	$5.146	$6.115	$4.931	$7.053	$8.343	$1.290

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
USWRP/THORPEX

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• $1.29M is requested to accelerate the deployment of the Air Quality Forecast Capability.

o $1.136M of the request is to accelerate the expansion of the initial ozone forecast capability. For most of the U.S., implementation will be as much as 2 years ahead of the current schedule (see implementation schedule). The initial air quality forecast capability for next-day ground-level ozone, now operational over the Northeastern (NE) U.S., will be extended nationwide through phased development and testing, by FY2008. During FY2006, ozone forecasts will be implemented over the entire Eastern U.S. By FY2007, ozone forecasts will be deployed over the continuous U.S. (CONUS).

-- $1.0M of the request is to launch advances in science needed to create and test new technologies to extend the ozone forecast capability to include particulate matter. A prototype for particulate matter forecasting will be available for testing by FY2010, two years prior to scheduled implementation.

• Twelve WMO member nations are participating in THORPEX, including the UK, Australia, France, China and the U.S. THORPEX also has broad interagency support including participation of the US Navy, National Science Foundation and NASA. THORPEX spans the entire spectrum of global weather forecasting activities, from observations to the end users.

• THORPEX activities include:

-- Implementation of the North American Ensemble Forecast System (Joint U.S. National Weather Service/Meteorological Service of Canada Modeling System)

-- Pacific and Atlantic Observing System Tests (including aircraft and ship time)

-- Data analysis and assessment for the field experiments

-- Demonstration projects of users' requirements and social and economic benefits for the commercial end-users (e.g. energy sector)

• Other Key USWRP/THORPEX activities include:

o USWRP/THORPEX also supports through the 10-year THORPEX program (THe Observing system Research, and Predictability Experiment), the extension of long-range weather forecasting capabilities for high impact weather, one of the highest priorities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

-- THORPEX will provide the capability of delivering probabilistic 8-14 day forecasts to the Nation that approach the reliability and usefulness of today's 4-7 day weather forecasts, thus bridging

the gap between weather and climate forecast information

o Applied research and development, and transition to operations activities to accelerate operational improvements in warnings and forecasts of high-impact weather. These activities include:

-- Development, testing and transition to operations of the next generation weather research and forecasting (WRF) community model.

-- The WRF model is primarily designed to improve forecasts of severe weather and particularly of extreme precipitation such as flooding rains or heavy, crippling snowfalls.

-- Advancement and transition to operations of satellite data assimilation into global numerical weather prediction models through the NOAA/NASA/Navy/Air Force Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation.

-- Incorporation of greatly increasing amounts of new satellite data into numerical models promises to significantly improve global weather prediction.

-- The Joint Center was established to maximize and optimize the use of satellite data by global numerical models.

o The air quality forecasting capability (see Air Quality Forecast Q&A for detail).

Member(s): House: Ehlers
Senate: Gregg

Goal **Weather and Water** **Line Office:** NWS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Water Resources

Question: **The Administration has requested $4M for Water Resources. What will this funding provide, and how will NOAA activites be coordinated with other federal agencies.**

Answer: **• This funding will enable NOAA to begin developing a nationwide water resources forecasting capability.**

• Through this capability, NOAA will provide the U.S. with economically valuable water and soil condition forecasts via:

o a national digital database of water and soil condition forecasts incorporating all available hydrometeorological observations, and

o infrastructure for a Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS) necessary to advance water forecasting science.

• These accomplishments will allow NOAA's research and development enterprise and operational service delivery infrastructure to be integrated and leveraged with other federal water agency activities to form the basis of a national water information system.

• NOAA will coordinate the activities with:

o other federal agencies through existing interagency committees and Memorandums of Understanding,

o academia through grants, and

o the private sector through contracts.

• This provides the water modeling capability needed to support the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy mandate for a national water quality monitoring and prediction system.

• The activity will deliver a national database of drought analyses and predictions, and generate user friendly GIS products for monitoring drought.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Water Resources

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Hydrometeorological Data Assimilation &	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.000	$1.000
Community Hydrologic Prediction System	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$3.000	$3.000
TOTAL	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$4.000	$4.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Water Resources

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Hydrometeorological data analyses (+0 FTEs and +$1.0M). This effort will access hydrometeorological data for high-resolution water resource forecasting. This will increase the amount, type and accuracy of water resource information for use within NOAA and by external customers; integrate NOAA's fresh water resource observation and analysis components, (i.e., multi-sensor precipitation estimates, snow pack analysis, and soil moisture); and enable collaboration with the research community in the analysis of observational data for input to high resolution hydrologic forecast models.

o Data from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and the Cooperative Observer Modernization Program will be key components of the water resources data assimilation effort.

o The initiative will fully leverage existing US Geological Survey, USDA, and EPA surface and ground water monitoring networks.

• Community Hydrologic Prediction System (+0 FTE and +$3.0M). NOAA's National Weather Service will integrate water resources research and data into operations through the development and application of a national high resolution hydrologic modeling program with the hydrology community.

o The Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS) allows the federal and non-federal hydrologic community to develop a common suite of tools to make water predictions. It builds on standard software packages and protocols, and open data modeling standards.

o CHPS is necessary to develop and infuse new science to produce a new suite of high-resolution forecasts (including estimates of uncertainty) for streamflow, soil moisture, soil temperature, and many other variables directly related to watershed conditions, via collaboration and sharing of data and algorithms with the university and private sector research groups.

o In addition, CHPS will support the operational implementation of advanced water quantity forecast models not currently available.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA)
Senate: Gregg (R-NH)

NESDIS

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Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
GOES-N

Question: **What is the status of the GOES N series?**

Answer: **• GOES-N will be the first of a series of three satellites. GOES-N launch is expected to take place in April 2005.**

• The launch has been delayed three months because of a schedule conflict with another launch. However, the Delta IV was launched on December 22, 2004.

• GOES-O will be ready to launch in June 2006. Launch readiness refers to the date by which the spacecraft and launch vehicle must be ready.

• GOES-P will be ready to launch in April 2007.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
GOES-N	$155.070	$172.254	$147.415	$143.031	$147.415	$117.042	$30.373

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
GOES-N

Background: • The contract with Boeing for the GOES-N series is a firm fixed price contract, with delivery on orbit that will provide 3 satellites, each with a five year operational life after up to 5 years of on-orbit storage. The option for a fourth satellite, GOES-Q, was not exercised.

• The Imager, Sounder, and SXI instruments are procured under separate contracts and provided to Boeing as government furnished equipment (GFE).

• Procurement of the GOES-N spacecraft and instruments occurs under an interagency arrangement between NOAA and NASA.

o NOAA defines the requirements, budgets for the satellites, manages program milestones and performance, and operates the satellites once on-orbit.

o NASA awards and manages the satellite, instrument, and launch contracts.

GOES-N

o Spacecraft level, post X-Ray Sensor replacement, regression testing was completed;

o Spacecraft level mass properties completed;

o Pre-Ship review at Boeing is scheduled for January 2005. The GOES-N spacecraft is complete and ready to ship to the launch site.

GOES-O

o End-to-end test between the spacecraft and the NOAA's Satellite Operations Control Center, in Suitland, MD, was successfully completed;

o Spacecraft has completed Thermal Vacuum Testing.

GOES-P

o Spacecraft is currently in storage at Boeing awaiting start of instrument integration.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• NOAA is requesting a decrease of $30,373,000 for a total of $120,392,000 in FY 2006.

o The NOAA GOES program continues the development, procurement, and launch of the next series of three GOES satellites -- the GOES-N series.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
GOES-N

o The spacecraft contract for the GOES-N series is a firm fixed price contract.

o The GOES-N series program also includes separate contracts for the instruments, one for the Imager and Sounder and one for the Solar X-ray Imager.

Member(s): House: Harman (D-CA), Souder (R-IN), Eshoo (D-CA), Markey (D-MA).
Senate: Feinstein (D-CA), Boxer (D-CA), Lugar (R-IN), Bayh (D-IN), Kennedy (D-MA), Kerry (D-MA).

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
GOES-R

Question: **The FY06 President's Budget includes an increase for GOES-R. What will this fund and what is the status?**

Answer: **• The third generation of GOES will provide new data unlike anything seen before in the history of Earth observations. This new GOES, planned for launch in 2012, will scan the Earth nearly five times faster than the current GOES. The satellites will provide the user community (television meteorologists, private weather companies, the aviation and agriculture communities, and national and international government agencies) with about one hundred times the amount of data currently provided.**

• GOES-R will support not only weather requirements, but provide observations critical to monitoring earth's climate, ecosystems, and solar-terrestrial conditions.

• The $82.9M increase is part of the planned funding profile. The FY 2006 budget will fund these critical developmental activities, to prepare for launch in 2012:

o Continue instrument contracts

o Continue the Program Definition and Risk Reduction (PDRR) phase for the overall GOES-R system (space/launch and ground segments).

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
GOES-R	$14.614	$101.778	$157.522	$157.522	$157.522	$240.500	($82.978)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
GOES-R

Background: Critical milestones for the GOES-R program, as show in the figure on the next page:

• PDRR Source Selection …… 2005
• Complete instrument contracts …… 2007
• System Acquisition Source Selection …… 2007
• Launch …… 2012

• Details of the FY 2006 budget:

o Continuation of the Program Definition and Risk Reduction (PDRR) phase for the overall GOES-R system (space/launch and ground segments). Up to three contracts will be awarded in September 2005.

o Continuation of the Acquisition and Operations (A&O) contract for the Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) awarded to ITT in September 2004.

o Completion of the PDRR contracts and the award of the A&O contracts for the remaining GOES-R instruments:

Hyperspectral Environmental Suite (HES) -- PDRR contracts were awarded to Ball Aerospace, ITT, and BAE in June 2004. PDRR work is scheduled to be completed in FY06. The A&O contract will be awarded September 2006.

Solar Imaging Suite (SIS) -- The PDRR contract was awarded to Lockheed Martin in September 2004. The A&O contract will be awarded in September 2006.

Space Environmental In-Situ Suite (SEISS) -- The PDRR contracts were awarded in December 2004. The A&O contract will be awarded in January 2006.

Geostationary Lightning Mapper -- The PDRR contract is scheduled to be awarded in mid-FY 2005. The A&O contract will be awarded in July 2006.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

The FY 2006 program continues the previously planned GOES-R design and risk-reduction activities, as illustrated in the figure on the next page.

