

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
OPERATIONS RESEARCH AND FACILITIES
FY 2008 OVERVIEW

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(\$ in thousands)

Operations Research and Facilities	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Protected Species Research and Management	144,561	108,000	161,245	165,095	3,850
Fisheries Research and Management	285,364	256,800	308,271	325,341	17,070
Enforcement and Observers / Training	66,722	73,500	83,973	86,973	3,000
Habitat Conservation & Restoration	174,535	40,000	40,415	50,415	10,000
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	69,906	42,800	65,307	76,755	11,448
Alaska Composite Research and Development	50,298	20,000	0	0	0
TOTAL	791,386	541,100	659,211	704,579	45,368
FTE	2,551	2,586	2,596	2,625	29

For FY 2008, NOAA requests an increase of \$45,368,000 and 29 FTE for a total of \$704,579,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Operations, Research and Facilities account.

NOAA is responsible, in partnership with other Federal agencies and State and local governments, for managing the Nation's coastal zone and protected areas; planning for, mitigating, and responding to hazardous events; restoring degraded habitats; protecting ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; ensuring wise and appropriate use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and providing advice, technical tools, information, and training to coastal residents, communities, and other decision makers and users of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. NOAA is also responsible for protecting, restoring, and managing species listed under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, as well as their habitats, and for managing and rebuilding fish stocks to population levels that will support economically viable and sustainable harvest opportunities.

To accomplish these longer-term objectives, NOAA will invest in improving our understanding of ecosystems; identifying regional ecosystems; developing ecosystem health indicators; and applying new methods of governance to establish the necessary knowledge, tools, and capabilities to fully implement an ecosystem approach to management of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. The following are strategies for implementing the ecosystem goal's objectives:

- Engage and collaborate with our partners to achieve regional objectives by delineating regional ecosystems, forming regional ecosystem councils, and implementing cooperative strategies to improve regional ecosystem health.
- Manage uses of ecosystems by applying scientifically sound observations, assessments, and research findings to ensure the sustainable use of resources and to balance competing uses of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Improve resource management by advancing our understanding of ecosystems through better simulation and predictive models. Build and advance the capabilities of an ecological component of the NOAA global environmental observing system to monitor, assess, and predict national and regional ecosystem health, and to gather information consistent with established social and economic indicators.
- Develop coordinated regional and national outreach and education efforts to improve public understanding and involvement in stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Engage in technological and scientific exchange with our domestic and international partners to protect, restore, and manage marine resources within and beyond the nation's borders.

NMFS Mission Overview:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the U. S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending from three to 200 nautical miles offshore. NMFS also provides critical support, scientific, and policy leadership in the international arena and plays a key role in the management of living marine resources in coastal areas under State jurisdiction. NMFS implements international agreements on conservation and management measures through science-based conservation and management actions aimed at sustaining long-term use and promoting the health of coastal and marine ecosystems. The result is maximized benefits to the Nation from the use of living marine resources. Programmatic authority for fisheries management, species protection, and habitat conservation activities are derived primarily from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). Other acts provide additional authority for enforcement, seafood safety, habitat restoration, and cooperative efforts with States, interstate fish commissions, and other countries. All of these activities rely on a strong scientific and research competency to support the challenging public policy decision process associated with NMFS' stewardship responsibility.

Work is conducted by NMFS field elements with oversight, review, and direction by NMFS headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. The field structure consists of six Regional Offices, each with a Science Center that conducts research and directs the work carried out by the other laboratories and satellite/special purpose facilities in that region.

Major NMFS facilities are located at the following sites:

Northeast: Regional Office - Gloucester, MA
 Science Center - Woods Hole, MA
 Major Laboratories - Milford, CT; Narragansett, RI; J.J. Howard, Sandy Hook, NJ
 Satellite/Special Purpose Facilities - Smithsonian (National Systematics Lab), Washington, DC

Southeast: Regional Office - St. Petersburg, FL
 Science Center - Miami, FL
 Major Laboratories - Beaufort, NC; Galveston, TX; Panama City, FL; Pascagoula, MS
 Satellite/Special Purpose Facilities - Stennis Space Center (Bay St. Louis, MS)

Southwest: Regional Office - Long Beach, CA
 Science Center - La Jolla, CA
 Major Laboratories - Santa Cruz, CA
 Satellite/Special Purpose Facilities - Pacific Grove, CA

Northwest: Regional Office - Seattle, WA at Sand Point
 Science Center - Seattle, WA at Montlake
 Satellite/Special Purpose Facilities - Manchester, WA; Mukilteo, WA; Pasco, WA; Newport, OR; Hammond, OR

Alaska: Regional Office - Juneau, AK
 Science Center - Seattle, WA at Sand Point
 Major Laboratories – Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, AK; Auke Bay, AK; Kodiak, AK
 Satellite/Special Purpose Facilities - Little Port Walter, AK

Pacific Islands: Regional Office – Honolulu, HI
 Science Center – Honolulu, HI

Research and Development Investments

The NOAA FY 2008 Budget estimates for its activities, including research and development programs, are the result of an integrated, requirements-based Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES) that provides the structure to link NOAA’s strategic vision with programmatic detail, budget development, and the framework to maximize resources while optimizing capabilities. The PPBES process incorporates the President’s Management Agenda and the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s Research and Development Investment Criteria (relevance, quality, and performance) for NOAA’s R&D programs, and leads to NOAA budget proposals that reflect the R&D investment criteria.

Significant Adjustments to Base:

NOAA requests an increase of 10 FTE and \$10,223,000 to fund adjustments to current programs for National Marine Fisheries Service activities. Within this increase, program totals will fund inflationary adjustments for labor and non-labor.

NOAA requests the following transfers between accounts for a net change to NOAA of zero.

From	Line	To	Line	Amount
NMFS	Alaska Composite Base	NMFS	Marine Mammals; American Fisheries Act; Survey and Monitoring Project; Observers Training; and Magnuson-Stevens Act Implementation off Alaska	\$36,448,000
NMFS	Fisheries Research and Management Base	NMFS	Aquaculture	\$1,034,000

Subactivity: Protected Species Research and Management
Line Item: Protected Species

GOAL STATEMENT:

Provide accurate and timely information and analyses for the conservation of the Nation’s living marine resources, and implement and monitor living marine resource management measures to recover protected species in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Strategic Plan goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.” The ultimate desired outcome is to recover and sustain all protected species to be fully functioning components of their ecosystems.

Base activities support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management,” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.”

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The Protected Species Program (PSP) is responsible for the conservation of species through implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and other statutes and international treaties and conventions. Protected species are defined as all marine mammals stocks, and all marine and anadromous species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. The PSP administers the conservation and management activities, while the Ecosystem Observations Program (EOP) and Ecosystem Research Program (ERP) support the PSP by providing the monitoring, assessment, and research needed for management.

Protected Species Science

Protected species science is administered by the EOP and ERP and conducted within NMFS, other NOAA programs, and non-Federal partners. The EOP is responsible for surveys and assessments, while the ERP is responsible for directed research. Activities consist of investigation and research to inform the recovery, and conservation of protected species, including understanding the dynamics of protected living marine resources within their ecosystems. Protected species science investigates the status of protected species and the effects of human activities (e.g., commercial fishing, commercial and military ship activities, hydroelectric dams and water diversions, polluted effluents, ocean dumping, dredging, and logging) on their continued existence.

Protected species science focuses on three main areas: surveys, assessments, and directed research. Surveys involve the systematic gathering of information on species, including regional densities and overall abundance, seasonal distributions and movements, and sources of human-related mortality and serious injury. Assessments use surveys and other information to develop “status of stocks” assessments in the short term; over the long term they use time series of those assessments and predictive statistical modeling methods to forecast protected species population trends in the context of conservation

actions and natural environmental factors. Directed research focuses on specific questions concerning the effects of human activities on protected species and the resources on which they depend. This research may include more detailed information on habitat use; spatial and temporal distributions; and biological, behavioral, and environmental effects.

Surveys. NMFS uses vessel, aircraft, and remote sensing platforms to obtain fundamental information to support protected species management. Systematic, statistically based surveys collect information on the seasonal distribution of, and habitat types used by, protected species. Additional information collected in conjunction with surveys related to life history (e.g., growth rates, sex and age structure of the population, age of sexual maturity, age-specific birth and death rates, and longevity) allow scientists to assess the status of protected species populations more completely than if they relied on abundance and trend information alone. In recent years, newly developed passive acoustic detection methods have demonstrated the potential for augmenting traditional visual-based surveys by allowing the expansion of surveys in time and space, during conditions of poor visibility, and at night. Autonomous sensing devices (e.g., acoustic recorders) enable cost-effective detection of protected species in habitats and areas not suited to traditional surveys (e.g., polar seas and open ocean during winter) and at minimal risk to human safety. Acoustic monitoring also gathers information on the sources and intensities of ocean noise to which protected species are exposed in the regions they inhabit. Biomolecular genetics and modern approaches to stock identification and stock structure provide data necessary to distinguish population stocks and management units of protected species in support of appropriate and prudent listing determinations.

Assessments. Status of stocks assessments and analyses of population trends over time provide the biological basis for management actions to effectively recover and conserve protected species and minimize the impacts of human activities under Section 7 of the ESA. NMFS is responsible for undertaking timely assessments of the listed species protected under the MMPA and the ESA. Depleted species must be assessed annually, ESA-listed species must be assessed at five-year intervals, and non-listed species must be assessed at regular intervals to track population trends. Assessments inform management on the status of protected species populations and the effects of regulatory actions (e.g., seasonal area closures, bycatch reduction measures, and ocean noise reduction) designed to mitigate harm to and improve the status of protected species.

Directed research. Several emerging issues affect the recovery and wellbeing of protected species and require scientifically based information to support development of meaningful mitigation and regulatory actions. Among these emerging challenges are reducing bycatch in commercial fisheries, reducing the threat of commercial shipping vessel collisions with large whales, and evaluating the effects of anthropogenic ocean noise on protected species. Directed research programs expand and implement novel research and analyses to: 1) identify and quantify the effects of anthropogenic and natural factors on protected species populations and the variability of these effects over time and space; 2) identify and evaluate options for management tools to be used in a wide variety of issues relating to protected species management; and 3) conduct ecosystem and habitat research (e.g., environmental change, food requirements, and habitat requirements) to support an ecosystem approach to protected species management.

Protected Species Conservation and Management

The Protected Species Program shares the responsibility for implementing the ESA and MMPA with the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service. NOAA is responsible for the conservation of living marine resources, which includes most marine mammals, most marine and anadromous

fishes, marine turtles at sea, and species of marine invertebrates and marine plants. The Department of the Interior is responsible for the conservation of terrestrial and aquatic (freshwater) organisms and marine turtles on their nesting beaches. The PSP is charged with three main tasks: pursuing proactive conservation efforts, formally listing species in need of protection, and recovery and conservation of species once they are listed.

Proactive conservation efforts serve to prevent the decline and promote the health of species that are approaching the need for listing under the ESA and MMPA. Species in this category are referred to as “species of concern” or “candidate species.” Proactive conservation is a cost effective approach to management, since efforts taken under proactive conservation can prevent the need for listing species under the ESA or MMPA. Preventing listings avoids the potential costs associated with the prescriptive recovery requirements of ESA and MMPA once a species is listed.

Listing of species. Once a species has become threatened or endangered, the PSP is responsible for formally listing the species under the ESA and designating its critical habitat.

After the listing process is completed, the bulk of the program’s work is on conservation and recovery. This involves management and planning to identify, eliminate or minimize human impacts and provide for stable or increasing species levels. Much of this work is conducted in cooperation with Federal, State, tribal, local, international, and private partners.

The Protected Species Program leads outreach and education activities, and international protected species conservation actions. This work cuts across all program sectors, from proactive efforts to recovery, as informing constituents about why and how to conserve protected species can promote understanding and support. Information is developed for both formal (curricula, exhibits) and informal (web-based) education and is delivered through partnerships within NOAA (e.g., National Marine Sanctuary Program). International conservation measures are crucial to successful recovery and conservation as the majority of marine protected species are highly migratory, regularly traversing international boundaries. The PSP’s recovery and conservation capability can be further divided into the following specific program activities.

Recovery planning and implementation. Recovery plans and marine mammal conservation plans are developed or updated for all ESA-listed species and for all marine mammals designated as depleted under MMPA. NMFS recently completed guidance for recovery planning efforts to ensure that all recovery plans meet the requirements of the ESA, involve constituents in their development, identify and quantify the threats to a species and state clear goals for recovery. Recovery plans are key to informing management decisions under ESA section 7 and for assessing the need for directed research. As recovery plans are completed, NMFS works with Federal, State, and local agencies and the public to conduct recovery actions. Recovery programs are evaluated in a five-year review to assess the status of the species and the effectiveness of the recovery program in meeting its goals.

Partnerships with States, tribes, and local entities. The PSP manages agreements with States and Territories under section 6 of the ESA and provides grants to undertake recovery and conservation actions for listed, recently de-listed, and candidate species. Funding supports the development and implementation of management strategies, scientific research, or public outreach and education activities. NMFS currently has section 6 agreements with 11 States, and the PSP is actively working to develop additional agreements. NMFS has also entered into agreements with West Coast States and tribes to

implement the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The PSP administers the PCSRF by coordinating development of recovery projects with states, and reporting their performance annually to Congress. The PSP has entered into agreements with Alaska Native groups regarding the cooperative management of harvested marine mammal stocks in Alaska. The PSP also works to develop Habitat Conservation Plans under the ESA with non-Federal entities wishing authorization to “take” listed species incidental to an otherwise lawful activity. Currently these efforts are focused on Pacific salmon and marine turtles, and they are being expanded to other species.

Federal agency consultations. The greatest amount of PSP resources are spent on ESA section 7 consultations. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to ensure that any action they fund, authorize, or undertake is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened species or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat that has been designated for such species. The PSP helps agencies fulfill this responsibility by assessing the effects of their proposed actions on listed species and critical habitat. This activity consists of conducting the section 7 consultations, developing and delivering the technical training to consulting biologists and managers, providing quality control review of consultations, and developing and revising guidance. The PSP is required to complete consultation with action agencies under strict timeframes. The PSP has invested heavily in efficiency improvements through streamlining agreements and the use of programmatic consultations.

Marine animal health and stranding response. PSP’s Marine Animal Health and Stranding Response program coordinates response activities through a stranding network, using funds from the Prescott Grant program; administers the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank; and maintains databases for tracking marine mammal tissue and stranding response activities.

