



# NOAA FY 2000 Budget Request Fact Sheet

## YEAR OF THE OCEAN INITIATIVE



### Fisheries Oceanography

NOAA is requesting an increase of \$2.0 million to develop a system to gather data and information on climate variability and its impacts on fisheries productivity. NOAA's Fisheries Oceanography request supports a key pledge, Building Sustainable Fisheries, made by the President at the National Ocean Conference in 1998, and complements the other Year of the Ocean initiatives seeking to explore, protect and restore America's vital ocean resources.

#### The Problem

As we recently witnessed with El Nino, sudden shifts in climate can have immediate and major impacts on fisheries productivity in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and Hawaiian Islands. This fisheries oceanography initiative will provide the information necessary to effectively adapt management to mitigate the ecological, social and economic impacts of major shifts in the productivity of natural resources.

Forecasting ocean changes is critical to effective fisheries management. Decadal changes in the climate of the Pacific Ocean recently have been documented to have a profound effect on fisheries productivity. Present models and fisheries management approaches do not account for these effects. Similar effects in other regions of the Nation, such as the North Atlantic, have not been addressed through systematic sampling. Therefore, for many of our most important commercial stocks in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere, detailed scientific information is lacking, and management plans are ill-prepared to meet the challenges posed by increased fishing pressure within a highly variable natural system. In order to improve NOAA's stewardship capabilities, a major research effort is required to develop a better understanding of these newly discovered decadal-scale processes that control fisheries dynamics.

#### Responding to the Problem

The program has two essential elements. One is a broad-scale observational program based on ecological indicators there can be no indicators without measurements, and no useful forecasts without the observations to confirm them. The indicators will be derived in part from existing measurement programs including National Marine Fisheries stock assessments, NOAA and NASA satellites, and a network of bio-physical moorings in the North Pacific to be developed, deployed and maintained by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. In addition, measurements will be enhanced through additional shipboard and aerial surveys, and collecting data from private ships of opportunity.

As the President stated at the Oceans Conference in Monterey this summer, we must deepen our understanding of the seas. This initiative will develop an advanced ocean monitoring system critical to the future of managing our global marine resources.

NOAA Budget	FY 2000 Change \$M
<b>National Ocean Service (OR&amp;F)</b>	
Navigation Services	
(Ports for the 21st Century)	\$5.2
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment	
(Exploring the Last Frontier)	\$1.0
(Coral Reef Protection)	\$2.0
<b>National Marine Fisheries Service (OR&amp;F)</b>	
Conservation and Management Operations	
(Magnuson-Stevens Act)	\$2.6
(Observers)	\$2.0
Information Collection and Analysis	
(Fisheries Oceanography)	\$1.6
(Aquaculture)	\$1.0
<b>Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Research (OR&amp;F)</b>	
Climate and Air Quality Research	
(Ocean Climate Variability)	\$4.0
Oceans and Great Lakes	
(Aquaculture)	\$3.6
(Fisheries Oceanography)	\$0.4
(Ocean Observatories)	\$3.1
<b>Procurement, Acquisition, &amp; Construction Account</b>	
(Fisheries Research Vessels)	\$51.6
<b>NOAA Year of the Ocean Initiative -- Total</b>	<b>\$78.1</b>

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