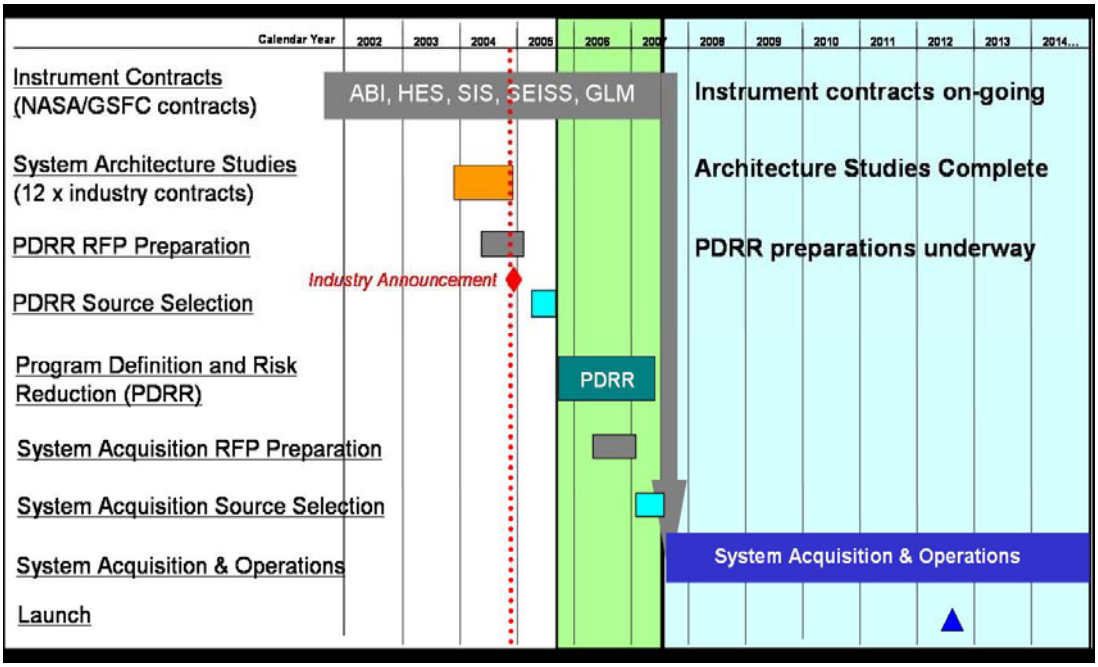
Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA), Serrano (D-NY), Ehlers (R-MI), Udall (D-CO)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Gregg (R-NH), Hollings (D-SC), Inouye (D-HI).

Goal: Critical Support **Line/Staff Office(s): NESDIS**

NOAA

Questions and Answers

GOES-R



Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Landsat

Question: **What is the Administration's plan for this program?**
How much funding is included in the Administration's request for NOAA for this program?

Answer: **• NOAA will integrate Landsat sensors on NPOESS satellites C1 and C4, providing continuity of the data through 2020. The President's Budget requests an increase of $11,000,000 in FY 2006.**

• Landsat data continuity will be ensured by adding a Landsat sensor to the NPOESS satellite.

• The plan calls for a partnership between NOAA, NASA and USGS:

- NASA will provide and pay for the sensors. NASA has $307 million for Landsat Data Continuity in its FY 2004-2010 budget plan.

- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) will develop the ground systems to process, archive, and distribute Landsat data.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Landsat			$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$11.000	$11.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Landsat

Background: • The current Landsat satellites are beyond their design lives, produce degraded data, and must soon be replaced.

• NASA and USGS had planned to purchase data from a commercial satellite beginning in March 2007 to meet the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) specifications. However, after evaluating proposals from private industry, NASA cancelled the LDCM procurement in September 2003.

• The Executive Office of the President subsequently formed an interagency working group to discuss options for Landsat data continuity in light of the LDCM cancellation.

• On August 13, 2004, Dr. John Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), signed a memorandum stating that "the Departments of Defense, Interior, and Commerce and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have agreed to take the following actions:

o Transition Landsat measurements to an operational environment through the incorporation of Landsat-type sensors on the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) platform;

o Plan to incorporate a Landsat imager on the first NPOESS spacecraft (known as C-1), currently scheduled for launch in late 2009;

o Further assess options to mitigate the risks to data continuity prior to the first NPOESS-Landsat mission, including a ‘bridge’ mission."

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

The funding request of $11,000,000 in the FY 2006 budget submission reestablishes NOAA’s involvement in the Landsat program.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NPOESS

Question: **What is the current status of the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Program and the NPOESS replan?**

Answer: **• The FY 2006 President's Budget fully funds the NPOESS program. The first NPOESS satellite will be launched in November 2009, if it is launched into a 2130 orbit, or in February 2010, if it is launched into a 1330 orbit.**

• The NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) satellite was planned for launch in October 2006. The launch schedule is currently under review.

• The FY 2006 President's Budget provides funding for NASA, NOAA, and USGS to implement the Landsat continuity plan outlined below:

o NASA will procure two land imaging sensors for incorporation on the first and fourth NPOESS satellites.

o NOAA will provide funds to integrate the sensors as well as for future continuity of the data set.

o USGS will finance the development and operation of the ground systems necessary to process, archive and distribute Landsat data.

o These roles and responsibilities will be documented in a Memorandum of Agreement in January 2005.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
DOC/NOAA*	$222.874	$273.789	$304.902	$300.528	$304.901	$320.998	($2.744)
DOD/AF	$232.082	$267.716	$307.700	$307.668		$323.803	
TOTAL	$454.956	$544.416	$612.602	$608.196		$647.545	

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NPOESS

Background: • NPOESS represents a convergence of civil and military polar-orbiting environmental satellite systems.

• NPOESS will monitor global environmental conditions, and collect and disseminate data related to: weather, atmosphere, oceans, land and near-space environment.

• NPOESS is managed by the tri-agency Integrated Program Office (IPO), employing personnel from the DOC, DoD and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• The FY 2006 budget supports the program request to continue efforts on the NPOESS system contract Acquisition and Operations (A&O) phases.

• The increased funding in FY 2006 (from FY 2005) supports the ramping up of NPP activities and the beginning of fabrication, assembly and testing of NPOESS C-1 sensors and spacecraft.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA), Serrano (D-NY), Ehlers (R-MI), Udall (D-CO)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Gregg (R-NH), Inouye (D-HI)

Goal: Critical Support **Line/Staff Office(s): NESDIS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

NPOESS

NPOESS Contractors

Company	Location	House	Senate
Northrop Grumman Space Technology (NPOESS Prime Contractor)	Redondo Beach, CA	Harman (D-CA)	Feinstein (D-CA) Boxer (D-CA)
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.	Boulder, CO	Udall (D-CO)	Allard (R-CO) Salazar (D-CO)
ITT Aerospace/ Communications	Fort Wayne, IN	Souder (R-IN)	Lugar (R-IN) Bayh (D-IN)
Boeing Space Systems	El Segundo, CA	Harman (D-CA)	Feinstein (D-CA) Boxer (D-CA)
Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems	Azusa, CA	Solis (D-CA)	Feinstein (D-CA) Boxer (D-CA)
Raytheon Company Santa Barbara Remote Sensing	Goleta, CA	Capps (D-CA)	Feinstein (D-CA) Boxer (D-CA)
Raytheon Company	Aurora, CO	Beauprez (R-CO)	Allard (R-CO) Salazar (R-CO)
Raytheon Company	Bellevue, NE	Terry (R-NE)	Hagel (R-NE) Ben Nelson (D-NE)
Raytheon Company	Upper Marlboro, MD	Wynn (D-MD)	Mikulski (D-MD) Sarbanes (D-MD)
Raytheon Technical Services Company	Colorado Springs, CO	Hefly (R-CO)	Allard (R-CO) Salazar (D-CO)
Raytheon Technical Services Company	Lanham, MD	Wynn (D-MD)	Mikulski (D-MD) Sarbanes (D-MD)
Raytheon Technical Services Company	Indianapolis, IN	Carson (D-IN)	Lugar (R-IN) Bayh (D-IN)

Program Management

Integrated Program Office	Silver Spring, MD	Van Hollen (D-MD)	Mikulski (D-MD) Sarbanes (D-MD)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Office of Space Commercialization

Question: **What is the status of the transfer of the Office of Space Commercialization (OSC) from DOC's Technology Administration (TA) to NOAA?**

Answer: **• We are currently in the process of transferring the Office of Space Commercialization to NOAA. It will be located within the Satellite and Information Service. A Director of Space Commercialization is expected to be appointed.**

• The FY 2006 budget funds the office within NOAA.

• We do not anticipate any issues related to this transfer.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Office of Space Commercialization	$0.000	$0.000	$0.591	$0.591	$0.600	$0.600	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Background: • The Department of Commerce plays a key role in the development of U.S. Government policies that foster the growth and competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space industry. It serves as an advocate for the industry within interagency deliberations affecting the future of space, encouraging the promotion of commercial interests as well as national security, foreign policy, and other interests.

• The Department of Commerce has actively supported the development and implementation of the Administration's three new space sector policies for: commercial remote-sensing; positioning, navigation, and timing; and space transportation. DOC bureaus (NOAA, ITA, TA, NTIA, BIS) remain engaged in commercial space issues ranging from GPS to commercial remote sensing, fair trade and exports, space transportation, protection of space frequencies, and protection of the US industrial base.

• The Office of Space Commercialization (OSC) has been part of the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration (TA). In FY 2004, the funds for OSC were appropriated to NOAA. The OSC remained organizationally in TA but was funded by NOAA on a reimbursable basis. In FY 2005, the funds for OSC were again appropriated to NOAA.

• We will continue to work closely with NASA and FAA on aspects of space commercialization for which they have the lead.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Polar Satellite: European

Question: **What is the status of the European polar weather satellite (METOP)?**

Answer: **• The planned launch date for the first European polar weather satellite (METOP), has slipped from December 2005 to April 2006.**

• During this four-month delay, NOAA must continue to contractor support that provides for: maintenance of the NOAA-provided instruments, support to integration and testing activities in Europe; and mission planning and post-launch support activities. The cost impact of this delay is estimated to be $3.0 million.

• The impact of this launch delay on AM coverage will depend on the continued health of the last POES AM satellite, NOAA-17.

• Normally, when a polar satellite is launched, a backup satellite is ready to launch soon thereafter if the first launch fails.

• We are hopeful that the combined assets of existing operational satellites and the older back-up satellites will be able to maintain adequate coverage until METOP is launched.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
POES**	$106.981	$113.179	$105.746	$104.230	$105.746	$102.673	($3.073)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***METOP costs are funded, as needed, from within the POES budget.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Polar Satellite: European

Background: NOAA-17 was launched on June 24, 2002. It will be 46 months old by the time METOP is launched, which is slightly greater than the historical average life-time (36 months) for POES satellites. One of the primary instruments on NOAA-17, the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU), has already failed, forcing NOAA to rely on a working AMSU-A instrument on, NOAA-15, launched in May 1998.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

The METOP launch delay will cost NOAA an additional $3.0 million in FY 2006.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Polar Satellite: NOAA-N Prime

Question: **What is the current status and outlook for NOAA N'? Has NOAA completely addressed the risk of interrupted polar satellite service?**

Answer: **• A contract modification for rebuilding NOAA-N' was signed with Lockheed Martin on September 29, 2004. It specifies that the new satellite should be launched not later than December 31, 2007.**

• Concerns about the reliability or manufacturability of the satellite have been addressed. The "rebuilt" spacecraft will be largely built with spare components, assemblies that were not involved in the accident, or new components.

• The decision to rebuild NOAA-N' substantially reduces the risk of a coverage gap in the POES system.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
POES	$106.981	$113.179	$105.746	$104.230	$105.746	$102.673	($3.073)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Polar Satellite: NOAA-N Prime

Background: The risk of a coverage gaps takes two forms: failure on orbit and launch failure.

• Based on the currently projected launch date for the next satellite, NOAA-N, in March 2005, NOAA-N' will be available to replace it after 33 months of operation in the event of an on-orbit failure. This compares with an historical average replacement interval of 45 months. Similarly, when NOAA-N' is launched in December 2007, it must operate for only 26 months before an NPOESS satellite will be available to replace it in January 2010.