Fishery interactions. This PSP activity reduces the impact of commercial and recreational fisheries on protected species. Efforts include management of the NMFS Tuna/Dolphin program, MMPA fishery registration and authorization, MMPA take reduction planning, and take reduction of sea turtles in fisheries.

Permitting and take authorizations. PSP issues permits and authorizations for the direct and indirect take of listed species under sections 4(d) and 10 of the ESA and sections 101, 104, and 118 of the MMPA. This permitting activity applies to the entire public, unlike ESA section 7 that applies only to Federal activities.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The Administration will work with Congress to reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act, P.L. 103-238, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), P.L. 100-478.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Protected Species Research and Management	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Protected Species					
Protected Species Base	25,314	22,870	32,403	34,253	1,850
Atlantic Salmon	4,374	3,086	5,926	5,926	-
Pacific Salmon	56,337	56,000	67,735	67,735	-
Marine Turtles	13,438	6,877	9,790	9,790	-
Marine Mammals	40,166	14,827	37,221	39,221	2,000
Other Protected Species	4,932	4,340	8,170	8,170	-
TOTAL	144,561	108,000	161,245	165,095	3,850
FTE	646	657	660	668	8

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

Protected Species Management (+ 8 FTEs and \$1,850,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$1,850,000 for the Protected Resources Research and Management Programs line item. The increase will be used to assess the effects of increased ocean noise and other impacts on protected resources by providing NOAA the needed additional resources to evaluate the rising number of requests for permits and authorizations for national defense readiness and energy exploration and development activities. The increase will allow for better-informed determinations in authorizing these activities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

Statement of Need

The taking of resources protected under the MMPA and the ESA is prohibited unless authorized by permit or exemption. Increases in national defense readiness training and offshore energy exploration and development will more than double NOAA's permit workload. As a result, NOAA needs additional staff to be able to issue timely and accurate authorizations for these critically important activities. NOAA needs to work with the Navy to authorize military readiness activities under the MMPA and ESA, focusing on the effects of sonar transmissions on protected resources and the authorization of these activities under section 101(a)(5)(A) and 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA and section 7 of the ESA. NOAA and the Navy are working together to comply with the requirements of these statutes. Twenty-five naval exercises are planned between January 2007 and June 2009 nationwide for which the Navy will need Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHA) under the MMPA, and a similar number of exercises will continue in subsequent years. Likewise, because

energy self-sufficiency is a national priority, energy exploration and development activities have increased and will continue to do so. Increased ocean noise due to seismic surveys has a direct effect on protected species that must be assessed and considered before authorizations are granted. The Navy, the Minerals Management Service, and NOAA will need to consult on the effects of proposed actions on ESA-listed resources pursuant to section 7 of the ESA. These national priority activities represent a new and increased workload for the Agency, well above its current MMPA and ESA workload. The Navy plans to conduct an environmental review for the activities in each of these areas in a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Although NOAA will gain efficiencies in the authorization process by conducting programmatic authorizations, increased resources are still needed to review the Navy's programmatic impact statements and avoid even higher costs should the programmatic reviews not be completed. After this review, NOAA can develop programmatic authorizations for the Navy's operational areas and begin to move away from the need to issue an IHA for each planned activity.

Proposed Action

NOAA is addressing the increase in its workload by: (1) considering the defense readiness exercises planned over the next 2 years and preparing individual IHAs under the MMPA for the Navy's proposed actions; (2) completing interagency consultation under section 7 of the ESA for planned Navy and energy-related activities that may affect protected species; and (3) addressing the Navy's 17 nationwide operational areas, as well as the Mineral Management Service's plans for exploration and development programmatically where possible, and initiating a long-term solution to the regular need for authorizations.

Benefits

Whenever programmatic authorizations can be made, NOAA will not need to analyze each action separately, and any action requiring a more specific analysis will be facilitated by the programmatic assessment. NOAA will also have the flexibility of issuing regulations and letters of authorization (LOA) that would not be subject to the higher litigation risk created by reliance on IHAs. This approach will also provide the Navy and the Minerals Management Service with more certainty, as LOAs are valid for up to 5 years whereas IHAs are only valid for a single year or a single event. Without this increase, NOAA will try to meet these national priority needs, but responses will not be timely and will come at the expense of other national needs, such as authorizations for scientific research and monitoring.

Performance Goals and Measurements Data

This increase will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management," under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship." It also supports the GPRA measure, "Number of Protected Species Designated as Threatened, Endangered, or Depleted with Stable or Increasing Population Levels."

The expansion of protected species authorization capabilities will directly affect this measure by improving the quality and quantity of assessment documents and authorizations. The planned actions associated with this requested increase cannot be directly correlated to increases in the number of listed species with stable or increasing population levels. However, NMFS' primary mechanism for protecting and preventing further decline in protected species is through the consultation process. Issuing authorizations and ensuring that mitigation measures are in place to prevent injury and mortality

contribute to the stability of marine mammals and other listed species. Ensuring that populations of listed species are stable or increasing (i.e., recovering) can take years of conservation efforts and of assessments. Although a specific performance increase is not attributed to the budget increase, it is important to note that NMFS is legally mandated to consult and issue authorizations for the Navy exercises and energy exploration and development activities described above.

Performance Goal 3: Ecosystem Performance Measurements	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Number of Protected Species listed as threatened, endangered, or depleted with stable or increasing population levels						
Without Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35
With Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35

Pacific Salmon (0 FTE and -\$3,000,000): NOAA requests a decrease of \$3,000,000 and 0 FTE for the Columbia River Biological Opinion (BiOp) Implementation within the Pacific Salmon line item.

Statement of Need

After two years of full funding, NOAA is slowly decreasing funding for the Columbia River BiOp implementation. By FY 2008, the research, monitoring, and evaluation (RM&E) program will have the data collection infrastructure, data management, and analytical evaluation tools in place to measure status and trends of listed Pacific salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units and the effectiveness of recovery actions. This program requires continued monitoring over at least a ten-year period, but after an initial investment to set up the RM&E program, funding at a reduced level will allow for long-term monitoring.

Proposed Actions

The Columbia River BiOp Implementation line funds RM&E as part of the implementation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The RM&E program provides the scientific information necessary to assess achievement of the BiOp performance measures. The RM&E Program consists of six principal overarching components: 1) population and environmental status monitoring, 2) action effectiveness monitoring, 3) critical uncertainty research, 4) project implementation monitoring, 5) adaptive management, and 6) regional coordination. At the decreased level, the RM&E program will continue to effectively assess progress in meeting the provisions of the settlement agreement on the management of the FCRPS.

Benefits

This requested decrease will still allow NOAA to fund higher-priority activities, while aligning spending with the required level of effort for the transition to a monitoring program as opposed to a research/development program.

Pacific Salmon (0 FTE and \$3,000,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$3,000,000 and 0 FTE for Klamath River salmon recovery planning and follow-on actions within the Pacific Salmon line item.

Statement of Need

Klamath River coho salmon are part of the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), listed as threatened by NMFS. The requested funding is needed to implement recovery and conservation planning underway in the NMFS Southwest Region. Although funds have been made available for Klamath River projects and recovery planning through Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grants and NMFS Pacific salmon funding, additional funds are required to advance recovery for this species.

Proposed Actions

This request provides specific, directed funding for Klamath River salmon recovery projects and will support efforts to establish and implement the governmental/non-governmental Klamath Conservation Implementation Program (CIP). With this requested funding, NMFS will be able to share in funding the implementation of restoration activities through in-kind services and implementation of recovery actions under the Endangered Species Act. Specific actions would include: the completion of recovery planning and recovery implementation plans for Klamath River coho salmon; completion of the larger, region-wide Southern Oregon/Northern California coho salmon recovery plan; and funding of “on the ground” recovery and restoration projects that address limiting factors and threats including fish passage, water availability, water quality, habitat complexity, hatcheries, and harvest activities with specific actions to be identified as part of the recovery and local planning processes currently underway.

Benefits

This requested increase will allow NOAA to direct specific funding toward restoration of Klamath River salmon fishery resources. The request will augment monies already being spent in the Klamath River basin under the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund on Klamath basin activities. By directing funding to the Klamath River basin for recovery and conservation actions for salmon, NMFS will be increasing its ability to improve the status of Southern Oregon/Northern California coho salmon, which were listed as threatened under the ESA in 1997.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NMFS’ request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management” under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.”

This increase will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management,” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.” It also supports the GPRA measure, “Number of Protected Species Designated as Threatened, Endangered, or Depleted with Stable or Increasing Population Levels.”

Performance Goal 3: Ecosystem Performance Measurements	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Number of Protected Species listed as threatened, endangered, or depleted with stable or increasing population levels						
Without Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35
With Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35

Marine Mammals (+ 0 FTE and \$2,000,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$2,000,000 for the Marine Mammals line item within the Protected Species subactivity. This request will support research addressing management needs of the critically endangered right whale, leading to fewer collisions with ocean vessels and reduced risks of entanglement in fishing gear. This type of research will help increase the survival of right whale adults and calves, and contribute to stabilizing and/or increasing the population trend for this species.

Statement of Need

Right whales are large baleen whales. Adults are generally between 45 and 55 feet long and can weigh up to 70 tons. Listed as endangered since 1973, North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) are the rarest of all large whale species that live off the northeastern United States, and they are among the rarest of all large marine mammal species. The North Atlantic population numbers hover around 300. Historically, right whale populations were severely depleted by commercial whaling. Because right whales are slow-moving coastal swimmers with a thick layer of blubber (causing them to float when dead), they were an easy and profitable species for whalers to harvest.

Ship collisions, propeller strikes, and entanglement in fishing gear are now the most common causes of serious injury and death for North Atlantic right whales. Additional disturbances from activities such as whale watching and noise from industrial activities may affect the population as well. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires recovery plans to serve as guides to promote the conservation and recovery of listed species. In 2005, NOAA released a revised North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Plan that provided an overall framework for promoting recovery of the right whale. Measures to reduce risks posed by entanglement in fishing gear are presented in the Agency's Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan.

NOAA is implementing various mitigation methods to reduce conflicts between ships and whales, including a Mandatory Ship Reporting System (MSRS) in Northeast and Southeast right whale critical habitat; realignment of old or establishment of new lanes for vessel traffic; and reduced speeds in or avoidance of areas occupied by right whales. NOAA has established a team of scientists, fishermen, and non-governmental organization representatives to provide recommendations on ways to reduce the level of serious injury and mortality in whales resulting from fishing gear entanglements. These include time and area closures and modifications to fishing gear and practices.

Knowledge of how right whales use the water column while foraging and transiting would assist in the development of gear designed to reduce the risk of entanglement and serious injury. Similarly, research on foraging ecology may provide invaluable information to characterize habitats, which could help us better understand right whale distribution.

Proposed Action

NOAA's request will enhance designated base funds for right whale conservation efforts. With this additional request of \$2,000,000, NOAA plans to conduct research to:

- Investigate the foraging and diving behavior of right whales in various habitats (i.e., rocky and coral areas as well as areas around wrecks).
- Quantify the availability of right whale prey (e.g., *Calanus copepods*) in New England waters; and
- Characterize behavior distribution of right whales (i.e., coastal Maine, waters deeper than 100 fathoms, and Mid-Atlantic coastal areas).

The findings of the proposed research on right whale foraging behavior and distribution will aid in NOAA's recovery efforts by informing management actions designed to avoid ship strikes and reduce interactions and entanglements of whales with fishing.

Benefits

With this increase, NOAA will make progress toward the recovery of this critically endangered species. Understanding right whale diving behavior will help explain how whales interact with submerged fishing gear and will allow NOAA to better manage fisheries to reduce gear entanglement.

Research on the distribution of right whale prey will not only provide insight into right whale diving, but also will help better define right whale critical habitat. More information on the seasonal distribution of these whales will enable more effective mitigation of ship strike interactions in the Mid-Atlantic and fishery interactions in New England.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management,” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.” It also supports the FY 2007 GPRA measure, “Number of Protected Species Designated as Threatened, Endangered, or Depleted with Stable or Increasing Population Levels.”

Performance Goal 3: Ecosystem Performance Measurements	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Number of Protected Species listed as threatened, endangered, or depleted with stable or increasing population levels						
Without Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35
With Increase	25	26	27	30	33	35

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Subactivity: Fisheries Research and Management
Line Item: Fish

GOAL STATEMENT:

Provide accurate and timely information and analyses on the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects of the Nation's fisheries resources and develop, implement, and monitor living marine resource management measures to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Strategic Plan goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management."

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The Ecosystem Observation Program (EOP), through the Office of Science and Technology, administers NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) fisheries science programs. EOP works in conjunction with NMFS Regional Fisheries Science Centers and uses research vessels and aircraft to support science-based conservation and management activities for the Nation's fisheries and protected living marine resources. Specific research activities include monitoring and assessing fish stocks and protected species populations; monitoring anthropogenic and natural stressors on marine ecosystems; and collecting economic and sociological data on commercial and recreational fishing communities. EOP collects, manages, stores, and disseminates data on the status of living marine resources and their environments.

NMFS' research efforts use scientific data to improve and expand our assessments and management of living marine resources and the human environment. NMFS' research focuses on the connectivity of living and non-living resources within a determined ecosystem. This ecosystems approach to management (EAM) relies upon research and analyses that integrate biological, socio-economic, environmental, and oceanographic data into predictive models that improve the Nation's forecasting capabilities for fisheries management. NMFS' use of EAM increases the ability to make scientifically-sound management decisions that are less prone to risk and more likely to succeed. Improved scientific analyses ensure that constituents receive the most accurate and complete analyses, thereby fostering a constructive public stewardship process.

One of the NMFS' core functions is to research and assess the status of harvested fish and protected marine and anadromous species (i.e., species that migrate from the oceans to breed in fresh water). Stock assessments for these living marine resources focus on various biological processes, including predator-prey relationships, mortality and growth rates, age and gender structure, distribution, and migration. NMFS collects and analyzes these indices to effectively manage over 900 fish stocks and over 230 protected species stocks (marine mammals, sea turtles, and other protected species). These activities provide scientifically sound analyses to fisheries managers, decision makers and stakeholders managing the Nation's resources. NMFS' stock assessments, critical components of living marine resource management, ensure that the Nation has a scientific basis for managing sustainable, robust, and productive fisheries and recovery programs for protected species.

