

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**ON
THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

**BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

APRIL 28, 2026

Greetings Chairman Franklin, Ranking Member Amo, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request. On behalf of the agency, I offer our most sincere thanks for the Subcommittee’s longstanding support for our agency and its programs.

For FY 2027, the NOAA requests a budget of \$4,540,824,000 in discretionary appropriations. In FY 2027, NOAA will continue to leverage partnerships to spur innovation in the weather and space enterprises and grow the American maritime economy. These activities will drive business growth and will continue to advance NOAA’s mission of science, service, and stewardship.

NOAA manages a variety of specialized ships, aircraft, and uncrewed systems that make up the NOAA Fleet and play a critical role in the *in situ* collection of oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data in support of NOAA’s mission. In support of the NOAA Fleet and *Executive Order 14269: Restoring America’s Maritime Dominance*, the FY 2027 budget request proposes an increase of \$60,000,000 to accelerate the acquisition of a Class C vessel. Further, NOAA requests an increase of \$75,000,000 to initiate a fleet of uncrewed system platforms to enable efficient survey of our coasts, address current data gaps, and propel a stronger ocean economy.

NOAA also manages the Nation’s civil operational environmental satellites, which are the foundation of the environmental intelligence the agency provides. The FY 2027 budget request supports the continuity of these critical environmental data while focusing on NOAA’s core

weather mission. The Geostationary Extended Observations satellite program will meet essential observation needs to support weather forecasting and severe storm warnings and is committed to leveraging the innovation and capabilities of the commercial industry, including adoption of commercial best practices and technology where possible. In addition, NOAA requests an increase to support activities related to the development and implementation of the Near Earth Orbit Network, which will serve as the next generation of polar orbiting satellites. NOAA will also continue to expand the use of commercially available cost-effective data and services, where they meet NOAA mission needs. This increase supports the expansion of space-based commercial capabilities, including data acquisition and engagement activities, in alignment with the Administration's priorities to leverage private sector innovation and integrate commercial capabilities to improve weather forecasting.

The FY 2027 budget request aims to better enable modernization of the National Weather Service (NWS) by pursuing key investments that support its core mission. NWS continues to produce operational forecasts, warnings, impact-based decision support services, and other life-saving products and services to the emergency management community and public as they prepare for and respond to increasingly frequent severe weather and water events. The current radar system is an important source of data used by weather forecasters and is at high risk of not being able to maintain target availability by 2030, which would significantly impact the ability of the NWS to provide lifesaving warnings and support services to core partners and emergency managers. The Radar Next program will ensure continuity of operations, expand coverage, and improve performance, enabling forecasters to improve the lead times and the accuracy of warnings for high-impact weather events. In addition, NOAA will continue the transition of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System – known as AWIPS – to a cloud framework to enable forecasters to provide efficient, secure remote access to provide on-site support services wherever and whenever severe weather threatens. NOAA will couple these emerging technologies to drive greater economic benefits, strengthen national security, and deepen partnerships with the commercial weather enterprise into the future.

In FY 2027, NOAA will advance and support the United States as a global leader in responsible seabed and mineral exploration and commercial recovery. An increase is proposed in Coastal Zone Management and Services to support *Executive Order 14285: Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources* by building upon our established licensing and permitting authority and framework to sustain Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act licensing and permitting capacity. NOAA will use artificial intelligence and other technology solutions to increase efficiency in unleashing an ocean economy.

The FY 2027 budget request proposes several investments supporting *Executive Order 14726: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness*. NOAA will invest \$5,000,000 to maintain essential surveys for high priority, economically important fisheries stocks and modernize data collection for stock assessment analysis to improve fisheries management. Emerging technologies such as uncrewed surface vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and environmental DNA offer an unprecedented opportunity to expand survey coverage, reduce operational costs, and provide higher resolution data in near real-time. In addition, NOAA is requesting an increase of \$9,430,000 to support the America First Seafood Strategy, including initiatives to support seafood product traceability, unleash the untapped potential of U.S.

aquaculture, and expand capacity to inspect fish and fish products imported into the United States.

NOAA's FY 2027 budget request advances the proposal in the FY 2026 President's Budget to transfer Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act functions in the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources to the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This would improve coordination and efficiency and streamline implementation of these statutes, reducing regulatory burden on American citizens and industry. In addition, the FY 2027 budget request transfers the Office of Space Commerce from the NOAA Mission Support line office to the Department of Commerce as a standalone office reporting directly to the Secretary. This realignment strengthens the Department of Commerce's role as an advocate for the growing U.S. commercial space industry within the interagency, and supports *Executive Order 14335: Enabling Competition in the Commercial Space Industry*.

The NOAA FY 2027 budget request will make critical investments to better enable NOAA to address current and emerging needs of the Nation. Through this budget, NOAA will help unleash American energy, leverage innovation in the weather and space enterprises, and enable and promote economic growth.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and your support of the President's FY 2027 budget request. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.