• Normally, when a polar satellite is launched, a backup satellite is ready to launch soon thereafter if the first launch fails. In the cases of NOAA-N, NOAA-N', and NPOESS C1, we still face the risk of a launch failure, since backups will not be in place at the time of launch.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

The FY 2006 request includes funding required for the rebuild of NOAA-N' to meet the December 2007 launch date.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Regional Climate Centers (RCC)

Question: **Why is the Administration again proposing to eliminate the Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) despite strong support from key Members of Congress?**

Answer: **• Some support for RCC activities is included in the Archive, Access and Assessment request, where it can best be managed as part of the overall range of data and information activities.**

• We are not proposing to eliminate the Regional Climate Centers; we recognize the role and contributions of the RCCs at NOAA

• Communicating climate impacts and providing climate services at regional and local levels remains a vital part of NOAA's Climate Program.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Regional Climate Centers	$2.981	$2.073	$0.000	$2.464	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Archive, Access & Assessment (RCC	$0.000	$0.000	$1.700	$0.000	$0.000	$2.300	$2.300
TOTAL	$2.981	$2.073	$1.700	$2.464	$0.000	$2.300	$2.300

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Climate** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Regional Climate Centers (RCC)

Background: • RCCs increasingly collaborate with multiple NOAA line offices (e.g., NESDIS, NWS, and OAR) to provide climate information and conduct applied climate science research. RCCs interact with academia, the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC), local and state decision makers, and numerous federal agencies (e.g., USDA, EPA, USGS, etc.).

• By virtue of their close affiliation with NOAA and their collaboration with climate partners, RCCs are well-positioned to address socioeconomic climate impact questions, applied climate science initiatives, and expanded climate services (e.g., NIDIS, IPY, IPRC, etc.).

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• NOAA has not requested any funds in FY 2006 in the earmarked budget lines for RCCs. Any appearance of lack of support for RCC activities is due to NOAA's decision to reflect no request for funding in the earmarked budget line.

Member(s): House: Fortenberry (R-NE), Johnson (R-IL), Boehlert (R-NY), Wilson (R-SC), Baker (R-LA), Gibbons (R-NV)

Senate: Hagel (R-NE), Nelson (D-NE), Durbin (D-IL), Obama (D-IL), Schumer (D-NY), Clinton (D-NY), DeMint (R-SC), Graham (R-SC), Vitter (R-LA), Landrieu (D-LA), Reid (D-NV), Ensign (R-NV)

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Satellite Research to Operations

Question: **What are NOAA and NASA doing to improve planning and transition of research satellite instruments to operations?**

Answer: **• Both agencies continue to explore the most appropriate mechanisms to evaluate and transition relevant NASA research missions to operational status within NOAA. Indeed, the Ocean Commission report, and various NOAA Omnibus bills support this. The review of TRMM data for use within NOAA is one such effort. Both NOAA and NASA agree that this type of long-range planning is critical to our agencies ability to optimize use of America's investment in earth observation environmental systems.**

• NOAA has formed a team across line offices to develop a strategy and review research to operations proposals for potential of demonstrated success.

• NOAA and NASA, with the support of our Japanese partner, JAXA, remain committed to working together to develop a plan that will continue to deliver TRMM data for operational use during the current hurricane season without affecting the health and safety of the TRMM spacecraft.

• NOAA will actively support the joint NOAA-NASA requested workshop by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) that would advise both agencies regarding:

- Best use of remaining TRMM spacecraft life;

- Safe, controlled deorbit of TRMM;

- Advisability of transfer of operational responsibility for TRMM to NOAA for the remainder of mission life;

- Any requirement for a follow-on operational satellite that can provide data currently provided by TRMM; and

- Optimal use of the Global Precipitation Mission, a spacecraft planned for launch in 2011 that is a research follow-on to TRMM.

• As one example of the transition from research to operations, NOAA will prepare for operation of Jason 2, a NASA satellite altimeter mission that will provide benefits to NOAA users.

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Satellite Research to Operations

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Research to Ops/NOAA-NASA Partnership**	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$3.942	$0.000	$3.980	$3.980
Satellite Command & Control (Jason 2)	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.800	$0.800
Prod Process & Distrib (Jason 2)	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.400	$0.400
Prod Devel, Read & App (Jason 2)	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.400	$0.400
TOTAL	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$3.942	$0.000	$1.600	$1.600

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
***Congressional item added to FY 2005 Conference mark.*

Background:

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NESDIS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Title X

Question: **What does Title X mean for NOAA satellite acquisitions?**

Answer: **• This language requires no change to the NPOESS contract. The purpose of the language is to clearly establish legal foundation for the Air Force to delegate procurement authority to the NPOESS Program Director, a NOAA official.**

• Last year's appropriations act included language clarifying the procurement authorization for the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) program.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
DOC/NOAA*	$222.874	$273.789	$304.902	$300.528	$320.998	$323.742	$2.744
DOD/AF	$232.082	$267.716	$307.700	$307.668		$323.803	
TOTAL	$454.956	$544.416	$612.602	$608.196		$647.545	

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support. * The NOAA budget for NPOESS in FY 2005 is less than the Air Force's NPOESS budget because NOAA corporate costs and Congressional rescissions have been taken.*

Background: The NPOESS is the next-generation polar satellite system used to monitor global environmental conditions, and collect and disseminate data related to: weather, atmosphere, climate, oceans, land, and near-space environment. In 1994, the President signed Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-2, a result of plans to converge the polar satellite systems of DOC and DoD in a cost effective and higher performance integrated system. The NPOESS program is managed by the tri-agency Integrated Program Office (IPO), employing personnel from the DOC, DoD and NASA.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, division B, Title II states

..."That except to the extent expressly prohibited by any other law, the Department of Defense may delegate procurement functions related to the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System to officials of the Department of Commerce pursuant to section 2311 of title 10, United States Code."

Member(s): House:
Senate:

NMAO

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Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
CAPABLE Conversion

Question: **When will the T-AGOS 16, CAPABLE that was transferred to NOAA from the Navy in the FY 2005 Defense Appropriations Bill be ready for use by the NOAA Ocean Exploration Program?**

Answer: **• The CAPABLE conversion is expected to be completed summer 2007.**

• This vessel will provide NOAA with deep ocean exploration capability.

• NOAA plans to award the contract for the design and conversion by August 2005. The 6-8 month design phase will be followed by a 12-15 month conversion period.

• NOAA has defined the technical requirements for three major mission areas:

Visual investigation and sampling of the seabed and water column

Mapping deep ocean areas with a high-resolution multi-beam sonar

Broad-band transmission of data, still images and streamed video for real-time communication to shore-based scientists

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Marine Services							
CAPABLE (Transfer from DOD)			$0.000	$18.000	$0.000	$0.000	($18.000)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
CAPABLE Conversion

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

- CAPABLE Conversion (0 FTE, -$18.0M):

Initial estimates of the scope of the conversion work indicated that it could be completed and operations commenced in FY 06. After a careful examination of the requirements for conversion and an assessment of the acquisition strategy that is most suitable for CAPABLE, the conversion will not be complete until as late as August 2007. Work may be finished by February 2007 if the contractor takes advantage of incentives envisioned for the contract.

There are no funds requested in FY06. The $18.0M provided in FY05 is sufficient to fund the conversion. The conversion will consist of:

o Refurbishment of existing ship's hull, mechanical and electrical equipment

o Installation of a multi-beam sonar, sub-bottom profiler and split beam scientific sounder

o Installation of science-class deep-ocean ROV handling equipment and control center

o Installation of a dynamic positioning system

o Modifications to lab spaces (mapping lab, technology center, wet / dry labs)

o Installation of sampling and surveying instrument systems

The vessel will conduct operations on both the East and West coast...no home port has been defined.

Potential sites include the Pacific Northwest, Northeast Atlantic and Hawaii.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Inouye (D-HI), Dodd (D-CT), Lieberman (D-CT), Chafee (R-RI), Reed (D-RI), Cantwell (D-WA), Murray (D-WA)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 1 (FSV 1)

Question: **What is the status of FSV 1? Where will this ship operate? Where is it homeported?**

Answer: **• OSCAR DYSON (FSV1) was recently delivered to NOAA (by V.T. Halter Marine of Moss Point, Mississippi) on January 5, 2005. The ship will be homeported in Kodiak, Alaska and will operate in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.**

• The contract delivery date of August 31, 2004 was not met by the shipbuilder due to water damage to 3 of 4 main engines and acoustic quieting uncertainties.

• During Hurricane Ivan, wind-driven rain entered the engine cylinders through the exhaust; damage to the pistons and crank arms / crank rods occurred upon engine start-up. An underway propulsion trial re-demonstration was satisfactorily conducted in November 2004.

• During initial acoustic trials, conducted in September 2004, background noise prevented measurement of the ship's acoustic signature. Subsequent acoustic trials, conducted on a U.S. Navy acoustic range, were completed in mid-December 2004 with excellent results.

• The commissioning of FSV1 will be held on May 28, 2005, in Kodiak, AK.

Milestones:

FSV1 Contract Awarded…… January 31, 2001
FSV1 Contract Delivery Date…… August 31, 2004
FSV1Delivery…… January 5, 2005

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
Fisheries Survey Vessel 1		($2.400)	$0.000	$2.400	$2.400	$0.000	($2.400)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 1 (FSV 1)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Fisheries Survey Vessel 1 (0 FTE, -$2.4M):

There are no funds requested in FY06.

A total of $59.7M was provided for the design, construction, testing, outfitting and post-delivery modifications of OSCAR DYSON in FY00 and FY01.

The FY04 rescission of $2.4M was restored in FY05 to complete the FSV1 construction and outfitting in accordance with its original funding plan.

OSCAR DYSON (FSV1) is the first of a planned four-ship class of 208-foot fisheries survey vessels. These purpose-built vessels were designed and constructed to have an extremely low acoustic signature to meet the data collection requirements of the National Marine Fisheries Service. OSCAR DYSON will perform hydro acoustic surveys of fish, and conduct bottom and mid-water trawls while simultaneously running physical and biological oceanographic sampling during a single deployment -- a combined capability unavailable in the private sector.

o FSV1 will significantly improve the precision and accuracy of scientific assessments (e.g. Alaskan pollock), monitor additional living marine resources and support West Coast fisheries management.

o FSV1 will deploy state-of-the-art acoustic technologies, combined with very quiet radiated noise signatures, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of at-sea resource surveys.

o There are no charter vessels that can provide this acoustically quiet multi-mission capability. The sonar and propulsion systems on commercial vessels are not specifically constructed and balanced to meet noise and vibration specifications that would promote accurate readings.

"This state-of-the art, acoustically quiet vessel will give NOAA scientists access to advanced technologies to better understand the state of the nation's fisheries. The fishing industry is a large portion of the nation's economy, and the work we do ensures the sustainable use of our ocean resources. That means providing jobs, safe and healthy seafood for consumers, and quality recreational opportunities for the American public."

-- Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, commenting upon the delivery of OSCAR DYSON (FSV1)

Member(s): House: Taylor (D-MS), Young (R-AK)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Gregg (R-NH), Murkowski (R-AK)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 3 (FSV 3)

Question: **What is the status of FSV 3? Where will it operate? Where will it be homeported?**

Answer: **• Construction of FSV3 was awarded to V.T. Halter Marine (Pascagoula, Mississippi) in January 2005. The vessel will be delivered to NOAA in September 2007.**
• The ship will be homeported in Pascagoula, MS.

• The ship will operate in the Gulf of Mexico, Southern Atlantic and Caribbean and will also provide support along the continental shelf and slope from Cape Hatteras, NC to Southern New England.

Milestones:

FSV3 Long Lead Time Material Option Exercised…… July 20, 2004
FSV3 Construction Option Exercised…… January 2005
FSV3 Contract Delivery…… September 2007

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
Fisheries Survey Vessel 3**	$0.000	$16.800	$33.800	$33.500	$33.500	$0.000	($33.500)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

*** FY06 Base Funds were moved as a program change (-$33.513) to FSV #4 (+32.500)*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 3 (FSV 3)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Fisheries Survey Vessel 3 (0 FTE, -$33.5M):

There are no funds requested in FY06.