In addition to stock assessments, NMFS also collects socio-economic, commercial, and recreational fisheries data to understand human uses and impacts on ecosystems. These surveys enable NMFS to develop options to manage fisheries for both biological and economic growth and sustainability. NMFS

provides information, analyses, and recommendations on the status of stocks and the effects of current and potential management regulations to Regional Fishery Management Councils, States, interstate commissions, and international treaty regulatory bodies. Technological and methodological enhancements allow for improved integration of data on fishing effort, catch, participation, and on any economic or cultural characteristics of commercial and recreational fisheries. Integration of these socio-economic indices into NMFS' forecasts will allow for improved baseline data that managers from all sectors can use to make better informed decisions. NMFS' assessments are crucial for the successful development of market-based systems for fisheries management, such as individual fishing quotas.

NMFS' fishery research programs also support living marine resource research by establishing links with industry. For example, the Observer Program deploys personnel to collect catch and non-target bycatch data from U.S. commercial fishing and processing vessels. This cooperative research allows industry to participate in NMFS' scientific activities, thereby using the fishermen's unique knowledge and expertise to create a valuable knowledge base.

NMFS' scientists continue to improve the Nation's forecasting and predictive capabilities by broadening the scope of measurements and synthesis used in their research (e.g., oceanographic metrics, economic indices, industry and community profiles, seafood consumption data, and public valuation of ecosystem services). Incorporating environmental, social, and economic analyses into living marine resource assessment and forecasting models enable NMFS to predict, monitor, and evaluate the human impacts of our stewardship decisions.

NOAA's Fisheries Management Program (FMP) applies ecosystem approaches to conserving and managing sustainable fisheries within the broad ecosystem structure defined by jurisdictions of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils), the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Program, state, interstate and international fisheries. The central focus of the FMP is to maintain and restore productive stocks important to commercial, recreational, tribal, and subsistence fisheries. Coastal and marine fisheries form an integral component of the Nation's heritage and economy. The elimination of overfishing and the rebuilding of overfished stocks through sustainable fisheries management are essential to increasing the long-term economic and social benefits to the Nation.

Commercial and recreational marine fisheries are an important source of economic revenue and jobs. U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion pounds valued at \$3.7 billion in 2004. Overall, it is estimated that the commercial fishing industry contributed \$31.6 billion (in value added) to the U.S. Gross National Product. U.S. recreational fishermen took an estimated 81.6 million fishing trips, and harvested 197.1 million fish weighing 254.4 million pounds. In total, U.S. consumers spent an estimated \$61.9 billion for fishing products in 2004.

Management of fisheries requires coordination and consistency among National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) headquarters offices, the regional offices, Congress, and the Councils. The FMP develops legislative proposals; reviews, comments and works with the Congress on new bills; provides technical drafting assistance to Congress; and, interprets and evaluates the implications of new legislation. The FMP ensures that NOAA's fishery management activities comply with over a dozen legislative and policy drivers. For example, The Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management and Conservation Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) serves as the primary authority for fisheries management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Magnuson-Stevens Act establishes authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce, through NMFS and the eight Councils, for management of U.S.

fishing operations. The Magnuson-Stevens Act imposes strict timelines for review and implementation of fishery management plans and regulations submitted by Councils and approved by the Secretary. The Regulatory Streamlining Program (RSP) is a fundamental redesign of the regulatory process within NMFS. The goal of RSP is to improve performance, efficiency and accountability.

Domestic fisheries within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (3-200 nautical miles offshore) of the United States are managed regionally by eight Councils. Atlantic highly migratory species (e.g., tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish) are managed directly by the FMP. The FMP partners with the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions (Commissions) and states to manage coastal marine fisheries. Councils, their advisory bodies, the Commissions, and states meet regularly during the year to conduct a transparent decision making process for recommending fishery management actions. Before final action is taken, comprehensive ecological and socioeconomic analyses are prepared and presented at public hearings and Council, Advisory Panel, and Commission meetings. These bodies and the FMP are charged with developing and implementing Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPP) and addressing overfishing, bycatch, essential fish habitat, and rebuilding issues through the development of fishery management plans and amendments. Goals of the FMP include increasing the number of fisheries management with LAPP and improving the status of fish stocks by ending overfishing and increasing stock biomass.

NMFS reviews management programs proposed by the Councils, and if they are approved, NMFS implements the required Federal regulations. The six NMFS Regional Offices facilitate and expedite the approval and implementation of fishery management plans and amendments, including the preparation of analytical documents and management of other activities in support of rulemaking (e.g., implementing regulations, in season actions, permits, etc.) for fisheries and fishery trade activities managed by the FMP under multiple authorities. The FMP considers comments from private sector organizations (commercial and recreational fishing organizations, environmental groups, fishers, general public, etc.) regarding management of U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries activities. The FMP also partners with the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions and states to manage coastal marine fisheries through regulatory analysis, evaluation and implementation.

The FMP builds cooperative partnerships to strengthen marine fisheries management and conservation at the state, interregional, and national levels. To accomplish this goal the FMP provides national policy and oversight for interactions with more than 30 coastal states and island territories/commonwealths, three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and national groups. The FMP implements and oversees the distribution of grants for two national (Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Anadromous Fish Conservation Act) and two regional (Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act) programs. The FMP works closely with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop and implement cooperative State-Federal fisheries regulations, under the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

The FMP promotes the economic sustainability of fishermen and fishing communities and provides for healthy seafood and security. The FMP provides for improvements in the fishing fleet and shoreside processing operations, reductions in overcapacity in fisheries, and a voluntary seafood inspection service to assure compliance with all applicable food regulations. The National Seafood Inspection Laboratory provides an analysis laboratory, data management, regulatory compliance risk analysis, and information transfer expertise to support the Department of Commerce's National Seafood

Inspection Program. The seafood inspection program provides voluntary services such as sanitation evaluation, product inspection and certification, auditing of food quality and safety programs, and training. Approximately 10% of the industry uses NOAA services and one-fifth of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is inspected by the seafood inspection program.

The FMP is responsible for the conservation and management of international transboundary fish stocks such as salmon, straddling and shared fish stocks, and highly migratory species including tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish. Consequently, the FMP must participate in negotiations of international agreements as well as provide and coordinate support for the U.S. commissioners on international commissions for living marine resources. FMP formulates strategies and positions on fishery trade for bilateral and multilateral negotiations and participates as the Department's fishing industry sector staff, providing technical expertise and negotiating skills to reduce barriers to trade of fish and fishery products. Given opportunities to expand trade and competitiveness, and the use of trade measures to support conservation objectives, FMP provides policymakers with the best information possible to form decisions and evaluate their impact.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

None.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Fisheries Research and Management	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Fish					
Fisheries Research and Management Base	122,438	131,620	133,514	151,014	17,500
Anadromous Grants	1,870	-	2,080	-	(2,080)
American Fisheries Act	-	-	5,224	5,224	-
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2,554	-	2,567	2,567	-
Economics & Social Science Research	4,043	3,373	10,586	10,586	-
Expand Annual Stock Assessment – Improve Data Collection	24,457	25,000	32,405	32,405	-
Fisheries Information Network/Data Collection	20,491	20,000	22,206	22,206	-
Fisheries Oceanography	493	-	992	992	-
Fisheries Statistics	12,373	12,800	13,183	13,183	-
National Standard 8	986	-	1,016	1,016	-
Product Quality and Safety	6,631	-	6,977	6,977	-
Reduce Fishing Impacts on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	493	-	509	509	-
Reduce Bycatch	2,761	-	2,808	2,808	-
Regional Council and Fisheries Commissions	25,051	25,000	26,330	26,330	-
Salmon Management Activities	24,131	26,000	24,280	24,280	-
Survey and Monitoring Project	14,542	10,000	23,594	25,244	1,650
Hurricane Supp. Disaster Assistance FY06	4,995	-	-	-	-
Other fisheries-related projects	17,055	3,007	-	-	-
TOTAL	285,364	256,800	308,271	325,341	17,070
FTE	1,422	1,444	1,451	1,467	16

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

NMFS – ORF PROGRAM CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2008:

Ocean Research Priorities Plan - Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization (CAMEO) (+6 FTE and \$5,000,000): NOAA is requesting an increase of \$5,000,000 and 6 FTEs to improve forecasting of marine ecosystem responses to various management strategies. This supports the near-term priorities of the Committee on Ocean Policy's and the National Science and Technology Council's Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology's Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP). This type of forecasting requires an understanding of the underlying dynamics (e.g., species interactions, population structure, food webs, climate, and anthropogenic impacts) that control and regulate ecosystem stability and sustainability. This request will support research focused on developing cutting-edge quantitative models and science-based forecasting tools to assess how marine ecosystems respond to human impacts and environmental variation.

Statement of Need

In FY 2007, the Committee on Ocean Policy's and the National Science and Technology Council's Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology developed an implementation strategy—the Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP)—that outlined an approach for federal science agencies to meet the goals of the Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan. The ORPP's Implementation Strategy identified how the various ocean science sectors (government, academic, industry, and other non-governmental entities) would establish national research priorities for ocean science in the United States over the next decade. NOAA is a key federal participant in the ORPP Implementation Strategy. This funding will allow NOAA to guide U.S. efforts in achieving the goals of the ORPP through CAMEO.

The main objective of CAMEO is to improve management of marine ecosystems by understanding how biological components are linked and by evaluating the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) as a management tool. The number and size of MPAs has increased significantly in recent years. Although MPAs are used to preserve ecosystem structure and function, the efficacy of MPAs in meeting their objectives is not well documented. NOAA will use funding for CAMEO to develop new decision-support models on which to base the design and use of MPAs. This new program will provide a greater understanding of processes controlling ecosystem productivity and practical tools for understanding how various management strategies—such as the design of MPAs—may affect those ecosystems. NOAA's participation in this endeavor would provide the nation with the scientific and technical expertise to redefine its relationship with the ocean over the next decade. Authorities and policy guidance related to the ORPP opportunity on CAMEO include the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006; Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000, concerning Marine Protected Areas; the U.S. Ocean Action Plan; and NOAA's 5-Year Research Plan.

Proposed Actions

NOAA will implement CAMEO in three phases at each of NOAA's Fisheries Science Centers. Efforts include:

- development of quantitative models for assessing how ecosystems respond to human impacts and environmental variation
- application of these new models to ecosystem types for which NOAA and other agencies have responsibility (e.g., Georges Bank, Bering Sea, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, Gulf of Mexico, etc.)
- rigorous analyses of existing MPAs and their impacts on ecosystem structure, function, and abundance of specific animal populations

Benefits

NOAA's request for CAMEO will improve the management of the nation's marine ecosystems as recommended by the Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the Ocean Research Priorities Plan. Improvement will only occur when the underlying dynamics affecting ecosystem processes at various scales are understood.

This request benefits society by:

- supporting the development of quantitative models and forecasting tools not presently available—enabling assessment of marine ecosystem responses to human impacts and environmental variation.
- applying these forecasting tools to NOAA's management responsibilities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, Georges Bank, the Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico.
- evaluating the design of existing MPAs and assessing the effects of MPAs on ecosystem structure, function, and abundance of specific animal populations

This request will not only provide a greater basic understanding of these processes but will support enhanced coordination between the resource management community and the ocean science community.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NOAA's request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to, "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

NOAA is currently developing a performance measure for CAMEO.

Limited Access Privilege Programs (+10 FTE and \$6,000,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$6,000,000 and 10 FTEs to make greater use of market-based systems for fisheries management by implementing more Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) —e.g., individual fishing quota (IFQ), community development, cooperative, and area-based quota programs—to reduce overcapacity and end the "race for fish." The Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan committed to greater use of these market-based systems for fisheries management, and subsequently set a goal to double the number of LAPPs by 2010.

Statement of Need

A number of U.S. fisheries are characterized by overcapacity and are subject to fisheries closures to rebuild stocks and reduce bycatch. LAPPs are needed to eliminate the "race for fish" inherent in open-access fisheries, which also leads to overcapitalization and contributes to overfishing of ocean resources. NOAA needs additional LAPPs to contribute to safer fisheries, as vessel operators can choose not to fish in bad weather without

fearing that the quota will be taken by someone else; increase the availability of high-quality fresh fish; improve the economic performance of the fishery; and reduce bycatch.

Presently, eight LAPPs are in operation and by 2010 NOAA plans to double this number to 16. Although the benefits of LAPPs are significant, they are also expensive to develop, implement, and operate. One of the most significant cost increases that must be addressed by the Fisheries Management Program is the cost of implementing and operating LAPPs. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides for cost recovery up to three percent of the value of landed catch in an operational LAPP fishery.

Proposed Actions

NOAA currently supports 15 LAPPs: eight in the operation phase, two in the implementation phase, and five in the development phase. With this funding, two additional LAPPs will be fully operational in FY 2008. They are the Tilefish Trawl Individual Quota (TIQ) and the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper IFQ. The requested funding will support the cost of all three phases of a LAPP (described below), and will primarily be used for the development and implementation of new LAPPs, as well as for the additional, non-recoverable costs of existing operational LAPPs.

1)**Development Phase:** This phase includes: support for Fishery Management Action Teams, development of amendments or frameworks, analyses (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act), and consultations (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat), and the Council process.

2)**Implementation Phase:** This phase includes: development of regulatory packages, developing databases and computer applications, issuing permits and initial shares, and purchase of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) units.

3)**The Operation Phase:** This phase includes: enforcement, VMS tracking costs, tracking and monitoring of quota shares and quota pounds, observer program, data analysis, writing reports, operating cost recovery programs, adjustments to computer and accounting systems, and regulatory changes.

Benefits

A number of fisheries are characterized by overcapacity and fisheries closures to rebuild stocks and reduce bycatch. While effective in controlling commercial harvest, commercial quotas often lead to derby conditions, where commercial fishermen compete with each other to harvest as many fish as possible before the commercial quota is taken and the fishery is closed each year. In addition, existing regulations often encourage individual fishery participants to over-invest in their operations so they can be strong competitors within the current state of the fishery. Use of market-based management systems will improve the long term health and sustainability of fisheries by reducing overcapacity and ending the race to fish. Implementing LAPPs can sometimes also avoid early closures. They also contribute to safer fisheries, as vessel operators can choose not to fish in bad weather without fearing that the quota will be taken by someone else. LAPPs also increase the availability of high-quality fresh fish and improve economic performance of the fishery. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommended increasing the use of LAPPs in fishery management, and the Administration supports their use.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase supports the Department objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management” under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.” This proposed increase would provide funding to create thorough and comprehensive market-based fisheries programs.

Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems</i>	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Performance Measure: <i>Increase the number of fully operational DAPs by 2010 from a base of 8</i>						
Without Increase	8	8	10	10	10	10
With Increase	8	8	10	12	14	16

Magnuson –Stevens Act (0 FTE and \$6,500,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$6,500,000 to begin to address the new and expanded requirements under the Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Magnuson-Stevens Act, signed into law January 12, 2007, sets a firm deadline to end overfishing in America by 2011 for all Federally managed fish stocks, uses market-based incentives to replenish America’s fish stocks, strengthens enforcement of America’s fishing laws, improves information and decisions about the state of ocean ecosystems, and provides new tools to improve cooperative conservation efforts. The requested funding will allow NOAA and the eight regional fishery management councils to begin supporting the mandates of the new law, allowing for better stewardship of America’s ocean resources and shared stocks.

Statement of Need

The Magnuson-Stevens Act places new and expanded requirements on NOAA. To begin meeting these mandates NOAA must focus on four high-priority areas: Council Committees (annual catch limits and stipends); recreational fisheries information; illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU); and Pacific whiting. Although the signing of the Magnuson-Stevens Act completes one of the goals of the Administration’s U.S. Ocean Action Plan of 2004, it is just an initial step towards ending overfishing by 2011. To meet this goal and the other mandates of Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA must also encourage the use of market-based limited access privilege programs; strengthen fisheries enforcement; provide assistance to the Regional Fishery Management Councils for development of regional ecosystem pilot programs; and establish Community Based Restoration Programs that use public-private partnerships to restore fishery and coastal habitat, in line with the President's Cooperative Conservation Agenda.

Additional funding for implementing the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act will help NOAA meet the goal of ending overfishing by 2011 for all Federally-managed fish stocks. This is also a key element of the President's Ocean Action Plan, as is the development of recreational fishery participant registries and an improved data collection program for marine recreational fisheries. The new law requires the Administration to establish both a regionally based participant registry program and an improved data collection program for recreational fisheries.

NOAA has recently made considerable progress in the collection of data and the compilation of statistics for marine recreational fisheries. But, demands for more comprehensive, accurate, and timely statistics continue to increase as the nature and status of recreational fisheries change and management regimes become increasingly more complex. Under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA must establish and implement a regionally-based registry program for recreational fishermen and for-hire fishing vessels, and develop an improved recreational fisheries statistics program that uses the new regional registries and incorporates, to the maximum extent feasible, recommendations of the National Research Council's 2006 "Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods." Additional funding to improve and expand NMFS' data collection efforts for monitoring recreational fisheries impacts will be a major step toward improving relations with the recreational fishing community and improving federal fisheries management.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act also mandates that NOAA reduce illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and bycatch activities through a multilateral process. NOAA will draft a biennial report that will provide a status of shared marine stocks, identify nations engaged in IUU fishing or bycatch, and consider certification that could lead to trade sanctions against such countries. These measures are intended to ensure parity between U.S. and foreign fishing fleets. In addition, the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides implementing language for the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty, which requires collaboration on science and management on this shared stock. The United States is legally obligated to carry out these activities under this signed Treaty.

Proposed Actions

Of the requested funding, NOAA will use \$3,500,000 to develop new and improve current recreational fisheries statistics programs. This process will help NOAA provide comprehensive and timely fisheries statistics needed for stock assessments as identified by the NMFS' Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP). As a result of the work funded by this increase, NOAA will improve the statistical precision of recreational fishery catch monitoring surveys and will speed integration of state/federal fisheries information into regional/national networks, thereby making it more accessible by stock assessment scientists, fishery managers, and the public.

NOAA will also use \$1,500,000 to build a multilateral process over the next two years to implement a strategy for monitoring IUU and bycatch, thereby reducing these activities. NOAA will also conduct capacity-building activities in other countries and consider trade sanctions against nations not responding to reducing IUU activities. This process will contribute to the sustainability of shared stocks of fish and protected species.

NOAA will use \$500,000 to work with its Canadian counterparts to establish an Advisory Panel, Joint Management and Technical Committees as well as the Scientific Review Group required for implementation of the Pacific Whiting Treaty. This process will lead to a sustainable fishery and viable economic benefits to the U.S. fleet.

NOAA will use \$1,000,000 to improve and enhance the independent peer-review process of scientific data required to appropriately set the annual catch limits. NOAA will also increase payments or stipends to the Councils Scientific and Technical Committees, and enhance the interaction with the domestic Councils, in order to reach the goal of ending overfishing.

Benefits

This additional funding will allow NOAA and the Administration to move closer to the goal of ending overfishing and establishing more effective management of U.S. recreational and commercial fisheries as mandated by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. NOAA’s efforts at the bilateral and multilateral levels to address and reduce IUU fishing and bycatch will contribute to the sustainability of shared stocks of fish and conservation of protected species. The agency will be in a better position to monitor and manage recreational fishing impacts on fish stocks, and enhance our fisheries peer review data. Joint scientific and management activities with Canada will help ensure sustainable fisheries and economic benefits to the U.S. fleet.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase supports the Department objective and NOAA goal to “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management” under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.” This increase supports the GPRA performance measures presented below.

Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems</i> <i>GPRA: Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)</i>	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Without Increase	501	505	506	506	506	520
With Increase	501	505	506	506	506	520

Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems</i> <i>Percentage of Fish Stocks with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.*</i>	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Without Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%
With Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%

* This is a component of the NMFS GPRA measure *Percentage of Living Marine Resources (LMR) with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts*.

Anadromous Grants (0 FTE and -\$2,080,000): NMFS requests a decrease of \$2,080,000 and 0 FTE from the overall Anadromous Grants line item, which would terminate this program to fund higher-priority NOAA initiatives.

Statement of Need

In order to fund higher-priority activities, NMFS is requesting elimination of the Anadromous Grants program.

Proposed Actions

The Anadromous grants program has provided the states and other nonfederal interests funding for the conservation, development, and enhancement of the nation's anadromous fish stocks. Funding has been spread widely across many states (e.g., in FY 2006 16 states received anadromous grant funds ranging in awards from less than \$10,000 to those of more than \$300,000). A required state-match has been a component

of the program and funds have been used for spawning area improvement, installment of fish ways, data collection, construction of fish protection devices and hatcheries, and research to improve management and increase anadromous fish resources. Although project funding through the Anadromous grant program will no longer be available given the proposed elimination of this program, NMFS conducts other anadromous fish conservation and management work. This work is supported by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, the salmon components of our Protected Species activities, habitat conservation and restoration efforts and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants line.

The Anadromous Grants budget line has funded anadromous fish conservation, monitoring, management, and reintroduction projects for Atlantic salmon, steelhead, Atlantic sturgeon, American shad, river herring, and striped bass managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, and Striped Bass Act.

Benefits

This requested decrease will allow NOAA to fund higher priority activities.

Survey and Monitoring Projects (0 FTE and + \$1,650,000): NMFS requests a net increase of \$1,650,000 to the Survey and Monitoring Projects line item to enable NOAA's ability to administer two research and monitoring programs in Alaska. NOAA will continue to collaborate with entities in Alaska (independent research institutions, the State of Alaska, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the fishing industry, Alaska coastal communities, and other stakeholders) to conduct crustacean research and monitoring.

Statement of Need

State of Alaska Bering Sea Crab Research

NMFS supports an annual trawl survey in the eastern Bering Sea to estimate crab abundance. NMFS and the State of Alaska will use this information to determine the status of the stocks and to set the harvest levels. Historically, this line supports a cooperative management regime for the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP defers fishery management to the State of Alaska while maintaining federal oversight. Research supported under this NOAA grant is critical to managing crab fisheries for optimal yield in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). In a region with half the commercial harvest of the nation's seafood, these program increases to the State of Alaska are fundamental to advancing NMFS' strategy of strengthening the coordination of marine fisheries management and conservation between state and federal partners.

Fishery Management Plan Extended Jurisdiction

Funding to the State's Extended Jurisdiction program supports a broad array of work products that feed into the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's decision process and NOAA Fisheries Service's regulatory implementation activities. The cooperative State-Federal management of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fishery dates to 1989. NMFS has supported the State of Alaska's research and management costs required to meet mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act since 1992. The development of federal management programs which incorporate limited access privileges (crab rationalization— allocating crab resources among harvesters, processors, and coastal communities) requires significant program development coordination

with state personnel. This core program support for research and management of delegated fisheries and the coordinated management of shared groundfish stocks is critical to satisfying federal requirements and ensuring a comprehensive and integrated resource management approach in Alaska waters.

Proposed Action

State of Alaska Bering Sea Crab Research (\$1,000,000)

NMFS requests an increase of \$1,000,000 to the State of Alaska Bering Sea Crab Research line item. The increase will fund the escalating costs resulting from implementing a complex limited access privilege program (crab rationalization) in Alaska. It will also fund costs associated with implementing rebuilding plans for four overfished BSAI king and Tanner crab stocks. Due to the restructuring from rationalization and an increased State/Federal focus on precautionary management measures, there is an increasing need for research and data collection on BSAI crab stocks.

Efforts include:

Bering Sea Crab Test Fish Program (\$431,034) king crab pot and trawl surveys in the BSAI, tagging studies, tagging recoveries, studies on effectiveness of escape mechanisms and soak time in reducing bycatch during crab fisheries, and genetics studies on king, Tanner, and snow crab.

Bering Sea Snow and Tanner Crab Research (\$215,517) Projects to support the Crab Plan Team/North Pacific Fishery Management Council including research on reducing fecundity due to unbalanced sex ratios and implications of male-only harvest strategies on historic declines in some Gulf of Alaska crab stocks.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Pot Survey (\$190,162) Amukta and Yuasaka Islands pot survey to provide the only systematic program for collecting fishery-independent data for golden king crabs in the Aleutian Islands area.

BSAI Crab Observer Database Management (\$163,286) observer and dockside sampling program oversight and preparation of annual report.

Fishery Management Plan Extended Jurisdiction (\$650,000)

These funds will continue cooperative management of fishery management plans associated with crab, scallop and rockfish between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NMFS. This work provides results to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for developing plan amendments and to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for developing state regulations that are consistent with federal FMPs. This funding is pivotal to the coordinated management of shared groundfish stocks. NMFS will use the funds to meet requirements that include: public notice, review and evaluation of state actions for federal consistency, adjusting regulatory regimes to meet changing economics and biological conditions, day-to-day management of FMP species and research to help managers prevent overfishing, maintain stock health and achieve optimum yields as proscribed in the MFSCMA.

Benefits

The request for the Survey and Monitoring line will maintain NMFS’ ability to: 1) manage Alaskan crab stocks; 2) estimate the distribution and abundance of the stocks; and 3) provides value-added analyses to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for developing plan amendments and to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for developing state regulations that are consistent with federal FMPs.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NMFS’ request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to, “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management” under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to, “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.”

The State of Alaska Bering Sea Crab Research and Fishery Management Plan Extended Jurisdiction budget lines indirectly support the measure:

Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems</i> <i>Percentage of Fish Stocks with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.*</i>	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Without Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%
With Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%

** This is a component of the NMFS GPRA measure Percentage of Living Marine Resources (LMR) with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts. The Survey and Monitoring Program is developing a new performance measure that will track improvement at a finer scale. NMFS will present this measure in the near future.*

This overarching performance measure captures NMFS progress (number of adequate stock assessments) based on many activities funded through numerous budget lines, including Survey and Monitoring Projects. Changes in this performance metric are linked principally to assessments funded by the budget line item titled Expand Stock Assessments – Improve Data Collection. Maintaining level performance requires updating stocks with adequate assessments every 5 years (i.e., preventing adequate assessments from expiring), and improving performance requires adding or updating stocks to the adequate list. The Percent of Living Marine Resources with Adequate Population Assessments will show neither an increase nor a decrease in FY 2008. The requested funding for assessments under the Survey and Monitoring Projects line in FY 2008 will prevent the identified stocks from reverting to a less than adequate status in the out years, and is needed to properly manage the fishery.

Subactivity: Enforcement and Observers / Training
Line Item: Enforcement

GOAL STATEMENT:

Provide a comprehensive program for the protection of the Nation's living marine resources through the enforcement of a variety of Federal laws and regulations. The primary objective of the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is to assure compliance with the laws and regulations promulgated to conserve and protect our Nation's living marine resources. OLE activities support the NOAA Ecosystems goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem approach to management."

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The NOAA Enforcement Program resides within the NMFS Office for Law Enforcement (OLE). OLE implements three primary capabilities: investigations, monitoring (which includes conducting patrols and inspections), and outreach and education. OLE special agents and officers detect, deter, investigate, and document for prosecution any violations of Federal laws and regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and other Federal statutes and international agreements relating to living marine resources. Under current monitoring capabilities OLE manages the vessel monitoring system program (VMS), which provides real time data that significantly increases the ability to monitor and enforce closed areas for protection of endangered species and critical habitat, and rebuilding and maintenance of sustainable fisheries.

The OLE currently expands enforcement and monitoring capabilities and resources by carrying out joint enforcement agreements (JEAs) with marine resource enforcement agencies of coastal states and U.S. territories. OLE has implemented JEAs with 21 coastal states and four U.S. territories. This program provides land-based patrols, near-shore, and some offshore vessel patrols. While OLE is currently authorized to employ 157 Special Agents and 20 Enforcement Officers assigned to 53 offices in the coastal United States and U.S. territories, the Cooperative Enforcement Program makes available more than 2,000 state and territorial enforcement personnel to support OLE. The work performed by the state and territorial agencies under these agreements not only augments the Federal enforcement effort, but also supports enforcement missions of U.S. states and territories.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

NOAA, together with the Administration, will work with Congress to reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), P.L. 103-238; and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), P.L. 100-478.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Enforcement and Observers / Training	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Enforcement					
TOTAL	43,547	50,000	54,678	54,678	-
FTE	188	188	188	188	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

No program changes are proposed for FY 2008.

Subactivity: Enforcement and Observers / Training
Line Item: Observers & Training

GOAL STATEMENT:

Provide accurate and timely information and analyses on the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects of the Nation's fisheries resources and develop, implement, and monitor living marine resource management measures to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Strategic Plan goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management."

BASE DESCRIPTION:

Since 1972, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has deployed fishery observers to collect catch and bycatch data from U.S. commercial fishing and processing vessels. Observers have monitored fishing activities on all U.S. coasts, collecting data for a range of conservation and management issues. Observers are fishery biologists deployed at-sea onboard commercial fishing vessels to collect data and information on fishery catch and bycatch (i.e. the incidental capture of unintended fish species and protected species). This includes information on fishing practices, vessel and gear characteristics, fishing locations and times, environmental conditions on the fishing grounds, compliance with fishing regulations, and, for some fisheries, socioeconomic data. Observers also collect biological samples, and may assist in fish tagging and tag recovery, or special data collections for stock assessment programs.

