Federal Relations
Update for the
Southern Association of
Marine Laboratories
May 2014

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FY 2015 Budget Environment

- Budget deal reached in December essentially freezes spending for FY15 at the FY14 level:
- Takes sequester off the table for FY’s 14 and 15. Sequesters still on the books for FY16 and beyond
- With a “firewall” between defense and nondefense discretionary spending and levels that are essentially flat with FY 14 – growth for one program comes at the expense of other programs.
Highlights of Administration’s R&D Budget for FY15

- Non-defense R&D increases by .7 percent; Defense R&D increases by 1.7 percent
- Basic and applied R&D grow by .4 percent; Development grows by 2.3 percent
- Programmatic priorities: biomedicine, advanced manufacturing, climate science, cybersecurity, space exploration, national security
- Includes an additional Opportunity, Growth and Security Fund totaling $56B of which $53B is for R&D including $1B for climate resiliency funding
- Opportunity, Growth, and Security Fund paid for by tax increases and tax reform proposals – Never going to happen
- NOAA level funded
- NSF Research Account level funded; NSF internal operations up 13%
- NASA – virtually level funded
- STEM Education Consolidation 2.0
FY 2015 NOAA Budget Request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2013 Spend Plan</th>
<th>FY 2014 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2015 President’s Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOS</td>
<td>$442.7</td>
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<td>$496.2</td>
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<td>NMFS</td>
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<td>OAR</td>
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<td>NWS</td>
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<td>NESDIS</td>
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<td>Program Support (with OMAO)</td>
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<td>Financing</td>
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<td>Total Discretionary Appropriation</td>
<td>$4,747.8</td>
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<td>$5,496.7</td>
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FY 2015 Proposed NOAA Program Reductions

- NOS: Regional Geospatial Modeling Grants: -$4M
- NMFS: Prescott Marine Mammal Grants/Marine Mammal Programs: -$2.5M
- NMFS: Salmon Management Activities: -$3M
- NMFS: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund: -$1.5M
- OAR: National Sea Grant College Program: -$1M
- OAR: Marine Aquaculture: -$2.5M
- NWS: Tsunami Program Outreach Grants: -$6M
- NWS: Information Technology Officers: -$10M
- NWS: Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program: -$8.2M
- NESDIS: DSCOVR: -$2.6M
- Program Support: Bay-Watershed Education and Training: -$7.2M
### Highlights of Congressional Action on FY15 Appropriations

- Leg Branch and MilCon/VA bills pass House; CJS Bill marked up last week – includes:
  - $17.9B -- $250M increase for NASA of which $54M is an increase for exploration; $42M increase for science with emphasis on planetary science
  - $5.3B for NOAA – virtually level with FY14 – NWS and major satellite programs fully funded; climate research - instead of a $30.5M increase requested by White House, House cuts climate research $40M below FY14; calls for NOAA to consider establishment of a weather commission;
  - $7.4B for NSF, rejects Admin’s proposal to level fund research; increase of $237M for research in advanced manufacturing, cyber-security, and neuroscience.
  - Rejects STEM ed consolidation plan #2
NAML Public Policy Priorities for FY 2015

Provide strong support for competitive, merit-based ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research, infrastructure and education programs at NOAA, NSF and NASA.

Support the research infrastructure of marine laboratories;

Increase the co-location of federal scientists and federal research infrastructure initiatives at NAML laboratories as well as increased coordination and cooperation between NOAA's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education programs.

Advance a diverse, distributed ocean science education agenda through strong support for ongoing programs within NSF, NOAA, and NASA.

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NAML testimony to House and Senate; NAML meets with House and Senate CJS Appropriations staff in March

House CJS Action on NOAA Appropriations – Compared to NAML Priorities/Testimony

Extramural research.—The Committee believes that NOAA benefits from collaboration with academia and the private sector with respect to cooperative institutes and competitive research.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research, Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee supports collaboration between NOAA and external academic institutions that conduct scientific research for the conservation of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems within U.S. waters.

NOAA education program.—The Committee includes $22,400,000 for NOAA's education program...The recommendation does not adopt any of NOAA's proposed STEM education consolidation proposals. NOAA is expected to maintain these programs at current operating levels.

Provide strong support for competitive, merit-based ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research, infrastructure and education programs at NOAA, NSF and NASA.

Support the research infrastructure of marine laboratories;

Increase the co-location of federal scientists and federal research infrastructure initiatives at NAML laboratories as well as increased coordination and cooperation between NOAA's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education programs.

Advance a diverse, distributed ocean science education agenda through strong support for ongoing programs within NSF, NOAA, and NASA.
Other Legislative Developments

First in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act (FIRST Act)
- Authorization levels are prescriptive, detailed down to directorate levels and lower than amount in pending appropriations bill for FY 15;
- Adds additional criteria and processes on NSF in evaluating proposals and making awards
- Science community opposition continues to grow; NSB speaks out;
- Dramatically cuts funding for NSF social sciences also cuts geosciences;
- NSB releases statement opposing the bill;
- Senate – no action to date – draft bill expected soon

Sea Grant Reauthorization

Coastal Resiliency

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act

Next Steps for NAML Public Policy Program

- Development of Experts Discussants List for Use with the Congress – cultivate hearing opportunities – expand NAML membership and participation
- Encourage Congressional interest on coastal resiliency and STEM education
- Conduct Congressional briefing in October – possibly in conjunction with other group or groups
- Monitor House and Senate Appropriations developments – Prepare for Conference
- In partnership with other groups, monitor and act on FIRST bill and other authorization bills with implications for ocean and coastal research
- Fall meeting with senior NOAA and NSF officials to discuss NAML policy objectives
- Advocate for NAML appointees to federal advisory committees and working groups