A total of $50.3M was provided for the design, construction, testing, outfitting and post-delivery modifications of FSV3 in FY04 and FY05.

FSV3 is the third of a planned four-ship class of 208-foot fisheries survey vessels. These purpose-built vessels were designed and constructed to have an extremely low acoustic signature to meet the data collection requirement of the National Marine Fisheries Service. FSV3 will perform hydro-acoustic surveys of fish, and conduct bottom and mid-water trawls while simultaneously running physical and biological oceanographic sampling during a single deployment -- a combined capability unavailable in the private sector.

o FSV3 will significantly improve the precision and accuracy of scientific assessments, monitor additional living marine resources and support Gulf of Mexico and Northeast fisheries management.

o FSV3 will deploy state-of-the-art acoustic technologies, combined with very quiet radiated noise signatures, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of at-sea resource surveys.

o There are no charter vessels that can provide this acoustically quiet multi-mission capability. The sonar and propulsion systems on commercial vessels are not specifically constructed and balanced to meet noise and vibration specifications that would promote accurate readings.

"This state-of-the art, acoustically quiet vessel will give NOAA scientists access to advanced technologies to better understand the state of the nation's fisheries. The fishing industry is a large portion of the nation's economy, and the work we do ensures the sustainable use of our ocean resources. That means providing jobs, safe and healthy seafood for consumers, and quality recreational opportunities for the American public."
-- Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, commenting upon the delivery of OSCAR DYSON (FSV1)

Member(s): House: Taylor (D-MS), Gilchrest (R-MD)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Gregg (R-NH)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 4 (FSV 4)

Question: **What is the acquisition schedule for Fisheries Survey Vessel 4 (FSV 4)? Why is an increase requested for this vessel in FY 2006? Where will this vessel operate? Where will it be homeported?**

Answer: **• Construction of FSV4 is planned to start in January 2006 by V.T. Halter Marine (Pascagoula, Mississippi). The vessel will be delivered to NOAA in September 2008.**

• The FY06 budget request includes $32.5M which will enable NOAA to exercise the option to start construction.

• This vessel will operate and be homeported on the West coast.

• Funds received in FY05 will be used to procure long lead time material (main engine -- generator units, propulsion motors).

Milestones:

FSV4 Long Lead Time Material Option Exercised…… July 2005
FSV4 Construction Option Exercised…… January 2006
FSV4 Contract Delivery…… September 2008

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
Fisheries Survey Vessel 4	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$5.500	$0.000	$32.500	($32.500)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel 4 (FSV 4)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Fisheries Survey Vessel 4 (0 FTE, +$27.0M):

This increase will enable NOAA to start construction of FSV4.

o The contract option for the construction of FSV4 must be exercised by January 31, 2006. In the event the contract option is not exercised in time, the construction costs are estimated to increase by approximately $7.3 million due to recent increases in the cost of materials. During the period 2001-2004, the price of steel more than doubled, aluminum prices increased 25% and copper prices increased 50%. Additionally, over the past 2 years, the Euro has gained in value by 30% over the US dollar, resulting in increased costs for electrical propulsion system components which include generators, rectifiers, transformers and motors that are all supplied from Europe.

An additional $14.0M will be required in the outyears ($13.0 FY07, $1.0M FY09) to complete construction and to provide for testing, spare parts, outfitting, and post-shakedown modifications.

A total of $52.0M will be required for the design, construction, testing, outfitting and post-delivery modifications of FSV4 in FY05-FY09.

FSV4 is the fourth of a planned four-ship class of 208-foot fisheries survey vessels. These purpose-built vessels were designed and constructed to have an extremely low acoustic signature to meet the data collection requirement of the National Marine Fisheries Service. FSV4 will perform hydro-acoustic surveys of fish, and conduct bottom and mid-water trawls while simultaneously running physical and biological oceanographic sampling during a single deployment - a combined capability unavailable in the private sector.

o FSV4 will significantly improve the precision and accuracy of scientific assessments, monitor additional living marine resources and support Pacific fisheries management.

o FSV4 will deploy state-of-the-art acoustic technologies, combined with very quiet radiated noise signatures, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of at-sea resource surveys.

o There are no charter vessels that can provide this acoustically quiet multi-mission capability. The sonar and propulsion systems on commercial vessels are not specifically constructed and balanced to meet noise and vibration specifications that would promote accurate readings.

"This state-of-the art, acoustically quiet vessel will give NOAA scientists access to advanced technologies to better understand the state of the nation’s fisheries. The fishing industry is a large portion of the nation’s economy, and the work we do ensures the sustainable use of our ocean resources. That means providing jobs, safe and healthy seafood for consumers, and quality recreational

opportunities for the American public."
-- Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, commenting upon the delivery of OSCAR DYSON (FSV1)

FSV4 will conduction operations in the Pacific - no homeport has been defined.

Public Law 106-450 authorized the acquisition of up to six (6) FSVs.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Gregg (R-NH), Murray (D-WA), Smith (R-OR), Wyden (D-OR), Cantwell (D-WA)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Fisheries Survey Vessel Replacement (FSV 2)

Question: **What is the status of FSV 2? Where will it operate? Where will it be homeported?**

Answer: **• HENRY B. BIGELOW (FSV2) is under construction at V.T. Halter Marine (Moss Point, Mississippi) with a contract delivery date of June 16, 2006.**
• The ship will be homeported in Woods Hole, MA.

• After delivery of the vessel to NOAA, BIGELOW will initially conduct comparative operations with ALBATROSS IV to calibrate ground fish surveys, thus ensuring consistent stock estimates.

• BIGELOW will replace the ALBATROSS IV, operating in the Gulf of Maine, the Georges Bank, and along the continental shelf and slope from Southern New England to Cape Hatteras, NC.

Milestones:

FSV2 Construction Option Exercised…… July 31, 2003
FSV2 Launch…… July 2005
FSV2 Contract Delivery…… June 2006

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
Fisheries Survey Vessel Replacement	$50.500	($5.800)	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Fisheries Survey Vessel Replacement (FSV 2)

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Fisheries Survey Vessel 2 (0 FTE, +$0.0M):

There are no funds requested in FY06.

A total of $55.9M was provided for the design, construction, testing, outfitting and post-delivery modifications of HENRY B. BIGELOW in FY02 and FY03.

The FY04 rescission of $5.8M will be requested for restoration in FY07 budget submission. The rescission occurred after the FY06 budget formulation was completed and is not included. The funds were not restored in the FY05 appropriations.

HENRY B. BIGELOW (FSV2) is the second of a planned four-ship class of 208-foot fisheries survey vessels. These purpose-built vessels were designed and constructed to have an extremely low acoustic signature to meet the data collection requirement of the National Marine Fisheries Service. HENRY B. BIGELOW will perform hydro-acoustic surveys of fish, and conduct bottom and mid-water trawls while simultaneously running physical and biological oceanographic sampling during a single deployment -- a combined capability unavailable in the private sector.

o FSV2 will significantly improve the precision and accuracy of scientific assessments, monitor additional living marine resources and support East Coast fisheries management.

o FSV2 will deploy state-of-the-art acoustic technologies, combined with very quiet radiated noise signatures, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of at-sea resource surveys.

o There are no charter vessels that can provide this acoustically quiet multi-mission capability. The sonar and propulsion systems on commercial vessels are not specifically constructed and balanced to meet noise and vibration specifications that would promote accurate readings.

"This state-of-the art, acoustically quiet vessel will give NOAA scientists access to advanced technologies to better understand the state of the nation's fisheries. The fishing industry is a large portion of the nation's economy, and the work we do ensures the sustainable use of our ocean resources. That means providing jobs, safe and healthy seafood for consumers, and quality recreational opportunities for the American public."

-- Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, commenting upon the delivery of OSCAR DYSON (FSV1)

Member(s): House: Taylor (D-MS), Gilchrest (R-MD)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Gregg (R-NH), Snowe (R-ME), Kerry (D-MA)

NOAA

Questions and Answers

Fisheries Survey Vessel Replacement (FSV 2)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers

G-IV Instrumentation Upgrades

Question: **Congress provided funding for G-IV upgrades in the FY 2005 hurricane supplemental. What is the status of this activity?**

Answer: **• The $3.5M provided in the FY05 Hurricane Supplemental will be used to install a Doppler tail radar to improve hurricane forecasting and restore funds rescinded in FY04.**

• This is a new capability to provide wind-field and rain-rate data to initialize a next-generation hurricane computer model for the National Weather Service.

• NOAA has just received industry responses to a request for information for the Doppler tail radar. These responses are being used to shape the acquisition strategy which will be presented to the Department of Commerce Acquisition Review Board for their approval later this month.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Aircraft Replacement							
G-IV Instrumentation Upgrades	$8.300	$1.100	$0.000	$3.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
G-IV Instrumentation Upgrades

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• G-IV Instrumentation Upgrades (0 FTE, -$3.5M):

No funds are requested in FY06.

A total of $12.9M has been provided for instrumentation upgrades and the Doppler tail radar installation in FY03-FY05 consisting of the FY05 Hurricane Supplemental and prior year funds. The instrument upgrades include an associated step-frequency microwave radiometer for measure of winds and data path / quality control improvements to support the Doppler tail radar.

The G-IV performs hurricane surveillance and also supports research on winter storms and clear-air turbulence.

The G-IV operates out of NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center, located at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL), Taylor (D-MS)
Senate: Nelson (D-FL), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Vitter (R-LA), Landrieu (D-LA), Chambliss (R-GA), Isakson (R-GA)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers

MCARTHUR II, NANCY FOSTER, OSCAR ELTON SETTEE

Question: **The Administration has requested funding for upgrades to the MCARTHUR II, the NANCY FOSTER and the OSCAR ELTON SETTEE. What additional capabilities will the upgrades to these vessels provide?**

Answer: **• The FY06 request will complete upgrades to NANCY FOSTER and will initiate upgrades to McARTHUR II and OSCAR ELTON SETTE.**

• These upgrades will improve NOAA's ability to meet the data collection requirements of NOAA's Ecosystem Goal.

• McARTHUR II upgrades include renovation of lab spaces, installation of Miranda davit and purchase of mission boat.

• NANCY FOSTER upgrades include outfitting the labs, purchase of an additional mission boat, installation of an A-frame and associated oceanographic winch, and the purchase of an additional general purpose winch and wire.

• OSCAR ELTON SETTE upgrades include modifications to lab spaces, installation of Miranda davit and purchase of mission boat, and modifications to ventilation system.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
NANCY FOSTER Upgrade				$0.500	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
MCARTHUR II/NANCY FOSTER/OSCAR						$3.200	
TOTAL	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.500	$0.000	$3.200	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
MCARTHUR II, NANCY FOSTER, OSCAR ELTON SETTEE

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• McARTHUR II / NANCY FOSTER / OSCAR ELTON SETTE Upgrades (0 FTE, +$2.7M):

This increase will enable NOAA to continue upgrades to NANCY FOSTER that were begun in FY05 and to begin upgrades on McARTHUR II and OSCAR ELTON SETTE.

o All three vessels were originally constructed by the U.S. Navy for a different mission. The ships are currently operating, but with limited capabilities that do not meet all of NOAA's mission requirements.

o McARTHUR II is home ported in Seattle, Washington and supports Ecosystem missions along the West Coast, including marine mammal and seabird surveys and marine sanctuary projects.

o NANCY FOSTER is home ported in Charleston, South Carolina and supports Ecosystem missions along the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico, including marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS), and ocean exploration.

o OSCAR ELTON SETTE is homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii and operates throughout the central and western Pacific. It supports data collection for fisheries management and marine mammal protection and data on coral reefs, marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS), and ocean exploration in support of NOAA's Ecosystem Goal.