Nearly 40 fisheries are monitored by observer programs each year, and the data they collect are often the best means to gather current information on fisheries status. Without these programs, many fisheries would lack sufficient data for effective management. The authority to place observers on commercial fishing and processing vessels operating in particular fisheries is provided either by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act)

The Magnuson-Stevens Act authorizes the placement of observers to collect information needed for fishery management and conservation. In addition, the Act requires that all fishery management plans establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery. Fishery observers are one of the most reliable methods for reporting bycatch and are a critical component of the reporting methodologies required in several fisheries with known levels of bycatch.

- The information collected by fishery observers ensures that Fishery Management Plans (FMP) are consistent with the requirement for a standardized bycatch reporting methodology. Observer programs also provide data for fishery managers to ensure that national standards for fishery conservation and management identified in Section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act are met.
- National Standard 1: "Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry."
- National Standard 2: "Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information possible."

- National Standard 9: “Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (a) minimize bycatch and (b) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.”

Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

MMPA Section 118 governs the incidental taking of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations. It states that the immediate goal shall be to reduce the incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals to insignificant levels approaching mortality and serious injury rates of zero. To achieve that goal, Section 118(d) directs NMFS to deploy observers on fishing vessels or remote vessels to monitor incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals during commercial fishing operations.

Section 118 describes the duties of observers, establishes guidelines for the distribution of observers among fisheries and among vessels within a fishery, and establishes priorities for the placement of observers. Observers are mandatory for fishermen participating in Category I and II fisheries (fisheries that have frequent or occasional incidental mortalities or serious injuries of marine mammals, respectively), and are voluntary for fishermen participating in Category III fisheries (fisheries that have a remote likelihood or no known incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals). Section 118 also directs NMFS to develop and implement take reduction plans for marine mammal stocks that interact with Category I or II fisheries. These plans shall include an estimate of marine mammals incidentally killed or seriously injured each year during the course of commercial fishing operations. Onboard fisheries observers are the most reliable source of this information.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

ESA requires the Federal Government to protect and conserve species and populations that are endangered or threatened with extinction. Federal or State actions that may impact endangered species, such as permitted fishing operations, must be minimized. Endangered species taken as bycatch in fishing operations include sea turtles, Pacific salmon, seabirds, and marine mammals. Observers monitor impacts and certify that takes of endangered species do not exceed the authorized incidental take limit. Observer data are also used to prepare recovery plans, and generally include a requirement to reduce incidental capture of protected species in commercial fishing operations for marine species. Fisheries may be restricted or terminated if they impose mortality rates on protected species that impede the recovery of the listed population.

NMFS implements observer programs in each of its six regions. In addition, improvements in data collection, observer training, and the integration of observer data with other research are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology in NMFS headquarters. Collectively, the regional programs and the headquarters office comprise the National Observer Program, which supports observer programs and increases their contribution to NMFS overall goals.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

NOAA, together with the Administration, will work with Congress to reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act, P.L. 103-238.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Enforcement and Observers / Training	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Observers & Training					
TOTAL	23,175	23,500	29,295	32,295	3,000
FTE	61	63	63	63	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

Observers/Training (+ 0 FTE and \$3,000,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$3,000,000 and 0 FTEs for the overall Observers/Training line item. NOAA will apply the requested increase to the New England Groundfish Observer Program line item to meet regulatory requirements for managing the New England Groundfish and Atlantic Sea Scallop fisheries, restoring funding and observer coverage to FY 2005 historic levels. Stakeholders such as the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will analyze and use the data to support quantitative evaluations of marine populations within the New England Groundfish and Atlantic Sea Scallop fisheries.

Statement of Need

Fisheries observers are trained biologists who monitor and record catch and bycatch data from U.S. commercial fishing vessels and processing facilities. Observer programs are often the best means to retrieve accurate data on the status of many Federally-managed fisheries. Observer training is comprehensive often lasting up to three weeks. During that time, NOAA instructs observers on the identification of fish, marine mammal, seabird, sea turtle, and invertebrate species, as well as gear identification, measurement protocols, and marine safety and survival skills.

Bycatch (i.e., the unintentional catch of any species caught incidentally during the harvest of the intended species or catch size) is a complex problem that affects many major U.S. fisheries. Several laws authorize observer coverage for U.S. commercial fisheries to collect catch data to assess the amount and type of bycatch. They include the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. These statutes direct NOAA to collect catch data to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery; standardize bycatch reporting methodologies to minimize bycatch in federally managed fisheries; and protect specific endangered or threatened marine plants and animals.

Bycatch reduction leads to more robust fisheries, and aids in the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds. A 2004 NOAA report, *Evaluating Bycatch: A National Approach to Standardized Bycatch Monitoring Programs* (<http://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/tm>), identified 84 fisheries nationwide that require observer coverage. The report classified the Atlantic Sea Scallop fishery as having a high rate of vulnerability for non-marine mammal protected species (e.g., sea turtles) bycatch and classified the New England Multispecies Groundfish Fishery as having a moderate rate of vulnerability for fish bycatch and a high rate of vulnerability for marine mammal bycatch.

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery

NOAA must meet regulatory requirements related to the implementation of Joint Frameworks 16/39 of the Atlantic Sea Scallop and Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plans (FMP). The New England Fishery Management Council developed the Joint Frameworks in 2004 to establish Sea Scallop Access Areas within the Northeast (NE) multispecies Closed Area I, Closed Area II, and the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area. These regulations established systematic closures of some of these areas to: 1) prevent overfishing by allowing for sea scallop growth; 2) mitigate NE multispecies (e.g., yellowtail flounder, groundfish, and sea turtles) bycatch; and 3) protect essential fish habitat as scallop dredges can damage sea floor habitats.

Implementing the Joint Frameworks has vastly expanded NOAA's observer requirements for documenting sea scallop catch (age and size) and yellowtail flounder bycatch. NOAA must implement management measures such as deploying at-sea observers, restricting days-at-sea, limiting access to fishing areas, and restricting types of gear used in the fishery. For example, NOAA requires all vessels fishing in the Scallop Access Areas to report on total yellowtail flounder bycatch including discards. NOAA monitors yellowtail flounder landings through at-sea observer reports, vessel monitoring system (VMS) reports, and dealer reports. An observer's ability to monitor yellowtail flounder bycatch is a critical component of the yellowtail flounder rebuilding program under the NE Multispecies FMP. The scallop fleet has been allocated a yellowtail flounder Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that is equivalent to 10% of the overall TAC (kept and discarded fish) for yellowtail flounder. When the TAC established for the Sea Scallop Access Area program is or is projected to be caught, the scallop fishery in the affected area will close.

Reduced observer coverage for scallop vessels hampers NOAA's ability to monitor yellowtail flounder bycatch—without adequate observer coverage, vessels could exceed yellowtail flounder TACs. Unless there is adequate observer coverage, NOAA will not have a current source of data to determine when current year bycatch TACs are attained. This would have immediate and/or long-term negative impacts on the Atlantic Sea Scallop fishery resources and the fishing industry if NOAA closed this fishery due to incomplete information. The Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery was valued at \$145 million in 2004.

The Northeast Multispecies Fishery

NOAA must meet regulatory requirements related to the implementation of Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The New England Fishery Management Council developed Amendment 13 to provide a framework to end overfishing, rebuild groundfish stocks, and reduce bycatch under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Implementing Amendment 13 has vastly expanded NOAA's observer requirements for documenting catch and bycatch. In addition, there are regulatory requirements mandating extensive observer coverage for fisheries in the U.S.-Canada

Management Area, the Regular B-Day Pilot Program, and Special Access Programs (SAP) to ensure that they do not exceed sector-specific TAC. NOAA needs the additional funding to meet these requirements for high-precision monitoring.

Proposed Actions

Observers for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery (\$1,600,000)

NOAA requests an increase of \$1,600,000 for observer coverage in the Atlantic Sea Scallop fishery. The requested funding would enable NOAA to gather data from over 1,300 observed days at sea for this fishery. Observer coverage would allow continuation of a Closed Area scallop fishery, where observers monitor bycatch levels of groundfish to ensure that the Closed Area scallop fishery TAC is not exceeded. Observers also provide key information for the sea scallop assessments—the only source of information on size and age composition of sea scallop catches. NOAA is required to provide estimates of incidental take of protected species as the result of biological opinions, and observer coverage would support these efforts. Finally, the scientific model used to provide statistically reliable estimates of sea turtle bycatch in the scallop fishery depends on robust observer coverage in the scallop fleet.

Observers for the New England Multispecies Groundfish Fishery (\$1,400,000)

NOAA requests an increase of \$1,400,000 for observer coverage in the New England Multispecies Groundfish fishery. The requested funding would provide 1,170 observed days at sea. The increase in funding will restore observer coverage to historic FY 2005 levels and allow NOAA to ensure observer coverage at a minimum of 5% observed sea days for the groundfish fishery. Additionally, NOAA will provide 50% target coverage level to fisheries in the U.S.-Canada Management Area, the Regular B-Day Pilot Program, and SAPs.

The requested funding will provide for sampling levels of several fisheries currently observed, including the herring and summer flounder fisheries. Increased coverage levels are needed to improve the accuracy of the information collected and support New England Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management decisions. With this request, NOAA expects to increase observer coverage in the herring fishery from three percent in FY 2006 to twenty percent in FY 2008. Increased observer coverage in the summer flounder fishery will provide more accurate information for discard monitoring in this declining population.

Benefits

The fisheries observer program is a proven, valuable source of information on the region's fisheries, unobtainable by any other means. Fisheries observers are the most reliable and unbiased source of catch, bycatch, and discard data in over 40 of the nation's fisheries. Data acquired by this program have been important in identifying the species and size selectivity of several marine fisheries in the Northeast and in reducing bycatch of protected species. Furthermore, these data have improved biological and economic assessments of the region's fisheries.

With the proposed actions, NOAA will have sufficient resources to increase the number of observed days at sea by 1,170 days. Increasing the number of observed days at sea will decrease the gaps in knowledge where bycatch may be occurring but is not documented. Increasing the number of observed days at sea will enable NOAA to effectively manage many of the Northeast Region's economically valuable fisheries. Furthermore, continuation of observer

programs for fisheries with significant bycatch supports implementation of a new national bycatch strategy, one of the priorities set forth in the Administration's *U.S. Ocean Action Plan*.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to, "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

Performance Goal: <i>Sea days on board fishing vessels with observers which are NOAA funded.</i>	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Without Increase	38,539	43,937	45,267	44,017	44,017	44,017
With Increase	41,622	47,020	46,437	45,187	45,187	45,187

* This is a component of the NOAA GPRA measure Percentage of Living Marine Resources (LMR) with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation & Restoration
Line Item: Habitat Conservation

GOAL STATEMENT:

Conduct a habitat program working in partnership with government agencies, the public, academia and industry to maintain high economic and ecological productivity of the Nation's living marine resources and support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Strategic Plan Goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management." Base activities in the Habitat Program support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management," under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to, "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The Habitat Conservation and Restoration subactivity is an integral part of the NOAA Habitat Program, a program committed to protecting and restoring marine, coastal, and riverine habitats vital to NOAA trust resources, improving the data and techniques to accomplish these ends, and enhancing the interests and abilities of citizens to play active roles in these endeavors. Achieving these goals will require strengthening internal and external partnerships; leveraging resources available to government, the private sector, academic institutions, and individual citizens; and applying up-to-date information together with the best available science to produce management decisions that support sustainable and productive marine, coastal, and riverine habitats.

Sustainable Habitat Management

Efforts relating to Sustainable Habitat Management integrate research and management to provide scientific advice for use in permit, licensing, and management activities by (1) working directly with permit and license seekers to review the environmental acceptability of preliminary concepts; (2) consulting with Federal agencies on proposed actions' impacts to habitat of NOAA trust resources; (3) supporting Regional Fishery Management Councils and interstate commissions in developing positions on specific projects; (4) increasing overall habitat conservation awareness within Federal, state, and local agencies; and (5) improving programs that gather, transfer, and use data on habitats and biological diversity.

Habitat protection activities are the first step in ensuring the long-term survival and health of fishery resources and the habitats that support them. Habitat protection also is integral to ensuring healthy regional ecosystems and the host of societal benefits derived from productive marine, coastal, and riverine habitats. Among the most basic tools in NOAA's habitat protection kit is consultation—working with Federal action agencies and their constituents to ensure that proposed actions that pose threats to marine, coastal, and riverine habitats are undertaken in a manner that prevents, minimizes, or compensates for adverse effects. NOAA uses a streamlined consultation process to provide recommendations for construction projects, applications for dredging and filling wetlands, licenses for hydroelectric power plant operation, waste discharge permits, energy proposals, and other Federal funding and permit activities. The Habitat Program's mandates require coordination with public and private partners to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, as exemplified by

trial-type hearings and alternatives analyses conducted for fishway prescriptions under the Federal Power Act and Energy Policy Act. The agency also coordinates agency efforts to describe and identify essential fish habitat (EFH), designate habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC), and evaluate the effects of fishing activity on EFH/HAPC.

Each year, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional offices and headquarters provide technical comments on about 4,000 individual actions (preapplication discussions, permit applications, license renewals, environmental analyses, management plans, and draft policies and guidance, and others). Collectively this work reflects stewardship responsibilities under nearly a dozen Federal authorities and represents a major effort to protect marine, estuarine, and riverine habitats that support NOAA trust resources. Technical comments provided by NMFS staff have modified a large majority of the state and Federal projects so that they avoid, minimize, or compensate for adverse effects on the habitats of NOAA trust resources. This success rate on habitat protection reflects the value of NOAA science and management recommendations offered to state and Federal decision makers, as well as NOAA's proactive efforts at educating the development community and conveying proper management applications. The agency works with its partners to develop guidance, best practices, research summaries, and other tools to add efficiency to this major component of its habitat protection effort.

NOAA also uses its expertise to influence decisions at the ecosystem or watershed level, where protection and restoration successes can be more lasting and profound. Using a regional ecosystem approach to management, NOAA couples regional research with on-the-ground conservation with the assistance of local partners, as evidenced in the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes programs. This ecosystem approach to management enhances watersheds and coastal systems. These efforts go toward the program's goals of no net habitat loss, increased yields, streamlined efficiencies, and sustained societal benefits.

