

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

HEARING CHARTER

*An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015*

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose

The Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled *An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015*, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to examine the Administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Witness List

- **The Honorable Kathryn Sullivan**, Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Background

The President's fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is \$5.49 billion, a 3.2 percent increase above the FY 2014 enacted levels.

NOAA's core mission and activities include weather forecasting, climate prediction, and management of fisheries, coastal and ocean resources, as well as cross-cutting research to support and advance these operational areas. NOAA carries out this mission through five major line offices:

- **National Ocean Service (NOS)**, responsible for mapping and charting coastal areas and providing other navigation support services;
- **National Weather Service (NWS)**, responsible for weather forecasts and warnings;
- **National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS)**, responsible for development and operation of satellites that monitor and transmit data for weather forecasting, climate prediction, space weather forecasting, and earth and ocean science research;

- **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**, responsible for research in support of most NOAA missions including atmospheric, coastal, and oceanic sciences, climate and air quality research, ecosystem research, and fisheries and marine mammal research; and
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**, responsible for stewardship of living marine resources through the conservation, management, and promotion of healthy ecosystems.

Table 1 shows the primary accounts or line offices of NOAA’s budget.

Table 1: NOAA FY 2015 Budget Request (dollars in millions)

Account	FY13 Spend Plan	FY14 Enacted	FY15 Request	FY15 Request versus FY14 Enacted	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	% change
National Ocean Service	468.3	498.7	519.4	20.7	4.2%
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	369.4	426.8	462.2	35.4	8.3%
National Weather Service	953.6	1,067.2	1,063.3	-3.9	-0.4%
National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service	1,864.8	2,083.1	2,247.9	164.8	7.9%
National Marine Fisheries Service	882.5	999.1	916.8	-82.3	-8.2%
Program Support	456.9	481.1	517.9	36.9	7.7%
Adjustments and Transfers	-247.7	-233.5	-230.9	2.5	-1.1%
Totals:	4,747.8	5,322.5	5,496.7	174.2	3.3%

National Weather Service (NWS)

NWS provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, adjacent waters, and ocean areas, and maintains a national infrastructure of observing systems that gather and process data worldwide from the land, sea, and air. The FY 2015 request for NWS is \$1.06 billion, a decrease of \$3.9 million below FY 2014 levels.

The budget request includes a proposal for restructuring its budget programs, projects, and activities (PPA) as part of a broader effort to evolve the NWS to deliver more efficient, responsive, and advanced operations. The proposal supports NWS’ Weather-Ready goal by aligning the office budget with function and performance to provide greater transparency.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

The President's budget request for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) is \$2.25 billion, a \$164 million increase over FY 2014 enacted levels. The majority of this request is for procurement and acquisition under two satellite programs, the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R).

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) is the primary research arm of NOAA, conducting the scientific research, environmental studies, and technology development necessary to improve NOAA operations. OAR activities are carried out at NOAA and via extramural research activities at thirty National Sea Grant colleges and universities. The Administration's FY2015 budget request for OAR is \$462.2 million, a \$35.4 million increase above the FY2014 level. The President's FY2015 budget request for climate research at NOAA is for \$188.3 million, a \$31.8 million increase above FY2014 enacted levels. The Administration is requesting \$84.9 million for weather and air chemistry research, an increase of \$3.7 million from FY2014 enacted levels. The Administration is requesting \$163.5 million for FY2015, a \$3 million decrease below FY2014 enacted levels.

National Ocean Service (NOS)

The National Ocean Service (NOS) protects the National Marine Sanctuaries and advocates coastal and ocean stewardship. The NOS also introduced electronic nautical charts that interface with Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to enhance the safety and efficiency of navigation of U.S. waterways. The President's FY 2015 request of \$519.4 million would increase overall funding for NOS programs by \$20.7 million over the FY 2014 enacted level.

Program Support

The Program Support line office supports corporate services and agency management. This includes the office of the Under Secretary, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Program, Planning and Integration Office, and the NOAA Education Program. Overall, the Administration requests a total of \$517.9 million for the Program Support account, a \$36.9 increase over the FY14 enacted level.