Member(s): House: Abergcrombie (D-HI)
Senate: Inouye (D-HI), Murray (D-WA), Cantwell (D-WA), Boxer (D-CA), Akaka (D-HI)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Operating Days

Question: **In previous years, the Administration's request for Operating Days funding has not been fully met. What is included in the FY 2006 request for Operating Days? What will this level of funding buy?**

Answer: **• The President's Budget funds approximately 4,160 operating days in FY06 for NOAA's fleet of ships.**

• The FY05 Appropriation funded 4,430 operating days. The Administration faced difficult choices with the FY06 resource allocation and had to limit funding for two of NOAA's ships to less than a full year each. However, due to the Administration's planned response to the tsunami crisis, it is anticipated that some of the ships will be involved with the deployment of tsunami buoys. This tsunami support plus other program requirements will now permit full operation of the NOAA fleet.

• Approximately 855 operating days are planned for outsourced (charter) ship support in FY06 using Marine Services funding.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Marine Operations & Maintenance							
Marine Services	$63.800	$82.200	$84.800	$92.500	$86.800	$86.800	$0.000
CAPABLE (Transfer from DOD)			$0.000	$18.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$63.800	$82.200	$84.800	$110.500	$86.800	$86.800	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Operating Days

Background: • Marine Services (0 FTE, -$23.7M):

The FY05 Appropriations Bill provided more funding than is requested in the FY06 budget submission.

FY05 funding supports full operation of NOAA ships HI'IALAKAI and OSCAR DYSON.

Had it not been for the tsunami funding, the HI'IALAKAI and OSCAR DYSON operations would not have been fully funded in the FY06 budget. The shortfall would have been approximately $5.7M.

o The FY05 President's Budget included less than full-year funding because it was unclear at the time of formulation if either vessel would be ready for operation by the beginning of FY05. When the FY05 Omnibus was passed, it provided full-year funding for both ships.

o Although the FY06 Program Plan included full-year funding for both vessels, OMB provided less than full-year funding in the FY06 passback.

o With the FY05 Omnibus appropriation for a full year of operation, OSCAR DYSON will be able to provide 250 operating days and HI'IALAKAI will provide 260 operating days.

o With less than full-year funding in FY06, OSCAR DYSON and HI'IALAKAI would have only been able to provide 100 operating days each.

With less than full-year funding for OSCAR DYSON and HI'IALAKAI in FY06 respectively, the vessels would have had to be taken off line around mid-year in FY06 after having operated for a full year in FY05. Crew members would have been terminated and then rehired in FY07, with the possibility of not having adequate staff to resume operations.

o There are no charter vessels that can provide the acoustically quiet multi-mission capability of the OSCAR DYSON. The sonar and propulsion noises on commercial vessels are not specifically constructed and balanced to meet noise and vibration specifications that would promote accurate readings for fisheries research.

o OSCAR DYSON will study and monitor Alaskan pollock and other fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

o OSCAR DYSON will also observe environmental conditions, conduct habitat assessments, and survey marine mammal and marine bird populations.

o OSCAR DYSON will be homeported in Kodiak, Alaska.

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Operating Days

o HI'IALAKAI will map, assess and monitor the health of coral reef in the Hawaiian Islands.

o HI'IALAKAI will also conduct research and monitoring in support of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, marine mammal surveys, and ocean exploration.

o HI'IALAKAI will be homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Of the ships anticipated to support deployment of tsunami buoys, two (OSCAR DYSON and HI'IALAKAI) are home-ported in states (Alaska and Hawaii) that will particularly benefit from the buoy system deployment.

There is no change in the size of the NOAA fleet between FY05 and FY06. HENRY BIGELOW (FSV2) will be added to the fleet in late FY06, but will not operate until FY07 due to a lack of funds.

Current FY06 funding levels within Marine Services support the maintenance and operations of eighteen NOAA vessels, which include seven surplused Navy vessels (i.e., five converted T-AGOS, one converted YTT, one T-AGS hydrographic ship), a service life extension (FAIRWEATHER), and one newly constructed Fisheries Survey Vessel (OSCAR DYSON). The following is a breakdown of vessel mission support:

o nine ships supporting fishery and marine mammal data collection;

o four ships collecting hydrographic data;

o two ships supporting blue water oceanography/TAO buoys;

o one ship supporting Coral Reef and Marine Sanctuary data collection; and

o two ships supporting fishery/marine mammal, coastal research and Marine Sanctuary data collection

NOAA ShipsHomeport

MILLER FREEMAN, JOHN N. COBB, RAINIER and MCARTHUR II Seattle, Washington
FAIRWEATHER Ketchikan, Alaska
OSCAR DYSON Kodiak, Alaska
KA'IMIMOANA, HI'IALAKAI and OSCAR ELTON SETTE Honolulu, Hawaii
DAVID STARR JORDAN San Diego, California
GORDON GUNTER and OREGON II Pascagoula, Mississippi
RONALD H. BROWN and NANCY FOSTER Charleston, South Carolina
RUDE and THOMAS JEFFERSON Norfolk, Virginia
ALBATROSS IV and DELAWARE II Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Operating Days

Note: An Operating Day is defined as a day-at-sea and / or a day alongside in a port other than the ship's homeport.

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL), Taylor (D-MS), Wolf (R-VA), Serrano (D-NY), Gilchrest (R-MD), Young (R-AK)
Senate: Stevens (R-AK), Gregg (R-NH), Inouye (D-HI), Lott (R-MS), Cochran (R-MS), Kerry (D-MA), Murray (D-WA), Cantwell (D-WA)

Goal: Critical Support **Line / Staff Office: NMAO**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Operating Days

Planned Operating Days	FY05	FY06	Change
NOAA Fleet	4,430	4,160	-270
Outsourced (Charter) Ship Support - Marine Services Funds	820	855	+35
Outsourced (Charter) Ship Support - Program Funds	2,210	4,290	+2080
Total Outsourced	*3,030*	*5,145*	
TOTAL Planned Operating Days	7,460	9,305	+1,845

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
SWATH Vessel

Question: **What is the status of the SWATH ship construction program?**

Answer: **• Contract design is currently being performed by the shipbuilder.**

• NOAA received $9.2M in FY05 which will support the start of vessel construction in July 2005 at V.T. Halter Marine (Moss Point, Mississippi).

• The contract delivery date is estimated to be December 2006 (an 18 month construction period).

Milestones:

SWATH Contract Design Contract Option Exercised -- September 23, 2004

SWATH Critical Design Review -- July 2005

SWATH Construction Option Exercised -- July 2005

SWATH Contract Delivery -- December 2006

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Fleet Replacement							
SWATH	$8.900	($5.700)	$0.000	$9.200	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** NMAO

NOAA
Questions and Answers
SWATH Vessel

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• SWATH (Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull) (0 FTE, -$9.2M):

There are no funds requested in FY06 for the vessel's design and construction.

A total of $17.4M has been provided for the design, construction, testing, outfitting and post-delivery modifications to the SWATH in FY02-FY05.

A separate FY07 funding request will add $7.9M for improved mission equipment (multi-beam sonar, side scan sonar, synthetic aperture sonar, sonar acquisition and processing systems, vessel motion and positioning sensors, underway sound velocity profiler, survey launch). Until the equipment is purchased and installed, the mission equipment from the RUDE will be installed. The SWATH mission equipment is required to operate at the designated survey speed (12+ kts); RUDE's equipment is limited to 9 kts.

[Note: the $7.9M may be reduced at the 19 Jan 05 NEC to $5.6M]

The SWATH design affords a significant improvement in seakeeping. This allows the ship to operate in sea states in which RUDE could not, thereby increasing the efficiency of hydrographic data collection.

The vessel will operate on the East coast and be homeported at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The Joint Hydrographic Center, a cooperative agreement between the UNH and NOAA, will benefit from the configuration of the SWATH in the evaluation of state-of-the-art hydrographic and ocean mapping technologies.

Member(s): House: Taylor (D-MS)
Senate: Gregg (R-NH)

PPI

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NOAA
Questions and Answers

Matrix Management

Question: **One of the PRT recommendations was to create a Program Planning and Integration (PPI) Line Office to implement matrix management across the NOAA Line Offices. What have you accomplished with this approach that you could not accomplish through the traditional Line Office structure?**

Answer: **• The resulting integration leverages the vast expertise throughout the agency in a tangible way to foster a single NOAA, reaping maximum benefits with given resources.**

• Some examples of improved operations include:

• NOAA Research, Satellites and Information Service, National Weather Service, and Fisheries Service have collaborated over the past three years to create an advanced program aligning observations, research, and services with the goals of the Climate Change Science Plan.

• The implementation of matrix management across NOAA's traditional organizational structure has provided the coordination and collaboration necessary to integrate our diverse traditional programs to address the complex challenges NOAA faces today.

• The success of NOAA's climate program is a demonstrable example of the benefits of matrix management. NOAA is now better positioned to understand and describe climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.

• The Habitat Matrix Program has fostered restoration of over 10,000 acres of coastal, marine, or Great Lakes habitat and has made accessible approximately 600 stream miles for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources within its first two years of developing a matrix structure. Resources of the NOAA Fisheries Service, NOAA Ocean Service, and NOAA Research have come together to collaborate on these important projects.

• The successful implementation of the new Coasts, Estuaries, and Oceans (CEO) Program allows NOAA to integrate the activities of NOAA's Ocean Service, Satellites and Information Service, and National Weather Service on important new initiatives with an enhanced level of collaboration. CEO is facilitating the implementation of IOOS and developing new capabilities such as advanced storm surge forecasts.

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PPI

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Matrix Management

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Program Planning & Integration**	$0.000	$0.891	$0.991	$1.175	$0.956	$0.956	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** No specific budget detail for Matrix Management.*

Background:

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PPI

NOAA
Questions and Answers
PPBES

Question: **We understand that NOAA has recently instituted a new budget and planning process based on the DOD model. What is the status of this activity? How has implementing this new process supported NOAA's efforts to achieve its strategic goals? How does NOAA determine which programs and when they are established within the PPBES program structure? What process is used to eliminate programs?**

Answer: **• PPBES allows us to plan future resource allocations to meet highest priority needs and achieve efficiency and optimal decision making.**

•Annually during the PPBES process the NOAA program structure is reviewed by all components of the agency including program managers; mission goal teams; intra-agency councils; program planning, analysis and budget offices; and senior management to improve program alignment and execution of NOAA's strategic plan.

• NOAA is currently in the second full year of implementing PPBES and will commence the third for FY08 in March.

• The NOAA Program Structure provides the link between NOAA's strategic missions, goals, and outcomes to tactical plans for the conduct of daily programmatic activities.

• Evaluation is conducted to determine if programs should be started, accelerated, combined, decelerated, or stopped.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Program Planning & Integration**	$0.000	$0.594	$0.510	$0.606	$0.492	$0.492	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** No specific budget detail for PPBES.*

Background:

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PPI

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Strategic Planning

Question: **NOAA recently issued a revised strategic plan. Please highlight some of the key changes in this new plan.**

Answer: **• The 2005-2010 plan places a greater emphasis on external partnerships and includes high level outcomes, performance objectives and strategies for all goals.**

• We have revised our vision statement to look outward and reflect our capacity to influence socioeconomic decision making.