Fisheries Habitat Restoration

NOAA's Fisheries Habitat Restoration efforts provide financial support, technical expertise, and coordination for habitat restoration and research. The NOAA Restoration Center oversees activities under this line item through three major programs: the Community-based Restoration Program (CRP); the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP); and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Program, which collectively provide the greatest contribution to the NOAA and Department performance goal of "number of habitat acres restored" in support of the Government Performance and Results Act.

The Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) restores coastal and estuarine fish habitat by catalyzing partnerships at national, regional and local levels, providing funding, technical assistance, and research capabilities and encouraging volunteer participation.. A model for community collaboration, partnership building, and interagency cooperation, NOAA's CRP promotes hands-on citizen participation in accomplishing on-the-ground restoration projects, and fosters long-term stewardship of the Nation's coastal and marine resources. The power behind CRP is its ability to build partnerships that leverage funding and emphasize volunteer involvement to restore the diverse habitats crucial to recreational and commercial fishing industries. This highly successful national effort advances partnerships with industry, nonprofit organizations, and state and local governments and has regularly leveraged NOAA funding with non-Federal funding by three to five times.. One element of CRP is the Open Rivers Initiative (ORI), a competitive grant program that builds on NOAA's capabilities and utilizes a community-based model to remove small dams and river barriers in coastal states. Over two million dams block the

passage of migratory fish in U.S. streams and rivers, and every dam is built with an expected lifespan. Dams provide numerous benefits for modern society, but they also contribute to the habitat and water quality degradation occurring in estuaries, deltas, and river environments. While most U.S. dams serve their intended functions, many no longer provide the benefits for which they were built. In many cases removal will provide greater economic, environmental, public safety, aesthetic and recreational benefits than dam maintenance, modification and upkeep. The ORI provides funding and technical assistance to help communities remove unwanted barriers and allow fish to reach upstream spawning and rearing habitat.

Through DARRP legal settlements, NOAA claims damages for injuries to marine resources resulting from oil spills, hazardous releases, ship groundings, or other human-induced environmental disturbances. After successful settlement of natural resource damage claims, the NOAA Restoration Center staff administers the portion of DARRP that directs the planning, implementation, and monitoring of case-specific projects to restore NOAA trust resources. Responsible parties provide funds or conduct projects to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured resources.

The CWPPRA program was enacted in 1990 to address the wetland loss in Louisiana which is so severe that it threatens infrastructure (i.e., energy, ports, and natural resources) critical to the nation as well as to the safety of its citizens, local traditions and cultures, economy, and environment. CWPPRA is a multi agency reimbursable program administered by the Army Corps of Engineers. As a member of this multi-agency Federal and state effort, the NOAA Fisheries Service has administered approximately \$10 million each year in reimbursements for on-the-ground restoration that has benefited thousands of acres of threatened wetlands and marine habitat. NOAA Restoration Center staff leads all aspects of the restoration process, from site selection and engineering/design to monitoring and maintenance.

The Great Lakes are an important aquatic resources from an economic, geographic, international, ecological and societal perspective. The Department of Commerce is a member of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force whose mission is to restore, protect, and promote sustainable use of this national priority (Executive Order 13340). NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program focuses on restoring Great Lakes aquatic resources, with an emphasis on commonly occurring lake-wide problems such as the remediation of contaminated sediment and the presence of persistent contaminants and the loss of high quality fish and wildlife habitat.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

None.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation & Restoration	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Habitat Conservation					
Sustainable Habitat Management	21,796	18,000	19,143	19,143	-
Fisheries Habitat Restoration	24,829	22,000	21,272	31,272	10,000
Hurricane Supp. Oyster Reefs FY06	38,000	-	-	-	-
Hurricane Supp. Shrimp FY06	89,910	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	174,535	40,000	40,415	50,415	10,000
FTE	234	234	234	234	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

Fisheries Habitat Restoration (+0 FTE and \$10,000,000): NMFS requests an increase of \$10,000,000 for the Penobscot River Habitat Restoration Project. The requested funding will be used to revive not only native fisheries but social, cultural and economic traditions of New England's second largest river- the Penobscot.

Statement of Need

Historically, the Penobscot River held Maine's largest populations of Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish with annual salmon runs estimated at 50,000-70,000 adults prior to 1830. Now, populations of many of these fish are at or near all time lows due to migratory barriers, over-harvest, water pollution, and habitat degradation caused by logging and dams. This project will rebuild this once abundant historic fishery, which includes 11 migratory (diadromous) fish species, such as Atlantic salmon and American shad, and will reopen fish access to nearly 1,000 miles of habitat while maintaining hydropower production. NOAA is committed to an ecosystem approach to managing living marine resources and their habitats. In fulfilling this commitment, NOAA actively implements opportunities that will maximize the recovery of trust resources identified by public-private partnerships. The cooperative conservation approach in the Penobscot River watershed builds upon the Open Rivers Initiative partnership model and extends these efforts into large-scale, ecosystem level restoration.

Proposed Action

NOAA seeks to work with partners to fulfill the Lower Penobscot River Comprehensive Settlement Accord (the Agreement) to purchase three hydropower dams on the Penobscot River, removing the two most seaward dams, bypassing the third dam, improving fish passage at four other dams in the watershed, and restoring associated riverine fish habitat. The request will allow for a significant Federal cost-share in this project, which would include the unique opportunity to study and evaluate the ecological and socio-economic implications of a project of such an unprecedented scale. The majority of this funding would go towards the purchase and removal of three dams by the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. In addition, a portion of the funding will be used to 1) provide technical assistance on engineering, site evaluation and restoration planning to ensure maximum benefits for trust resources, 2) provide guidance and assistance on environmental compliance, 3) conduct pre- and post-removal studies to evaluate ecological, economic, and cultural implications of the restorations, and 4) continue monitoring of fish usage of the river system to ensure that trust resources, such as the Atlantic salmon, are recovering.

Benefits

This funding will allow NOAA to ensure benefits Penobscot River habitat are maximized by the removal and bypass of the dams, and the associated restoration efforts. When fully funded through state, private, and federal contributions, the project will open access to nearly 1,000 miles of historical habitat in the Penobscot River watershed, restoring self-sustaining populations of 11 diadromous fish species, including Atlantic salmon, Atlantic and Shortnose sturgeon, American shad, and American eel. The project will open 100% of historic spawning habitat in the lower Penobscot River. The project also provides the opportunity for hydropower generation to be maintained at 95% of the current generating capacity. Over time, a restored river could contribute to the revitalization of social, recreational, and business opportunities along the Penobscot benefiting local citizens, local businesses, and recreational and commercial fisherman. The project is not only an ecologically significant river restoration effort and an economic contributor to local communities, but is also a model for other large-scale cooperative conservation efforts across the country.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

The increase provides support for the first two stages of the Penobscot River Restoration Project. The first stage includes the acquisition of three dams on the Penobscot River. In the second stage, the two most seaward dams will be removed, and the third will be bypassed. In the second stage, fish passage will also be improved at four additional dams and priority riverine fish habitat restoration efforts will commence. The requested increase will support the objective of “Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America’s economic, social, and environmental needs” under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship”. It also supports the NOAA Goal to Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.”

Performance Goal: Stream miles made accessible (miles per year).	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Without Increase	900	900	900	900	900	900
*With Increase	900	900	900	900	900	1,890

* The number of stream miles made accessible (miles per year) will increase by 990 in FY2012 with the requested increase of \$10.0M for the Penobscot River Restoration Project and sustained funding levels in FY09-FY11.

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Subactivity: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries
Line Item: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries

GOAL STATEMENT:

Base activities in this subactivity support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to, “Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management,” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal to, “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental stewardship.” These efforts also contribute to the following NOAA performance objectives: increase number of habitat acres conserved or restored, and increase portion of population that is knowledgeable of and acting as stewards for coastal and marine ecosystem.

BASE DESCRIPTION:

“Other Activities Supporting Fisheries” includes items that cross multiple NMFS programs and therefore do not fit under one specific subactivity. Activities funded include computer hardware and software, cooperative research, information analysis and dissemination, Alaska fishery management and habitat conservation projects, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Chesapeake Bay Studies, and facilities maintenance.

Aquaculture. The NOAA Aquaculture Program (ACQ), a matrix-managed program, is led by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in collaboration with the National Ocean Service, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), and the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Base funds support the operation of the NMFS AQC program staff office to lead and coordinate regulatory, research, and outreach activities for marine aquaculture within NMFS and across NOAA. Beginning in FY2008, certain aquaculture and stock enhancement science activities at NMFS laboratories formerly included in the Ecosystem Observation Program will form part of the existing AQC program. In addition to base funds in NMFS, base funds requested through OAR support the National Marine Aquaculture Initiative. This competitive grants program resides within OAR and is also considered part of the NOAA Aquaculture Program.

The AQC program base activities support program objectives of: (1) collaborating with partners to increase production of marine species and associated products through commercial aquaculture; (2) improving resource management capabilities through the application of aquaculture technology to replenish marine resources; (3) providing a regulatory framework for marine aquaculture including the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); (4) contributing to public understanding and appreciation of the role of aquaculture as a vital national food source; and (5) demonstrating a well-managed and environmentally sound system of “place-based” aquaculture principles and practices that may be adopted world-wide.

Currently, NOAA has mandates and authorities for aquaculture under the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). NOAA also has aquaculture permit regulatory review responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the National Marine Sanctuary Act. If enacted, the National Offshore Aquaculture Act, submitted to Congress on June 7, 2005, will require NOAA to design and implement a comprehensive regulatory program for

commercial aquaculture in the EEZ. The AQC program will work within NOAA and with the regional fishery management councils and other regional management bodies to develop regulations and/or permitting requirements through existing mandates (e.g., Magnuson-Stevens Act) until a bill is passed.

Cooperative Research. One of the larger programs classified under “Other Activities,” cooperative research enables commercial and recreational fishermen to become involved in collecting fundamental fisheries information to support the development and evaluation of management options. Through cooperative research, industry and other stakeholders can partner with NMFS and university scientists in all phases of the research program-- planning the survey/statistical design, conducting research, analyzing data, and communicating results. The information collected through cooperative research programs assists scientists and managers by supplementing the data currently collected through Federal research programs. This information improves the information base for single species, multi-species, and ecosystem assessment models and ultimately improves the evaluation of stock status and the management of fishery resources. Cooperative research covers a wide range of study areas, including fishery-dependent data, species life history, conservation engineering, species abundance and distribution, habitat, and socioeconomic impacts.

Facilities Maintenance. The NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance line supports the lease costs for the Kodiak, AK facility and for the Sandy Hook, NJ facility. The NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance line also funds operations and maintenance cost for the Santa Cruz, CA laboratory, one of the NMFS Southwest Science Center’s laboratories. The primary mission of the Sandy Hook laboratory is to conduct ecological research for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to improve understanding of both coastal and estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on nearshore marine populations. Research for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center is focused on Pacific Coast Groundfish and Pacific Salmon. Groundfish under study include rockfishes, flatfishes, Pacific whiting, sablefish and lingcod; salmon include coho, Chinook and steelhead. The Kodiak Fisheries Research Center (KFRC) is the primary facility for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center’s (AFSC) RACE (Resource and Conservation Engineering) Shellfish Assessment Program. The KFRC facility also provides offices and research support for other NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) program activities including: Groundfish Assessment Program, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division. In FY2007, NOAA will occupy new facilities at Lena Point, AK laboratory.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The Administration is working with Congress to facilitate passage of a National Offshore Aquaculture Act.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries					
Antarctic Research	1,442	1,500	1,506	2,106	600
Aquaculture	-	-	1,052	4,052	3,000
Chesapeake Bay Studies	3,452	3,000	1,967	1,967	-
Climate Regimes & Ecosystem Productivity	1,478	-	2,022	2,022	-
Computer Hardware and Software	1,972	-	3,380	3,380	-
Cooperative Research	19,092	9,000	10,515	10,315	(200)
Information Analyses & Dissemination	17,461	17,500	18,934	18,934	-
Magnuson –Stevens (MSA) Implementation off Alaska	-	-	7,918	7,918	-
Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment & Prediction Program (MarMap)	839	-	842	842	-
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	7,890	7,900	8,075	8,075	-
NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance	3,945	3,900	3,998	6,046	2,048
LaJolla Temporary Relocation	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Southeast Area Monitoring & Assessment Program (SEAMAP)	1,363	-	5,098	5,098	-
Other Projects	10,972	-	-	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	69,906	42,800	65,307	76,755	11,448
FTE	-	-	-	5	5

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

Antarctic Research (+ 0 FTE and \$600,000): NMFS is requesting an increase of \$600,000 and no FTEs for the Antarctic Research line item to support NOAA’s goal of managing the use of Southern Ocean resources through an ecosystem approach. The funds will enable the AMLR program to develop an International Polar Year research program and enable NOAA’s Antarctic marine Living Resource (AMLR) program to continue to collect biological and oceanographic information for one of the longest running data streams on the Antarctic marine ecosystem.. The

2008 field season represents the 22nd year of NOAA's only ecosystem-based Antarctic program collecting biological and oceanographic information.

Statement of Need

In recent years, U.S. commercial fishing vessels have become active in the Antarctic, targeting crab, krill, and toothfish. Under the authority of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-623), NOAA must monitor the actions of U.S. fishermen, including observation of fishing operations.

NOAA's AMLR Program is the only U.S. long-term ecosystem-based program designed specifically to address the management issues of the Southern ocean. Since 1986, NOAA's AMLR Program has conducted field studies in Antarctic waters to investigate the effects of krill, crab, and finfish fisheries on the Southern Ocean ecosystem. The principal objective of this program is to collect the scientific information needed to detect, monitor, and predict the effects of harvesting and associated activities on target, dependent, and related species and populations of Antarctic marine living resources, as well as on the ecosystem(s) of which they are a part.

AMLR's research also supports the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). CCAMLR is an international treaty between 25 nations that seeks to manage Antarctic fisheries with the goal of preserving species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem. During the last decade, the AMLR Program has provided leadership to CCAMLR's scientific committees and working groups and has hosted or convened numerous meetings and workshops. NOAA requires these additional funds to continue its active leadership role in polar research in FY 2008.

Proposed Action

The AMLR Program is managed by NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center. This request will enable AMLR to continue to provide scientific and management advice to the U.S. Department of State to ensure continuation of U.S. policy relating to the conservation and management of marine living resources in Antarctic waters.

