

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

HEARING CHARTER

*An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration for Fiscal Year 2017*

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose

The Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled *An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for Fiscal Year 2017*, on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to examine the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 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) 2017 budget request for NOAA is \$5.85 billion, a \$77 million increase above the FY 2016 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 2017 Budget Request (dollars in millions)

Account	FY15 Spend Plan	FY16 Enacted	FY17 Request	FY17 Request versus FY16 Enacted	
				\$M	% change
National Ocean Service	535.7	601.8	569.9	-31.9	-5.3
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	446.3	481.9	519.8	37.9	7.9
National Weather Service	1,087.5	1,124.1	1,119.3	-4.8	-0.4
National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service	2,223.1	2,349.4	2,303.7	-45.7	-1.9
National Marine Fisheries Service	958.2	971.7	1,015.9	44.2	4.5
Mission Support	247.9	253.9	286.1	32.2	12.9
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	242.8	334.2	289.3	-44.9	-13.4
Totals:	5,448.9	5,773.5	5,850.6	77.1	1.3

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 2017 request for NWS is \$1.1 billion, a decrease of \$4.8 million below FY 2016 levels.

The proposal includes support to develop and operate the Nation’s first Integrated Water Prediction capability, which will deliver water forecasts and products to stakeholders such as emergency managers and local decision makers. The request also supports increases for the Nation’s surface weather observing network and extends the life of radar systems that predict weather.

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

The President's budget request for the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) is \$2.3 billion, a \$45 million decrease over FY 2016 enacted levels. The majority of this request is for procurement and acquisition of two satellite programs, the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R), which are nearing anticipated launch schedules. The request also supports the Polar Follow On program, which will extend the Agency's polar satellite orbit through the 2030s.

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 FY 2017 budget request for OAR is \$519.8 million, a \$37.9 million increase above the FY 2016 level. The request supports climate, weather, and ocean research within the Agency. The request also supports a new research transition acceleration program to translate promising research into operational use.

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 2017 request of \$569.9 million would decrease overall funding for NOS programs by \$31.9 million over the FY 2016 enacted level.

Mission Support

The Mission Support line office (previously called "Program Support") 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 \$286 million for the Mission Support account, a \$32.2 million increase over the FY 2016 enacted level.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) maintains the ships and aircraft used by NOAA to gather and collect oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data which supports NOAA's core missions. The Administration's FY 2017 budget request for OMAO is \$289.3 million, a \$44.9 million decrease over FY 2016 levels.