• We have added a fifth goal mirroring the Department's plan and focusing on centrally managed critical activities that support all goals.

• The plan includes cross cuts for integrated observations and data management, research, environmental literacy, international activities, and a world-class workforce.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Program Planning & Integration**	$0.000	$0.494	$0.499	$0.683	$0.555	$0.555	$0.000

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*
*** No specific budget detail for the Strategic Plan.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Strategic Planning

Background: NOAA's Strategic Plan provides a guiding vision and sets goals against which we plan, create programs, allocate resources, and manage our performance. It also serves to motivate those who work with and for NOAA to meet the Nation's needs for environmental and ecological information and services now and into the future. In order to better serve society NOAA keeps the plan updated and relevant, revising it as needed. During 2004 we updated the plan for 2005-2010. The updated plan reflects recent external events, changes to NOAA's operations, and advice from stakeholders. Below is a summary of the key changes in the new Strategic Plan.

• External Partnerships -- The plan places a greater focus on NOAA's external partnerships. The introductory letter from VADM Lautenbacher states: "We depend strongly on our partners at local, state, national, and international levels to acquire, develop, and distribute vital information, conduct essential research, and provide services needed by society. We must work with international institutions, state and Federal agencies, tribes, local and regional governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and private businesses in all that we do, not only to succeed in providing information, products, and services, but also to ensure that agency, national, and international goals are achieved."

• New NOAA Vision Statement -- "An informed society that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions." Whereas the earlier Vision statement focused on the need to reorganize NOAA, the new Vision Statement looks outward and reflects NOAA's potential influence on the world

• Fifth goal, "Provide Critical Support for NOAA's Mission" -- NOAA has retained its four Mission Goals, and created a fifth "Critical Support" goal as a focus for centrally managed critical activities that support all Mission Goals. This construct mirrors the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan. The new goal incorporates all of the programs that fall under leadership and management, satellites, fleet, aircraft, data stewardship, information, technology, facilities, and administrative services.

• Cross-Cutting Priorities -- The new Strategic Plan has five cross-cutting priorities:

Building an Integrated Observations and Data Management System;
Ensuring High Quality Research;
Promoting Environmental Literacy;
Exercising International Leadership; and
Developing, Valuing, and Sustaining a World-Class Workforce.

Homeland Security, previously a cross-cutting priority, has been designated a NOAA program under the Critical Support goal and the previous "organizational excellence" priority has also been incorporated in the new Critical Support goal.

• Outcomes, Performance Objectives, and Strategies -- the new plan includes high-level Outcomes,

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Strategic Planning

Performance Objectives, and Strategies for all five goals. This is a change from the old plan, which was structured differently. The new plan also lists NOAA's GPRA performance measures, as did the old plan.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

PS

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Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Business Process Reengineering

Question: **Last year we asked you to study your administrative and financial functions. What actions are you taking in response to the study?**

Answer: **• Financial and administrative support functions (finance, acquisitions and grants, and workforce management) performed in the field (Administrative Support Centers--ASCs) now report under a matrixed reporting relationship to their respective business line functional manager in NOAA headquarters.**

• Implementation of Functional Management Model

Financial services under the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Acquisition and grants under the Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO)
Workforce management under the Workforce Management Office (WMO)

•Realignment of the Facilities Management Program.
Facilities and logistics under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

• Business Process Reengineering.
o Phase One: Completed
o Phase Two: Baseline assessment to be completed by early February
o Phase Three: Projected to begin March 2005 for selected processes.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.500	$1.500
Facilities Program Reengineering	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$1.000	$1.000
TOTAL	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$2.500	$2.500

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Business Process Reengineering

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Business Process Reengineering (0 FTE, +$1,500,000)
• Facilities Program Reengineering (0 FTE, +$1,000,000)

Financial and administrative support functions (finance, acquisitions and grants, and workforce management) performed in the field (Administrative Support Centers--ASCs) now report under a matrixed reporting relationship to their respective business line functional manager in NOAA headquarters. The functional management model provides improvements over the existing management model; most significantly, it provides a clear point of accountability in a senior functional manager for each area/grouping and should insure more consistent policy application and service levels. This is the same organizational principle recommended by the NOAA Program Review Team in their 2002 Report.

Notification to the Appropriations Committees of both houses of Congress of our intent to formally adopt a functional management approach was transmitted on October 25, 2004. Both houses have now responded to the notification, enabling NOAA to move forward formally with realigning these functions along functional management lines

This decision to implement a functional business model is separate from any decision affecting potential consolidation of the ASCs. No decision concerning consolidation of the ASCs has been made.

Realignment of Facilities Management Program. The realignment established a new service delivery model that emphasizes the importance of creating a strong “headquarters” function (planning, policy, performance metrics and execution oversight, workforce planning and resourcing) supported by an operational field structure providing services in the field. The model establishes three "regions" (National Capital Region, eastern operations, western operations) in support of real property acquisition and project management services. We have created regional "hubs" for eastern and western operations as the locus of accountability for service delivery in each region.

o For eastern operations, Kansas City will serve as the regional hub
o For western operations, Seattle will serve as the regional hub.

Staff in the real property acquisition staff and project management staff in Norfolk will report to the Kansas City (eastern operations) hub; similarly, staff performing these functions in Boulder will report to the Seattle (western operations) hub. No employees will lose their jobs as a result of this realignment.

The Transition Management Team established in September 2004 is proceeding with its business process reengineering initiative in three phases:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA

Questions and Answers

Business Process Reengineering

o Phase One: Training on the fundamentals of business process re-engineering. Completed in August.

o Phase Two: Baseline assessment of the finance and administrative processes which will provide a snapshot of the "as-is" of existing business processes. Projected to be completed by January 28, 2005, with presentation to NEP in late February.

o Phase Three: Redesign of selected business processes to improve services, and the effectiveness and efficiency of business operations. Projected to begin March 2005 for selected processes.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Demonstration Program

Question: **The FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill provided NOAA with authority to expand the number of employees in the pay for performance demonstration program and to make the program permanent. What is the status of this expansion?**

Answer: **• An estimated target date for implementation of the expansion of the Demonstration Project in NOAA is October 2005.**

NOAA/DOC currently reviewing the language in the bill to ascertain what options DOC/NOAA has in implementing the expansion and extension of the Demonstration Project.

• The FY05 appropriations bill authorizes NOAA to expand the employee population under the Demonstration Project by an additional 3,500 employees.

• The FY05 appropriations bill authorizes an indefinite extension of the Demonstration Project.

Background: • The expansion of the Demonstration Project will not impact the FY06 NOAA budget. The costs associated with the buy out of WIGIs (a one time cash payment) would be assessed in the beginning of FY07 at an average of 1,000/employee.(potential $3.5M for 3,500 employees) There will be some added costs associated with training managers and employees for travel and training materials.

The DOC Personnel Management Demonstration Project was authorized by OPM in December of 1997 and implemented in March of 1998. The initial 5 year period of the project authorized by OPM was extended for an additional 5 years until March 2008 and expanded within NOAA up to the current allocation of 3,425 employees.

Member(s): House: Young (R-FL)
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Education Initiative

Question: **The President's budget eliminates the $14 million NOAA Education Initiative funded by Congress in FY 2005 in response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. How can you say the Administration supports the education activities identified in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, yet provide no new funding?**

Answer: **• Although no new funds are requested for this effort, we are committed to moving forward with the NOAA Education Plan and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan using existing education funds, which total about $20 million across NOAA.**

• Education is indeed a priority to NOAA and the Administration.

• NOAA identifies Environmental Literacy as a cross-cutting priority in the NOAA Strategic Plan.

• Over the past 3 years, this Administration established within NOAA a new Education Office and a Council comprised of individuals from education programs across NOAA. The Council developed a Plan and Policy and is now in the process of implementing these.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
NOAA Education Program/Ed Initiative	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$10.392	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Ocean Science Bowl	$1.000	$1.000	$0.000	$0.985	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Jason	$2.500	$2.500	$0.000	$2.463	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Bay Watershed Education & Training	$2.500	$2.500	$0.000	$2.463	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
BWET Hawaii		$0.500	$0.000	$1.479	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
Narragansett Bay Marine Education		$0.500	$0.000	$0.492	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000
TOTAL	$6.000	$7.000	$0.000	$18.275	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Education Initiative

Background: • The U.S. Ocean Action Plan identifies priority ocean education issues, including increasing coordination and expanding NOAA's authority for education and outreach.

• The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated a chapter to education. The Chapter made 17 recommendations, including establishing an Ocean.Ed office and expanding NOAA's role in formal and informal education.

Member(s): House: Ehlers (R-MI)
Senate: Gregg (R-NH), Inouye (D-HI)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Facilities Master Plan

Question: **What is the status of NOAA's Facilities Master Plan? What is the procedure for updating the plan? What are NOAA's facilities and maintenance priorities under the plan due to Congress in February, 2005?**

Answer: **• The policy is currently under review internally. It is expected to publish in the 2nd quarter, FY2005.**

•The Facilities Master Plan will provide details on priorities being tied to PPBES Mission Goals and Strategic Plan, staff growth and functions associated with facility needs.

• NOAA is developing a longer-range strategy for facilities master planning, and hopes to discuss this approach as part of its FY 2005 Facilities Master Plan.

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• N/A

The NOAA FMP (2004 Version) represented the current inventory and plans for NOAA's real property capital assets, and discussed a number of reengineering initiatives designed to improve NOAA's planning and management of real property assets in support of NOAA Strategic Plan goals and objectives. The 2004 version of the FMP built on the efforts reflected in the 2003 version -- which represented the first attempt in NOAA's history to address all its facilities in a comprehensive and corporate fashion and to link facilities planning and execution to NOAA's Strategic Plan. Like all plans, the FMP is designed to be dynamic and evolutionary—to reflect both the changing portfolio of NOAA's real property assets and needs to support NOAA's Strategic Plan; and also the maturing nature of NOAA's facility management planning processes.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Grants

Question: **What is being done to expedite the award of grants in NOAA?**

Answer: **• NOAA has two major initiatives in place to address expediting the award process for grants: the Grants Online Project and a Business Process Reengineering effort of which streamlining grants administration is a main component.**

• The Grants Online Project provides a fast, coherent, flexible and robust application in support of the evaluation, award and long-term management and operations processes. Initial implementation started in 2nd quarter, full implementation will be by 4th quarter.

• The Business Process Reengineering team provides metrics for workloads and cycle times for each key Grants life cycle process studied.

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Grants

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• N/A

NOAA awards over 900 million dollars in grants annually.

Over the past 15 years, grants have become more and more an integral and key aspect of helping accomplish NOAA's mission. The current grants application, award, and management processes within NOAA are characterized by long cycle times between the application for a grant and the actual award and subsequent availability of funds. The operational life-cycle of an awarded grant can run from 1 to 5 years. Both the Grants Online project and the Business Process Reengineering effort are aimed at delivering a significant reduction in the amount of time (and potentially cost and level of effort) it takes to award grants.

The introduction of additional automation along with the elimination of existing stove-pipe systems within NOAA should significantly reduce the amount of re-keying of the same information and should drive an increase in the quality and timeliness of the information available to the community of users.

The Grants Online and Grants.gov interface saves Grantees valuable time and money by allowing them to submit online applications through the Government wide Grants.gov system and administering the full life cycle; submitting financial and performance reports, and closing out awards utilizing Grants Online.

NOAA's Business Process Reengineering Team documented the current state of operations in the Grant Life cycle in each Line Office and in the organization formerly known as NFA, by mapping key Grants administrative processes.