NOAA's request will enable the continuation of field studies in Antarctic waters to investigate the effects of krill, crab, and finfish fisheries on the ecosystem, including effects on seal and penguin populations. With this request, NOAA will be able to continue the following research:

- Krill - survey and map krill distribution and abundance and measure environmental variables influencing krill off the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Finfish - conduct bottom trawl surveys to characterize finfish population dynamics and relationships to other predator/prey species.
- Penguins and seals - characterize distribution, abundance and life history dynamics (i.e., reproductive success) and abundance.
- Commercial Fisheries - adequately monitor U.S. commercial fleet activities to ensure compliance with international fishing regulations.

Benefits

NOAA's AMLR Program emphasizes directed research to manage Antarctic marine living resources from an ecosystem perspective. AMLR is the most comprehensive research program using land-, sea-, and space-based platforms to gather information on the environment and ecology in the Antarctic Peninsula and Southern Ocean.

The long-term vision for this program is to quantify the functional relationships between finfish and krill, their environment and their predators. Once NOAA elucidates these relationships, CCAMLR will have the capability to manage the marine living resources in the Southern Ocean using an ecosystem approach to ensure sustained harvesting of krill, fish, and crabs.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NMFS' request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

The Antarctic Research line item directly supports the following measure:

Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems Percentage of Fish Stocks with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.*</i>	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Without Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%
With Increase	51.7%	53.9%	57.0%	55.7%	54.8%	53.5%

* This is a component of the NMFS GPRA measure *Percentage of Living Marine Resources (LMR) with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.*

Aquaculture (+5 FTE and +\$3,000,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$3,000,000 and 5 FTEs to develop a regulatory program for marine aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as called for in the Administration's legislative proposal, the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005.

Congress held two hearings on this bill in 2006, and the Administration intends to resubmit the bill to the 110th Congress. The offshore aquaculture legislation fulfills the recommendation in the Administration's *U.S. Ocean Action Plan* of advancing offshore aquaculture in U.S. ocean waters. The budget and staff increase will also be used to improve implementation of mandated regulatory and science activities related to aquaculture under current laws, such as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Aquaculture will effectively reduce U.S. dependence on seafood imports, provide job opportunities for economically depressed coastal communities, and increase regional food supply and economic security.

Statement of Need

Worldwide, commercial harvest of marine fish is at maximum levels and is not keeping pace with the demand for seafood. International marine aquaculture production is helping to meet domestic and world demand, but little of this additional marine production is from domestic sources. In addition,

the 2004 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, states that harvest from world capture fisheries is projected to stagnate, while world aquaculture production is projected to increase substantially. Of the expected increase of 43 million tons in global fish production from 1999 to 2015, 73 percent would come from aquaculture. Currently, over 70 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, with at least 40 percent of these products grown in overseas aquaculture facilities, thus producing an annual seafood trade deficit of nearly \$8 billion.

NOAA needs to establish a program to provide regulatory certainty—a critical prerequisite for private sector investment in offshore aquaculture. NOAA's role in reviewing and processing permits under existing laws, and working with states on marine aquaculture issues, will also be enhanced. NOAA needs to support actions that foster sustainable economic development and environmentally friendly technologies, increase domestic seafood production to complement wild catch, create new employment opportunities, reduce the growth in the trade deficit in seafood products, and enhance regional food supply and security. The requested funding is needed to develop and support the regulatory program, including developing environmental standards and monitoring protocols.

Proposed Action

The Aquaculture (AQC) program will establish a regulatory capacity and enhanced science program to meet the mandates called for in the proposed National Offshore Aquaculture Act. The increase will support the development of regulations and procedures to receive and evaluate applications and issue permits for aquaculture facilities sited and operated in offshore areas and to monitor compliance with permit requirements. With the increase, draft regulations would be promulgated in FY 2008, with final regulations and permitting requirements completed in FY 2009. Specific AQC program activities in support of the offshore legislation would include: prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement and conduct stakeholder meetings; coordinate legal and regulatory issues with states and with other federal agencies; develop regulations and standards for permit approval; design the permit system, associated forms, and guidance documents; identify applicable environmental standards and develop additional environmental standards, as necessary; conduct associated scientific research; establish monitoring requirements; and hire regional and headquarters staff to support and implement these activities. Funding will support the development of the rulemaking and regulation process and allow for related research needed to develop environmental standards and monitoring protocols.

Benefits

An effectively managed domestic marine aquaculture program will provide significant opportunities for the private sector to establish economically and environmentally sustainable aquaculture enterprises in marine waters by providing regulatory certainty, while reducing the number of user conflicts (i.e., recreational versus commercial) in the near-shore environment. In addition, NOAA's role in reviewing and processing permits under existing laws, and working with states on marine aquaculture issues, will be enhanced. These actions will help foster sustainable economic development and environmentally friendly technologies, increase domestic seafood production to complement wild catch, create new employment opportunities, reduce the growth in the trade deficit in seafood products, and enhance regional food supply and security.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

The United States cannot meet current seafood demand with its existing seafood supply. U.S. seafood demand is expected to grow by over two million metric tons by 2025. To meet this demand, the United States must either increase its reliance on imports or increase its domestic seafood production through aquaculture. With implementation of an offshore aquaculture regulatory program and improvements to existing regulatory programs, NOAA will be in a better position to regulate and manage U.S. aquaculture activities in a way that enables sustainable aquaculture, safeguards the environment and wild stocks, and benefits multiple stakeholders.

The \$3 million requested increase for the AQC program will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce Goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship." Furthermore, the increase will support NOAA's Strategic Plan performance objective to "increase environmentally sound aquaculture production." Of the 11 program objectives identified in the 2005 *10-Year Plan for the NOAA Aquaculture Program*, the \$3 million increase will allow two to be met and five others to be partially met.

Performance Goals	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Number of Offshore Aquaculture Permits Issued Annually						
Without Increase	0	0	0	0	0	0
With Increase	0	0	0	1	2	3
Regulations Issued						
Without Increase						
With Increase			Draft	Final		

Cooperative Research (+ 0 FTE and -\$200,000): NOAA requests a decrease of \$200,000 and 0 FTE from the overall Cooperative Research line item. NOAA will apply the \$200,000 decrease to higher priority needs. In FY 2008, the net request will include support for continuation of regional partnership opportunities in the Gulf of Mexico, a strategy advocated in the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

Statement of Need

In cooperative research, fishery scientists partner with commercial and recreational fishermen, the fishing industry, nongovernmental organizations, state fisheries management agencies, and universities. Partners in the regional cooperative research programs vary according to regional priorities and opportunities, but all programs involve fishermen, the fishing industry, or other partnership groups to some degree. Through these partnerships the agency gains access to knowledge, tools, techniques, skills, and experiences otherwise unavailable to NOAA scientists. This access enhances the quality of our

scientific recommendations, fosters a better understanding of NOAA science and the processes behind it, and creates greater support for subsequent management policies. Moreover, working together creates synergy, not only for joint problem solving but also for identifying which scientific questions to undertake, setting priorities for them, and determining which approaches to use.

The majority of funds for the National Cooperative Research line item are allocated equally among all NOAA regions to conduct projects in support of regional stock assessment and fisheries management priorities. Many of these projects are ongoing, multi-year efforts. The remaining funds are used to address recommendations in the National Research Council report *Cooperative Research in the National Marine Fisheries Service (2004)* to improve the implementation of agency cooperative research efforts.

Proposed Action

NOAA requests a decrease of \$200,000 in the National Cooperative Research program. With the remaining funds, the National Cooperative Research Program will continue to support a broad range of cooperative projects throughout the United States to improve the science and management of our living marine resources.

Benefits

The decrease will allow the Department of Commerce to fund other high priority work, while maintaining the partnering opportunities provided through our cooperative research programs. Commercial and recreational vessels help fill the time and location gaps in our surveys. Industry vessels can be used for fine-scale surveys, to survey close to shore, to test fishing gear that minimizes wasteful bycatch, at multiple locations simultaneously for tag/recapture studies, and to serve as an early warning system for significant biological and oceanographic events as part of a long-term study fleet. Fishing vessels are also appropriate platforms for standardized stock assessment surveys that use gear less sensitive to changes in vessel type, such as traps, pots, and longlines. Self-contained vans containing specialized acoustic or laboratory equipment can be placed aboard larger vessels to extend fishing vessel capabilities. Industry participants also provide a wealth of knowledge on resource distribution of individual species and stocks that we can use to fine-tune and interpret our broader-scale multispecies surveys.

La Jolla Temporary Relocation (+0 FTE and \$1,000,000): NMFS requests an increase of \$1,000,000 to provide temporary leased space for personnel working in the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) in La Jolla, CA.

Statement of Need

The SWFSC complex is within 25 feet of an eroding 200-foot-high bluff abutting the La Jolla Shores beach on the Pacific Ocean. According to geological studies of existing cliff stability and ongoing erosion at the bluff, the potential exists for future slope failures to affect the structural integrity of the bluff-side SWFSC buildings. Based on this information, NMFS will vacate staff from the Laboratory into leased space pending construction of new facilities. The \$1,000,000 request is required to cover the lease costs.

The SWFSC is situated on a 2.48-acre land parcel. Occupied since 1964, the property was deeded to NOAA by the Regents of the University of California under a 99-year lease. The existing La Jolla Laboratory houses research and support staff in a four-building facility of approximately 100,000 gross square feet.

Proposed Action

NOAA is working with the General Services Administration to identify off-site space to house displaced staff members. This staff primarily includes the protected species division, AUV laboratory, and some administrative support staff. The \$1,000,000 request represents the estimated annual costs and is required at least through FY 2011.

Benefits

The SWFSC conducts research involving Pacific fisheries and other marine resources at La Jolla, California and at three satellite laboratories. La Jolla-based research focuses on highly migratory species, coastal pelagic species, marine mammals and whales, sea turtles, and Antarctic marine resources. By allowing NMFS to expeditiously move personnel out of two of the La Jolla facility buildings, this request ensures that personnel can pursue the Agency's mission in a safe environment with minimal impact on their science activities.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NMFS' request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

Pacific Island Region/Center (+ 0 FTE and \$5,000,000): NOAA requests \$5,000,000 to support the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) in Hawaii. The increase provides resources needed for NOAA to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources in the Pacific Islands Region through an ecosystem approach to management. NOAA's request provides funding for 33 existing FTEs, supports more effective science-based fishery management decisions, improves grants management, advances peer-reviewed ecosystem science, and institutes overall organizational management efficiency.

NOAA's request provides for enhanced outreach and education capabilities, and our constituents will directly benefit from the requested increase. The capability particularly enables PIRO and PIFSC to efficiently respond to the informational needs of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC). Furthermore, the increase supports increased administrative capabilities thereby enhancing the ability of NOAA and the WPFMC to deliver timely, accurate advice and scientific input to inquiries from the Department of Commerce, NOAA, NMFS, the State of Hawaii, academia, other federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO).

The capability will support NOAA's commitment to the following U.S. Ocean Action Plan recommendations: "advance regional fisheries management" and "advance the use of large marine ecosystems."

Statement of Need

NOAA established PIRO and PIFSC as an independent financial management center beginning in FY 2004. Previously, the Pacific Islands Regional Office and Science Center were subordinate to the NMFS Southwest Region.

Financial constraints associated with splitting two regions prevented NOAA from providing adequate funding for new infrastructure and increased administrative responsibilities. Presently, NOAA is challenged with effectively accomplishing its regulatory mission due to the additional responsibilities associated with the new region.

Proposed Action

This request provides sufficient funding to address the Region's increased administrative and programmatic responsibilities and provides the resources needed for the new Pacific Islands Regional Office and Science Center to fulfill their mission goals in fishery management, protected species and habitat conservation, financial and operational management, and public outreach.

PIRO has operational programs in place for each of its mandates. The request will enhance these capabilities by providing resources to match personnel to the needs of the region, thereby providing overall stability for the PIRO program. Specifically, this increase will allow for the:

1. support for 19 FTEs to conduct fishery management, protected species, habitat conservation, and financial management center (FMC) responsibilities; and
2. support for 14 FTEs to provide science and research leadership; to help meet FMC responsibilities; to institute a sound safety program; and to support new research critical to resource management in the Pacific Islands Region. Additionally, upgrades to workplace safety and safety administration are a priority. The requested increase will enhance leadership and operational oversight capabilities of the Science Center.

Benefits

NOAA will improve upon its high-quality science-based resource management in the central and western Pacific including increasing the percentage of living marine resources with adequate population assessments and forecasts by 3.5%. The increased funding will also strengthen NOAA's ability to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources in the Pacific Islands Region through an ecosystem approach to management.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance (+0 FTE and \$2,048,000): NOAA requests an increase of 0 FTE and \$2,048,000 for NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance to cover operation and maintenance costs for the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center's new Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (Lena Point Facility).

Statement of Need

Most of the staff working in the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratory will relocate to the new Lena Point facility in FY 2007. The facility will contain 69,000 square feet of floor space configured in two stories with a partial basement. The requested \$2,048,000 is necessary because NOAA's current Auke Bay Laboratory Operations and Maintenance budget is not sufficient to support this new facility. In addition, some portions of the old Auke Bay Laboratory will remain in use, requiring continued infrastructure support. The seawater system and storage building are needed to support salmonid and mixed salinity research done only at the Auke Creek site; the pier/float and associated dockside building space, dive locker space, and the specimen storage facility containing the North Pacific Fish Collection will remain at the Auke Bay laboratory.

Proposed Action

NOAA staff at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratory will begin to relocate to the facility in February 2007, with final occupancy expected in March 2007. Of the funds requested, \$953,000 is for heating and power costs. This request was based on load estimates provided by the construction contractor. The request also includes \$1,095,000 for maintenance and repair. This amount was calculated using the NRC standard of between two and four percent of the replacement value of the facility.

Benefits

This new facility will allow NOAA to strengthen critical scientific research programs in Alaska. For NOAA to manage for the long-term health of commercial, recreational, subsistence, and environmental resources in the North Pacific, its scientists and managers must understand how these resources interact with each other and their environment over time. Currently, NOAA has no facilities in Alaska with sufficient space or of sufficient quality to address the growing need for scientific information regarding the region's marine resources. The research institute will enable NMFS to bring together various program elements; conduct advanced marine science research, including new laboratory initiatives; and hold interactive management and science meetings. These activities are critical to the future health of Alaska's fishing industry.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) operates a graduate program out of its Juneau Center, and UAF plans to construct a new 31,000-square-foot SFOS building on the NOAA site at Lena Point. The University of Alaska-Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has operated in Juneau for more than 20 years next to the NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratories. Co-location will continue the capability of timely and economical exchange of information and collaborative research between NMFS and UAF researchers—a collaboration that has a proven record of contributing information and expertise to benefit Alaska's fishing industries.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

NMFS' request will support the Departmental objective and NOAA goal "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship."