Member(s): House:
Senate:

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Honolulu Consolidation

Question: **What is the status of NOAA's Honolulu Consolidation project?**

Answer:

- **Site selection analysis is complete, preferred site Ford Island**
- **Project completion date, late 2009.**
- Facility will support 475 employees and contractors, total cost estimated at $237.5 million.
- US Navy's Facilities Engineering Command – Pacific, will provide local project and construction management services to NOAA.
- Site-specific environmental studies and certifications under NEPA are currently underway.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Honolulu Consolidation	$14.900	$11.900	$0.000	$14.800	$14.800	$0.000	($14.800)

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Honolulu Consolidation

Background: BACKGROUND

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level):

• The former"Honolulu Lab Replacement Project" has been closed out, with all charges expensed in accordance with CWIP policy through the end of FY 2002.

•The Honolulu Consolidation Project, now renamed the "Pacific Region Center" project or "PRC", reflects a Fall, 2002 decision to consolidate all NOAA operations in Oah'u (less two facilities that are constrained by the nature of their operations: the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the NWS Weather Forecast Office) into a single, consolidated location.

• The Ford Island site consists of a 20+ acre parcel (plus adjacent area suitable for parking) on Ford Island, a federally owned (Navy) property. The site includes two piers (Piers F-9 and F-10), and small-boat piers. The site includes several World War II-era buildings/hangars (buildings #130, 175, 176, 181, and 184) that are subject to historic preservation and re-use guidelines, since Ford Island is designated as a national historic landmark.

• The Ford Island location offers a number of benefits to NOAA:

o Unique opportunity for NOAA to be part of a major redevelopment of Federal (historic landmark) property.

o No-cost federal land for development.

o Substantial NOAA cost avoidance, given major ($80-100 million) in new water and sewer infrastructure investments on Ford Island as part of unique Federal legislation.

o Expedited NEPA process (requires only an Environmental Assessment (EA); the result is a projected 12-15 month abbreviated process).

o Full consolidation solution ship operations, seawater operations, laboratory and office space.

o Workable balance between public accessibility and a secure facility.

o Collocation with Naval UnderSea Warfare Command-which does extensive research on sonar and its impact on marine mammals--will promote improved partnership and collaboration on such issues as reducing Right Whale ship strikes.

• The project sponsor (Senator Daniel K. Inouye, HI) has been briefed on project status and has agreed to the intended site location at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu.

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Honolulu Consolidation

• The complete facility will be finished by Fall, 2009; early construction work on the Ship Operations Facility (Bldg. 184) and piers will allow for completion and occupancy of these facilities in late 2005 and early 2006.

Member(s): House: Case (D-HI), Abercrombie (D-HI)
Senate: Inouye (D-HI), Akaka (D-HI)

Goal: Critical Support **Line/Staff Office: PS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Honolulu Consolidation

Multi-Year Project Schedule			
Program Phase	**Scheduled Start**	**Estimated Completion**	**Budget**
Business Case/Site Analyses/Programming		12/31/2004	$1,329,000
Design	12/31/2004	12/31/2006	$8,600,000
Construction	9/1/2005*	9/1/2009	$205,099,000
Occupancy	8/1/2009	1/31/2010	$22,479,000
			$237,507,000
* Early construction work will involve ship operations facility and piers.			

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Information Technology (IT) Security

Question: **Why is additional funding requested for IT Security in FY 2006? What will this funding be used for?**

Answer: **• NOAA will implement a comprehensive Enterprise IT Security Architecture through NOAA-wide planning, increased security support and services, and integrated NOAA-wide training, as well as technical solutions in hardware and software.**

• As NOAA has begun managing and operating more and more across Line Office boundaries, the traditional stove-pipe approach to IT security must evolve to provide the highest common level of security needed across NOAA.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
OCIO- Information Technology Security	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$0.000	$4.050	$4.050

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support.*

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Information Technology (IT) Security

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• Office of the CIO - IT Security: (0 FTE, $4,050,000):

• NOAA is applying a comprehensive and common information technology security approach to ensure the security of its information technology and the integrity of its products and services. This will provide and sustain the highest common level of security needed across all of NOAA's networks and computer systems; minimize security management and administration; provide NOAA-wide flexibility to respond to the increasing cyber threats; and ensure NOAA-wide compliance with Congressional, OMB and DOC policy changes made to address the increased threats.

• This recurring funding will increase incident response teams in three locations, firewalls and intrusion detection at each internet access point (consistent with NOAA's enterprise network architecture); proactive patch management, security education and training, and aggressive penetration testing of National Critical systems. Funds will be used to maintain a three-year refresh/replacement cycle.

• All NOAA Programs will leverage this investment and not duplicate these functions nor be required to develop their own stove-piped solution(s).

• NOAA will implement a comprehensive enterprise-level approach to IT security through a balance of better planning (including implementation of an IT Security Enterprise Architecture), increased security support and services, and integrated NOAA-wide training, as well as technical solutions in hardware and software.

• Successful intrusions into major systems resulting in over $500,000 in losses per incident have occurred in NOAA. Intrusions into single workstations and office networks show losses ranging from $5,000 to $100,000.

• NOAA will extend the NOAA intrusion detection capability to all NOAA points of presence and augment the NOAA computer incident response team (N-CIRT) capability to provide rapid response over this wider area of responsibility.

• The impact of a successful and destructive/hostile breach into NOAA's IT systems could include any or all of the following:

o Inability to perform mission, due to unavailability of the breached information resources

o Loss of human lives, particularly through failure to provide timely hazardous weather warnings

o Unauthorized access to confidential or proprietary information including information of use in international negotiations or NOAA finances.

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Information Technology (IT) Security

o Use of NOAA system(s) as the host of a cyber attack on other Federal agencies or the Internet itself.

Member(s): House: Davis (R-VA), Putnam (R-FL), Wolf (R-VA)
Senate: Brownback, (R-KS), Rockefeller, (D-WV)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NMFS Litigation

Question: **Increased litigation against NOAA Fisheries has been an issue for the past several years. What were the litigation results in FY 2004? Have you been able to identify any trends over the past few years?**

Answer: **• In FY04, there were 93 cases involving NOAA pending at some time during the year, including 36 new lawsuits filed during the year. Approximately 95% of these lawsuits challenged actions taken by NOAA Fisheries.**

• In FY04, there were a total of 27 final resolutions in litigation where NOAA Fisheries was a defendant. Of these, NOAA Fisheries was successful in 21 cases, unsuccessful in 5 cases and settled 1 case. As these statistics show, NOAA Fisheries won 81% of the cases that resulted in final judicial decisions in FY 2004.

• NOAA Fisheries analyzes the litigation record in terms of fishery and non-fishery cases. Of the 14 final fishery decisions in FY 2004, NOAA Fisheries was successful in 13 cases and unsuccessful in 1 case, resulting in a 93% success rate. Of the 13 final non-fishery cases NOAA Fisheries was successful in 8 cases, unsuccessful in 4 cases and settled 1 case, resulting in a 67% success rate for cases that resulted in judicial decisions.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted*	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	Current Program vs. Request
Program Support/Transfers from NMFS*	$10.863	$11.189		$11.399		$11.612	
NEPA**	$4.968	$2.792		$2.957		$8.000	
RSP**	$0.000	$0.000		$2.464		$5.800	
TOTAL	$15.831	$13.981		$16.820		$21.412	

** FY 05 Request excludes corporate costs which were consolidated in the FY 05 Appropriations for Program Support. * Funding supports Office of General Counsel*

*** Funding does not directly support the Office of the General Counsel. Rather this funding is critical to ensuring that NMFS products meet legal requirements.*

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
NMFS Litigation

Background: NOAA Office of General Counsel has five regional offices. It provides advice to the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Region from its offices in California, Seattle, and Silver Spring. During both the FY 2005 and FY 2006 budget cycles, NOAA GC requested funds for two lawyers and one support staff in Hawaii, which request was not approved. In response to requests from legislators, NOAA GC was requested to begin recruiting, internally and externally, to fill the positions in Hawaii. Recruitment for this office began in December, and the application period closes on February 4, 2005.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

Litigations Trends

The number of open cases in which NOAA is defendant, plaintiff or maintains an interest has roughly doubled since the late 1990s. For example, NOAA maintained 48 open cases in FY 1994. However, NOAA has maintained approximately 100 open cases annual for the past five years, the vast majority of which relate to NOAA Fisheries actions. There were 104 open cases in FY 2003 and 93 open cases in FY 2004. Two factors led to the increase in cases. First, the amount of fisheries management litigation has tripled with the passage of the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996, which imposed significant new procedural and substantive obligations on the NOAA Fisheries. Second, the amount of Endangered Species Act litigation involving NOAA Fisheries increased markedly with the finding that numerous west coast salmon and steelhead stocks are in danger of extinction.

While the number of open cases against NOAA Fisheries continues to be higher than it was in the early 1990s, the agency's success rate in fisheries management cases has improved significantly since 2001. In July 2002, the National Academy of Public Administration issued a report at the request of Congress and NOAA Fisheries addressing the management of the nation's fisheries, including an analysis of litigation trends. "Courts, Congress and Constituencies: Managing Fisheries by Default" ("NAPA Report"). The NAPA Report found that NOAA Fisheries won 83% of its fishery cases prior to 1997 but only 45% of its fishery cases between 1997 and 2001. Since then however, NOAA Fisheries has improved its record in fishery cases dramatically, winning approximately 64% of its fishery cases in calendar years 2002 and 2003 and 93% of its fishery cases so far in calendar year 2004. In addition, the agency has won 80% of its non-fishery cases since 2002. Over time, a high success rate is likely to lead to a reduction in the number of cases filed against the agency.

Member(s): House:
Senate: Stevens (R-AK)

Goal **Critical Support** **Line Office:** PS

NOAA
Questions and Answers
Telework/Telecommuting

Question: **What is NOAA doing to implement telework/telecommuting?**

Answer: **• NOAA's telework policy was approved January 2004; line and staff offices telework programs were implemented at various times throughout the year.**

• In FY 2004 the number of employees that participated in the program was 868. The number of employees that were eligible to telework was 6,706. (Increased from 241 employees participating in the program in FY 2003)

• Line and staff offices have embarked upon aggressive marketing campaigns.

• Toolkits have been provided to Line Office telework coordinators consisting of a video, brochures, posters, table tents, and newsletter articles developed by the OPM and GSA

• NOAA has developed a telework user friendly websites to serve as a resource tool of information pertaining to the NOAA Telework Policy, Agreement and Safety Checklist

• NOAA has a web-based telework orientation module for supervisors and employees participating in telework.

Background: PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2006: (compared to the FY 2005 Enacted Level)

• NA

NOAA's Telework Policy was approved by the Department of Commerce on November 7, 2003 and formally implemented at NOAA effective January 15, 2004.

It is anticipated that the full implementation of NOAA's Telework Program will increase employee participation significantly, which is a key component of NOAA's quality of worklife initiative. Consistent with the President's Management Agenda, "Government Wide Initiatives -- Strategic Management of Human Capital", NOAA is striving to meet the near and long term expected results in the area of recruitment and retention to secure the best talent to achieve mission goals. Via programs such as Telework, NOAA is able to offer potential and current employees a valuable worklife tool that will permit individuals to balance the many requirements of both work and home, while simultaneously conserving resources that otherwise would be used via traditional commuting to the office.

Member(s): House: Wolf (R-VA)
Senate:

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Goal: All **Line Office: NOS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

Questions: **NOAA claims to support the establishment of a national coastal and ocean observing system yet there is no funding requested in the FY 2006 budget request for such a system. Why is this?**

Answer:

- While NOAA has not requested a specific budget item for IOOS, much of NOAA's existing observational data collection directly contributes to IOOS, including the various regional observations systems, the National Water Level Observation Network, the National Current Program, etc. etc.

- NOAA's FY 2006 request includes $38.2M in base increases and program changes to build on existing IOOS capabilities.

- Among the FY 2006 increases are the following:

    - $1.5M for the National Current Program to systematically update NOAA's Annual Tidal Current Tables.

    - $9.5M to strengthen the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program

    - $3.2M for the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) array and the Pilot Research Moored Array (PIRATA)

    - $1.5M for the Coastal Global Ocean Observing System (C-GOOS) to add additional oceanographic sensors to the existing NWS marine observing backbone.

    - $1.9M for the continuation of NOAA's Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs); with this money NOAA can add 145 ENCs in FY 2006.

    - $2M to implement the National Vertical Datum Transformation Tool (VDatum) to resolve problems that exist between geospatial data sets collected at different reference levels.

    - $3.5M for Ocean Observations under NOAA's Climate Goal; this money will assist NOAA in continuing to build a global ocean observing system that will document climate-scale changes in ocean heat, carbon and sea level.

Goal All **Line Office: NOS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

Background:

- In FY 2006, NOAA's observational data collection, research, and data management activities contributing to the IOOS will be sustained at or above FY 2005 levels.

- NOAA is the lead federal agency for implementing IOOS as directed by the FY 2005 Omnibus report language.

- Because IOOS cuts across and supports many NOAA goals and program missions, it is not singled out in the Budget.

- With leadership provided by NOAA, the Interagency Ocean.US office is completing it's comprehensive First Annual IOOS Development Plan, which will allow for coordinated efforts across the U.S. for the establishment of IOOS.

- The IOOS Interagency Development Plan will be before the National Ocean Research Leadership Council in 2005.

Goal: Ecosystem **Line/Staff Office(s): NOS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Nonpoint Pollution Control

Question: **The US Commission on Ocean Policy highlights the significant challenge posed by nonpoint source pollution, yet NOAA has not requested funding for its Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program. Why?**

Answer: **In times of limited growth for discretionary government spending, the Administration often has to make difficult choices concerning the allocation of resources. Other federal agencies, especially the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture, invest heavily in polluted runoff programs.**

- States can continue to rely on other sources of financial and technical assistance from NOAA, including funding from section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act as well as management tools and scientific research developed and disseminated by NOAA regarding the sources, impacts, and management of polluted runoff.

- NOAA believes that its role in nonpoint pollution control continues to be important and beneficial, and will continue to work with state partners and other federal agencies to best leverage limited resources to address nonpoint pollution.

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Request	Current Program v. Request
Nonpoint Pollution Control Implementation Grants	$9.936	$9.494	$0	$2.957	$0	$0

Background:

- NOAA zeroed out its request for nonpoint in FY 2005 as a result of the $150 million "OMB offset"

- EPA FY 2006 Request for Nonpoint source pollution control is **$209M**

- USDA is requesting funding for a variety of programs which are resources for nonpoint source pollution control projects
  - **$1B for its Environmental Quality Incentives Program** – voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.
  - **$321M for the Wetlands Reserve Program** – helps landowners protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property
  - **$60M for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program** to develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat primarily on private land

Goal: Ecosystem **Line/Staff Office(s): NMFS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Question: How is VMS funding being used?

Answer: The VMS technology operated by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office for Law Enforcement is an invaluable tool for modern fisheries management. NOAA requests an increase of $6,289,000 for a total request of $9,300,000 for VMS in FY 2006.

- $4,800,000 to support and maintain the existing infrastructure
- $4,500,000 to purchase and install VMS units on 2,000 additional vessels

Line Item Name	FY 2003 Request	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Request	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Request	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request
Vessel Monitoring System	$7,400	$2,484	$7,400	$3,958	$9,300	$2,957	$9,300

Presently, 1,860 vessels utilize VMS technology. The Regional Fishery Management Councils are considering regulations that could increase VMS participation by 7,636 vessels.

Background:

The VMS program provides outstanding compliance without intrusive at-sea boardings. It enhances safety at sea, and provides new tools to managers to catch/monitor violators in real-time. The VMS system has provided infrastructure, economies of scale, and coordination across NMFS regions and offices, and it has ensured standards-based consistency for enacting national policies concerning systems security, legal evidence handling, and fishing data confidentiality.

The VMS program was initiated in various regions in response to specific actions of the Fishery Management Councils. The first VMS program was implemented in Hawaii and included (and still includes) full funding for all equipment and communications expenses.

As additional fisheries were introduced to the program, different funding schemes were imposed.

- The fishermen in the Northeast Region have borne the entire cost of purchasing vessel-mounted equipment, as well as communications costs.
- Alaska fishermen initially bore the entire cost of purchasing and installing vessel-mounted equipment, but some have received a rebate to subsidize those costs. The Alaska fishermen bear the cost of their communication services.

- The rock shrimp fishermen in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico received a subsidy for any cost for the initial purchase and installation of vessel-mounted equipment. Funds were provided to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to administer this subsidy.
- Approximately 23 vessels involved in the Highly Migratory Species Shark Gillnet fishery were able to borrow vessel-mounted units installed at NOAA's expense, but are required to pay their own communications costs.

NOAA is standardizing the programs and modernizing the infrastructure to include consolidation of its operations into two data centers providing a higher level of data security and more effective data. The FY 2006 funding request supports expanded use of VMS for scientific and homeland security purposes.

Goal: Satellites **Line/Staff Office: NESDIS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Question: What are the roles played by NOAA and NASA for earth observing satellites, and what work does NOAA fund at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (Goddard)?

Answer:

- **The agency roles are distinct:**
  - **NOAA acquires and operates the nation's operational environmental satellites, whereas**
  - **NASA develops and operates the nation's research environmental satellites.**
- **NASA Goddard supports NOAA's satellites by:**
  - **Providing acquisition support for the POES (NOAA-N and NOAA-N' satellites) and GOES-N series (GOES-N, GOES-O, and GOES-P) of satellites.**
  - **Providing a joint NOAA-NASA Goddard project office for the GOES-R series of satellites.**
  - **Providing research and development targeted to improvements in operational satellite systems, partnering with NOAA to accelerate the operational use of satellite data, and providing both agencies with ground systems backup support for emergencies.**
- **NASA Goddard will continue to be an important partner as NOAA moves forward with the GOES-R satellite series, with the first launch scheduled for 2012.**

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name – See Below	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	FY06 Current / Request
POES	87.8	69.3	87.1	87.1	87.1	74.3	(12.8)
GOES-N Series	150.0	123.6	103.8	103.8	103.8	72.8	(31.0)
GOES-R Series	13.9	69.9	91.3	91.3	91.3	177.3	86.0
TOTAL	251.7	262.8	282.2	282.2	282.2	324.4	42.2

NOTE: This table shows only those funds NOAA sends to NASA for satellite related work, not the full value of these budget line items.

Background:

- NASA Goddard supports the procurement, development, and verification testing of the spacecraft, instruments, and launch services for POES and GOES N series of satellites.
  - POES – NOAA-N is scheduled to launch in May 2005 and NOAA-N' will launch in December 2007.
  - GOES – GOES N is scheduled to launch in May 2005 with GOES O and GOES P planned to follow in April 2007 and October 2008 respectively.

- On September 6, 2003, while Lockheed Martin was performing work on NOAA N-Prime, the satellite was dropped and severely damaged. After intensive effort, NOAA, NASA, and Lockheed Martin reached agreement on the NOAA-N' rebuild effort in September 2004. This agreement to launch the rebuilt satellite by December 2007 insures steady access to NOAA satellite data that feeds our prediction and warning capabilities for weather and climate. NOAA and DOC believe that greater management control over the GOES-R acquisition through a Shared System Performance Responsibility contract and NOAA program management is necessary to avoid similar problems.
- NOAA and NASA both participate, along with the Air Force, in the acquisition management of the tri-agency National Polar-orbiting Operational Satellite System (NPOESS).
- NOAA is finalizing a "Research to Operations" plan with NASA to plan for an orderly migration of operationally useful new research measurements from NASA research satellites into NOAA.
- NOAA and NASA have a collaborative agreement that reduces operational risk at the satellite ground stations for both agencies. Each agency provides contingency backup support to the other in the event of planned and unplanned system outages or spacecraft emergencies. For example, when NASA's Poker Flat facility was overrun by wildfires in the summer of 2004, NOAA provided backup services to NASA.

Goal: Satellites **Line/Staff Office: NESDIS**

NOAA
Questions and Answers

Question: What is the status of the schedule for the NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) satellite?

Answer:

- **NPP was planned for launch in November of 2006. Due to problems with instrument development, we expect the launch to be delayed by approximately one year. NPP will still serve an important role as a risk reduction mission for NPOESS, which remains on schedule for delivery in late 2009.**

Budget Summary (Dollars in Millions):

Line Item Name - NPOESS	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Request	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Current Program	FY06 Request	FY06 Current / Request
DOC/NOAA	$222.874	$273.789	$304.902	$300.528	$304.901	$320.998	$16.097
DoD/AF	$232.082	$267.716	$307.700	$307.668		$323.803	
TOTAL	$454.956	$544.416	$612.602	$608.196		$647.545	

Background:

- The two primary issues for delay involve the VIIRS instrument on NPP. The first is a series of design problems that have delayed the development of this new, state of the art instrument. The VIIRS design was based heavily on NASA's MODIS instrument. VIIRS has had development problems with its detectors and readout chips and has had a number of test failures related to manufacturing and incomplete design. The factors that allowed the sensor to grow out of its MODIS heritage are the second problem experienced by VIIRS–the instrument evolved and the design team did not realize that the design basis was no longer valid.
- The team is still resolving the exact amount of the VIIRS slip. The instrument contractor initially constructed a very pessimistic schedule, then proceeded to remove some of the excess margin and duplication, resulting in a preliminary estimate of 16 months. Subsequent detailed reviews show there are further opportunities to limit the slip. The government NPOESS program director estimates the slip will end up on the order of 12 months, delaying the instrument from a November 2005 delivery to one in late 2006.
- The NPOESS team has been working hard to contain the costs resulting from these problems within the program budget and believes they have. They have had to make a number of adjustments to internal milestones to do this, but are meeting all schedule commitments.
- Development problems in new instruments are not uncommon. The original NPOESS

procurement plan recognized that potential and competed the instruments “early” so that there would be time to find and resolve these sorts of problems without impacting NPOESS. That is just what they are doing now.

- The prime contractor, Northrop Grumman Space Technology (NGST), has been very actively working to help resolve the problems, as has several levels of the sub-contractor, Raytheon. The CEOs of both NG and Raytheon have been personally involved in finding management solutions and expediting technical expertise to facilitate resolution of test anomalies.
- Other Instruments: OMPS is making satisfactory technical progress, but was working 24/7 to maintain schedule. Because of the VIIRS schedule problems, we have decided to slow the OMPS schedule down modestly to avoid spending money for a date we do not need. Other instruments are tracking on schedule.
- Sorting out VIIRS development and other instruments not on the critical path will lend credibility that NPOESS C-1 will be ready on time as needed to replace the existing systems. This shows the NPP effort is accomplishing its objective -- surface problems early enough to get them resolved before they can impact C1 availability. We don’t expect any impact to availability of NPOESS at the end of 2009.
- Overall, the NPOESS program is in good shape. The entire program including the instruments, software and ground systems is within 6% of baseline schedule and 13% of cost.