**Subactivity: Alaska Composite Research and Development
Line Item: AK Composite Research and Development Program**

GOAL STATEMENT:

Provide accurate and timely information and analyses on the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects of Alaska's fisheries resources and develop, implement, and monitor living marine resource management measures to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Strategic Plan goal to, "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management."

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The FY 2006 *Science, State, Commerce, Justice, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* enacted funding for a new budget line titled the Alaska Composite Research and Development Program that focused upon Alaska fisheries and marine mammals. The appropriations bill enacted a significant consolidation of the NMFS budget resulting in the realignment of approximately 50 budget lines into a single PPA (Program, Project, or Activity) for the conservation and management of Alaska fisheries and marine mammals.

The Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee recognized that Alaska fisheries management requires data and research on over 900,000 square miles of ocean within the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska's coast. Alaska fisheries landings, in 2004, made up 55% of total U.S. landings by weight (5.36 billion pounds), and accounted for over 32% of the total value (\$1.17 billion). Two of the Nation's top three fishing ports, in terms of highest dollar value for commercial landings, are in Alaska. In 2004, Dutch Harbor-Unalaska moved the most fish of any port--886.4 million pounds for a total dollar value of \$155 million. Kodiak, Alaska, was not far behind generating \$91 million for 312.6 million pounds of fish landed.

NOAA, the State of Alaska, and our Alaskan partners—Alaska Native organizations, academia, and non-governmental organizations—conduct scientific and management activities to ensure future sustainable and abundance-based harvests of these living marine resources. Furthermore, the program supports longstanding efforts to promote the sustainability of select marine mammal species such as Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, and beluga whales.

This initiative reflects NOAA's support of the Office of Science and Technology Policy's FY 2008 Research and Development Budget Priorities by supporting technological innovation that spurs economic competitiveness. Alaska's fisheries management requires data and research on over 900,000 square miles of ocean within the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska's coast. These funds are critical to provide data collection, analysis and further resource development of these fisheries. Equally important, the Alaska Composite Research and Development Program will provide continued economic opportunity for the State of Alaska and its numerous coastal communities.

Starting with the FY 2008 Budget Request, NOAA will no longer request funding for Alaskan research and conservation activities under the Alaska Composite Research and Development line item. Instead, NOAA will request funding for Alaska activities within the original budget lines that previously funded these activities.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

None.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Alaska Composite Research and Development	FY 2006 ACTUALS	FY 2007 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2008 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2008 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: AK Composite Research and Development Program					
TOTAL	50,298	20,000	-	-	-
FTE	-	-	-	-	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2008:

None.

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Contribution to the NOAA Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

National Marine Fisheries Service	FY 2006 Actuals	FY 2007 Currently Available	FY 2008 Base Program	FY 2008 Estimate	Inc/Dec from Base
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Climate					
Climate	1,478	-	2,022	2,022	-
Total C	1,478	-	2,022	2,022	-
Ecosystems					
Ecosystems	759,850	513,394	628,204	673,572	45,368
Total ECO	759,850	513,394	628,204	673,572	45,368
Mission Support					
MS	30,058	27,706	28,985	28,985	-
Total MS	30,058	27,706	28,985	28,985	-
Total National Marine Fisheries Service	791,386	541,100	659,211	704,579	45,368

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Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE: DIRECT OBLIGATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service		FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008		FY 2008		Inc/Dec	
		Actuals		Currently Available		Base Program		Estimate		from Base	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel Amount	
Protected Species Research and Management											
Protected Species	Pos/BA	737	144,561	755	108,000	755	161,245	766	165,095	11	3,850
	FTE/OBL	682	144,992	657	109,851	660	161,245	668	165,095	8	3,850
Total: Protected Species	Pos/BA	737	144,561	755	108,000	755	161,245	766	165,095	11	3,850
Research and Management	FTE/OBL	682	144,992	657	109,851	660	161,245	668	165,095	8	3,850
Fisheries Research and Management											
Fish	Pos/BA	1,766	285,364	1,766	256,800	1,766	308,271	1,787	325,341	21	17,070
	FTE/OBL	1,141	288,369	1,444	260,389	1,451	308,271	1,467	325,341	16	17,070
Total: Fisheries Research and Management	Pos/BA	1,766	285,364	1,766	256,800	1,766	308,271	1,787	325,341	21	17,070
	FTE/OBL	1,141	288,369	1,444	260,389	1,451	308,271	1,467	325,341	16	17,070
Enforcement and Observers / Training											
Enforcement	Pos/BA	248	43,547	248	50,000	248	54,678	248	54,678	-	-
	FTE/OBL	210	56,937	188	50,020	188	54,678	188	54,678	-	-
Observers & Training	Pos/BA	8	23,175	8	23,500	8	29,295	8	32,295	-	3,000
	FTE/OBL	72	25,030	63	23,984	63	29,295	63	32,295	-	3,000
Total: Enforcement and	Pos/BA	256	66,722	256	73,500	256	83,973	256	86,973	-	3,000

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE: DIRECT OBLIGATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Observers / Training	FTE/OBL	282	81,967	251	74,004	251	83,973	251	86,973	-	3,000
Habitat Conservation & Restoration											
Habitat Conservation	Pos/BA	111	174,535	111	40,000	111	40,415	111	50,415	-	10,000
	FTE/OBL	124	174,772	234	40,583	234	40,415	234	50,415	-	10,000
Total: Habitat Conservation & Restoration	Pos/BA	111	174,535	111	40,000	111	40,415	111	50,415	-	10,000
	FTE/OBL	124	174,772	234	40,583	234	40,415	234	50,415	-	10,000
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries											
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	Pos/BA	-	69,906	-	42,800	-	65,307	7	76,755	7	11,448
	FTE/OBL	274	71,047	-	43,227	-	65,307	5	76,755	5	11,448
Total: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	Pos/BA	-	69,906	-	42,800	-	65,307	7	76,755	7	11,448
	FTE/OBL	274	71,047	-	43,227	-	65,307	5	76,755	5	11,448
Alaska Composite Research and Development											
AK Composite Research and Development Program	Pos/BA	-	50,298	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	FTE/OBL	182	50,116	-	20,182	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total: Alaska Composite Research and Development	Pos/BA	-	50,298	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	FTE/OBL	182	50,116	-	20,182	-	-	-	-	-	-

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE PERSONNEL DETAIL

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Protected Species Research and Management

Title	Grade	Number	Annual Salary	Total Salaries
Attorney	Silver Spring, MD	2	91,407	182,814
Fisheries Biologist	Silver Spring, MD	4	91,407	365,628
Fisheries Biologist	Silver Spring, MD	5	65,048	325,240
Total		11		873,682
Less Lapse	25%	-3		(218,421)
Total full-time permanent (FTE)		8		655,262
2007 Pay Adjustment (2.2%)				14,416
2008 Pay Adjustment (3%)				20,090
Total				689,768
<u>Personnel Data</u>		<u>Number</u>		
Full-time permanent		8		
Other than full-time permanent		0		
Total		8		
 Authorized Positions				
Full-time permanent		11		
Total		11		

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE PERSONNEL DETAIL

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
Subactivity: Fisheries Research and Management

Title		Grade	Number	Annual Salary	Total Salaries
Fisheries Mgt. Specialist	Juneau, AK	ZP4	1	87,533	87,533
Fisheries Mgt. Specialist	Seattle, WA	ZP4	1	91,741	91,741
Fisheries Mgt. Specialist	St. Petersburg, FL	ZP4	3	87,533	262,599
Scientist	Honolulu, HI	ZP4	1	87,533	87,533
Scientist	La Jolla, CA	ZP4	1	92,721	92,721
Scientist	Miami, FL	ZP4	1	91,671	91,671
Scientist	Seattle, WA	ZP4	2	91,741	183,482
Scientist	Silver Spring, MD	ZP5	1	107,521	107,521
Scientist	Silver Spring, MD	ZP4	1	91,407	91,407
Scientist	Woods Hole, MA	ZP4	1	93,344	93,344
Statistician	Juneau, AK	ZP4	1	87,533	87,533
Statistician	Seattle, WA	ZP4	1	91,741	91,741
Statistician	St. Petersburg, FL	ZP4	2	87,533	175,066
Tech. Information Specialist	Juneau, AK	ZP4	1	87,533	87,533
Tech. Information Specialist	Seattle, WA	ZP4	1	91,741	91,741
Tech. Information Specialist	St. Petersburg, FL	ZP4	2	87,533	175,066
Total			21		1,898,232
Less Lapse	25%		-5		(474,558)
Total full-time permanent (FTE)			16		1,423,674
2007 Pay Adjustment (2.2%)					31,321
2008 Pay Adjustment (3%)					43,650
Total					1,498,645

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE PERSONNEL DETAIL

Personnel Data	Number
Full-time permanent	16
Other than full-time permanent	0
Total	16
Authorized Positions	
Full-time permanent	21
Total	21

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE PERSONNEL DETAIL

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries

Title	Grade	Number	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	
Aquaculture Coordinator	Silver Spring, MD	ZP4	1	77,353	77,353
Aquaculture Scientist	Silver Spring, MD	ZP4	1	77,353	77,353
Aquaculture Specialist	Gloucester, MA	ZP4	1	78,992	78,992
Aquaculture Specialist	Honolulu, HI	ZP4	1	74,074	74,074
Aquaculture Specialist	Seattle, WA	ZP4	1	77,636	77,636
Aquaculture Specialist	St. Petersburg, FL	ZP4	1	74,074	74,074
Regulatory/Permit Specialist	Silver Spring, MD	ZP3	1	54,272	54,272
Total			7		513,754
Less Lapse	25%		-2		(128,439)
Total full-time permanent (FTE)			5		385,316
2007 Pay Adjustment (2.2%)					8,477
2008 Pay Adjustment (3%)					11,814
Total					405,606
Personnel Data			Number		
Full-time permanent			5		
Other than full-time permanent			0		
Total			5		
Authorized Positions			Number		
Full-time permanent			7		
Total			7		

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
Subactivity: Protected Species Research and Management

Object Class	2008 Increase
11 Personnel compensation	
11.1 Full-time permanent	690
11.5 Other personnel compensation	11
11.6 Personnel Compensation	161
11.9 Total personnel compensation	862
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	197
21 Travel and transportation of persons	184
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	64
23.2 Rental payments to others	100
23.3 Communications, utilities and miscellaneous charges	800
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	10
25.2 Other services	2,157
26 Supplies and materials	252
31 Equipment	1,224
41 Grants, subsidies and contributions	1,000
99 Total Obligations	6,850

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Protected Species Research and Management

	Object Class	2008 Decrease
25.2	Other services	(3,000)
99	Total Obligations	(3,000)

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Fisheries Research and Management

	Object Class	2008 Increase
11	Personnel compensation	
11.1	Full-time permanent	1,498
11.6	Personnel Compensation	350
11.9	Total personnel compensation	1,848
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	515
21	Travel and transportation of persons	258
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	23
25.2	Other services	6,290
25.5	Research and development contracts	7,079
31	Equipment	48
41	Grants, subsidies and contributions	3,089
99	Total Obligations	19,150

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Fisheries Research and Management

	Object Class		2008 Decrease
41	Grants, subsidies and contributions		(2,080)
99	Total Obligations		(2,080)

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Enforcement and Observers / Training

	Object Class	2008 Increase
25.2	Other services	3,000
99	Total Obligations	3,000

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Habitat Conservation & Restoration

	Object Class	2008 Increase
25.2	Other services	2,000
41	Grants, subsidies and contributions	8,000
99	Total Obligations	10,000

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
Subactivity: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries

Object Class	2008 Increase
11 Personnel compensation	
11.1 Full-time permanent	406
11.5 Other personnel compensation	10
11.6 Personnel Compensation	95
11.9 Total personnel compensation	511
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	235
21 Travel and transportation of persons	447
22.1 Transportation of things	189
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1,821
23.2 Rental payments to others	1,000
23.3 Communications, utilities and miscellaneous charges	953
24 Printing and reproduction	21
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1,883
25.2 Other services	4,389
25.3 Other purchases of goods and services from Govt accounts	10
26 Supplies and materials	58
31 Equipment	50
41 Grants, subsidies and contributions	81
99 Total Obligations	11,648

Department of Commerce
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 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM CHANGE DETAIL BY OBJECT CLASS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service
 Subactivity: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries

	Object Class		2008 Decrease
41	Grants, subsidies and contributions		(200)
99	Total Obligations		(200)

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE: REIMBURSABLE OBLIGATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Activity: National Marine Fisheries Service		FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008		FY 2008		Inc/Dec	
		Actuals		Currently Available		Base Program		Estimate		from Base	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Protected Species Research and Management											
Protected Species	Pos/BA	41	12,455	41	12,455	41	12,455	41	12,455	-	-
	FTE/OBL	39	14,456	39	12,455	39	12,455	39	12,455	-	-
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Total: Protected Species	Pos/BA	41	12,455	41	12,455	41	12,455	41	12,455	-	-
Research and Management	FTE/OBL	39	14,456	39	12,455	39	12,455	39	12,455	-	-
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Fisheries Research and Management											
Fish	Pos/BA	249	13,300	249	13,300	249	13,300	249	13,300	-	-
	FTE/OBL	240	15,437	240	13,300	240	13,300	240	13,300	-	-
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Total: Fisheries Research and	Pos/BA	249	13,300	249	13,300	249	13,300	249	13,300	-	-
Management	FTE/OBL	240	15,437	240	13,300	240	13,300	240	13,300	-	-
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Enforcement and Observers / Training											
Enforcement	Pos/BA	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	-
	FTE/OBL	-	6,257	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	-
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Total: Enforcement and	Pos/BA	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	-
Observers / Training	FTE/OBL	-	6,257	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	5,391	-	-
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Habitat Conservation & Restoration											
Habitat Conservation	Pos/BA	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	-	-

Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Operations Research and Facilities
PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE: REIMBURSABLE OBLIGATIONS
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)

	FTE/OBL	10	26,950	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	-	-
Total: Habitat Conservation & Restoration	Pos/BA	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	-	-
	FTE/OBL	10	26,950	10	23,219	10	23,219	10	23,219	-	-
Inspection and Grading											
Inspection and Grading	Pos/BA	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	-
	FTE/OBL	-	19,641	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	-
Total: Inspection and Grading	Pos/BA	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	-
	FTE/OBL	-	19,641	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	16,921	-	-