

tive medicine research and product development and accelerate the market readiness of these life-changing medical treatments.

*Forensic Sciences.*—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2019 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of 22 Scientific Area Committees and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from the Department of Justice.

*5G Telecommunications.*—The Committee notes the importance of the development of 5G telecommunications technologies as a matter of job creation, economic development, and national security. The Committee is concerned with a lack of criteria and processes to evaluate evolving threats associated with emerging telecommunications technologies. The Committee also recognizes the importance of efficient spectrum use in the development of 5G networks. The Committee urges NIST to accelerate efforts to coordinate among industry to promote voluntary security standards and the development of measurement tools to increase spectrum efficiency.

#### INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommends \$169,172,000 for Industrial Technology Services, which is \$14,172,000 above fiscal year 2019. The Committee rejects the Administration’s proposed elimination of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and provides \$154,000,000 for MEP as well as \$15,172,000 for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, also known as “Manufacturing USA.”

*Cybersecurity Training.*—Within the increase to MEP, the Committee directs NIST to maintain the core services of the MEP and encourages NIST to utilize existing expertise within its Information Technology Laboratory to increase cybersecurity technical training to small manufacturers to strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities given the troubling threats from state and non-state actors and other emerging threats.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends \$120,000,000 for NIST construction. NIST shall continue to provide updates on the projects funded within this account, to include milestones and total amount of funding necessary for completion.

*Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs (SCMMR).*—Within the amount provided for Construction of Research Facilities, the agreement includes no less than \$77,500,000 for NIST to address its most pressing SCMMR projects.

#### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends a total of \$5,478,974,000 in discretionary funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is \$54,279,000 above fiscal year 2019 and \$1,022,006,000 above the President’s request. The Committee notes that the proposed decrease in Procurement, Acquisitions, and Construction (PAC) for fiscal year 2020 reflects the anticipated reduction in NOAA’s flagship weather satellite programs as they enter

the operational phase and the funding reduction is not intended to, nor is it expected to, have any deleterious impact on NOAA's mission.

*Extramural research.*—The Committee continues to support NOAA's ongoing collaboration with academia and the private sector through cooperative institutes and competitive research. These relationships build broad community engagement, leverage external funding for mission-oriented research, strengthen the science within NOAA, and advance scientific knowledge.

*Tribal support.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to support mitigation and relocation efforts of coastal tribal communities that are seeking to mitigate the threat of severe weather storms and promote public safety.

*Shellfish genetics.*—The recommendation includes up to \$10,000,000 to improve shellfish survival and growth rates and to classify and preserve the natural genetic variation of shellfish. NOAA is encouraged to support regional partnerships to classify and preserve natural genetic variation in shellfish. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to examine the feasibility of tracking its efforts at the species level.

#### OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total program level of \$4,105,907,000 under Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) for the coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite, and other programs of NOAA. This total funding consists of \$3,910,625,000 in direct appropriations, a transfer of \$177,782,000 from balances in the "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries" account and \$17,500,000 derived from recoveries of prior year obligations. The direct appropriation of \$3,910,625,000 is \$313,628,000 above fiscal year 2019 and \$852,242,000 above the President's request.

The following narrative and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this Act.

*National Ocean Service.*—The recommendation provides \$642,000,000 for National Ocean Service (NOS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, an increase of \$60,433,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level and \$272,295,000 above the President's request. As noted in the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Fourth National Climate Assessment, the world's oceans and the Great Lakes are increasingly stressed by the warming climate and the absorption of carbon pollution from the atmosphere. Similarly, increases in extreme weather and rising sea levels are impacting coastal areas. In response, the Committee invests in programs within NOS that aim to enhance the resiliency of coastal assets and to understand and mitigate the changing ecological threats to our oceans and the Great Lakes.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Navigation, Observations, and Positioning	
Navigation, Observations, and Positioning .....	\$159,000
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts .....	32,000
Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations .....	40,500
Navigation, Observations, and Positioning .....	231,500
Coastal Science and Assessment	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration .....	84,500
Competitive External Research .....	20,000
Coastal Science and Assessment .....	104,500
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	
Coastal Zone Management and Services .....	46,500
Coastal Management Grants .....	81,000
Title IX Fund .....	60,000
Coral Reef Program .....	33,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System .....	29,000
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas .....	56,500
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services .....	306,000
Total, National Ocean Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	\$642,000

*Navigation, Observations, and Positioning.*—The Committee provides \$159,000,000 for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning and rejects the Administration’s proposed reductions in funding for repair and replacement of Coastal Observing Assets and the Coastal Mapping Program. The recommendation also rejects the Administration’s elimination of the competitive Regional Geospatial Modeling Grants program and directs NOAA to continue funding no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2019. The Committee additionally continues funding for the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System, or PORTS, at no less than the fiscal year 2019 level.

*Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts.*—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts and directs NOAA to maintain its prior year level of effort.

*Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).*—The recommendation includes \$40,500,000 for Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations and rejects the elimination of IOOS grants. The Committee supports IOOS’ efforts to expand its use of underwater gliders and encourages NOAA to fill critical gaps in the current surface mapping system and to ensure streamlined access to data for weather forecasting, detection of ecological phenomena, and safe maritime operations.

*Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, and Restoration.*—The Committee provides \$84,500,000 for Coastal Science Assessment, Response, and Restoration, including \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level for the Marine Debris program to address the pervasive problem of pollution in coastal waters around the country. The Committee encourages NOS to coordinate with States, territories, and local communities on efforts to remove debris from the marine environment and the Great Lakes, with a goal of devel-

oping a cost-effective programmatic solution to land-generated marine debris.

Further, the Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) which, amongst many other things, does critical national security work on the changing Arctic region and the impact of rising sea levels on our military installations. The Committee directs NOAA to invest in updating scientific equipment at NCCOS within the amounts provided to Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, and Restoration.

NOAA is further directed to develop new in-situ sensors and technology and expand deployment of new and existing in-situ sensors to increase monitoring and understanding of natural phenomena such as harmful algal blooms and hypoxia—especially where insufficient data is currently available to provide high resolution ecological forecasts. As part of this work, the Committee encourages NOAA to expand partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector, State governments, and other Federal agencies.

*Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).*—The Committee remains highly concerned about the increasing prevalence of harmful algal blooms in every U.S. State and territory and the corresponding impacts on human health, drinking water, fisheries, and the broader economy. The Committee provides \$20,000,000 to Competitive Research, including not less than \$10,000,000 for HABs research. This research should prioritize further development of methods of intervention and mitigation to reduce the frequency, severity, and impacts of HAB events in freshwater and saltwater systems and provide special attention to research in areas most economically and environmentally impacted by HABs.

The recommendation provides no less than \$1,750,000 for a study to update the estimated annual economic impacts from marine and freshwater HABs in the United States based on new information published since 2006 when the last national economic impacts were reported. The study shall include impacts related to public health, drinking water treatment, commercial fisheries, property values, recreation and tourism, and monitoring and management. The study shall also include an assessment of the estimated annual economic impacts in those U.S. States and territories most impacted by HABs. For all HABs-related work, the Committee encourages NOAA to coordinate with the Interagency Working Group on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act.

*Seafloor Mapping.*—The Committee encourages NOS to perform high-priority, cooperative habitat mapping in currently unmapped and disaster-prone areas, with priority given to areas where oil exploration is under consideration to better understand long-term implications.

*Coastal Zone Management.*—The Committee provides \$46,500,000 for Coastal Zone Management. The recommendation rejects the reduction to Integrated Water Prediction, and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level. Within these funds, the recommendation also includes a \$2,000,000 increase over the fiscal year 2019 level for Regional Ocean Data Portals.

*Coastal Zone Management Grants and Title IX Fund.*—The Committee does not approve the Administration's proposed elimination

of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grants and the Title IX Fund, which are critical programs for preparing coastal areas for measurably rising sea levels. The recommendation instead includes \$81,000,000 for CZM Grants. The Committee also provides \$60,000,000 for Title IX Fund grants, which are to be executed consistent with the approach used in fiscal year 2019.

*Coral Reefs.*—The Committee is alarmed by the deterioration of the Nation’s coral reefs, which are suffering from record levels of bleaching and disease. The recommendation therefore includes \$33,000,000, which is \$6,893,000 above the President’s request for the Coral Reef Program. The Committee also rejects the proposed reduction for Innovative Coral Reef Restoration Initiatives. Within the increased funding, NOAA shall expand its collaborative work with external academic partners to advance the goals of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy by conducting scientific research for the conservation of corals and coral reef ecosystems, especially those that are experiencing an increasing prevalence of disease outbreaks.

*National Estuarine Research Reserve System.*—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and instead provides a \$2,000,000 increase over the fiscal year 2019 level for this important partnership between NOAA and the coastal States and territories that protects and studies estuarine systems.

*Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.*—The Committee provides \$56,500,000 for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, which is \$5,061,000 above the President’s request.

*National Marine Fisheries Service.*—The Committee recommends \$954,650,000 for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is \$142,982,000 above the President’s request.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Protected Resources Science and Management	
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species .....	\$124,000
Species Recovery Grants .....	7,500
Atlantic Salmon .....	6,500
Pacific Salmon .....	66,420
Protected Resources Science and Management .....	204,420
2018 Recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty .....	30,000
Fisheries Science and Management	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services .....	150,000
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments. ....	171,000
Observers and Training .....	45,100
Fisheries Management Programs and Services .....	124,000
Aquaculture .....	13,005
Salmon Management Activities .....	37,000
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions .....	41,500
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants .....	3,500
Fisheries Science and Management .....	585,105

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE—Continued  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Enforcement .....	73,500
Habitat Conservation and Restoration .....	61,625
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	\$954,650

*Consistent Application of Regulations.*—Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, NMFS shall provide a report to the Committee that examines how guidance is being implemented and its consistency across NMFS regions, specifically with regard to the issue of the consideration of the effects of existing structures in conducting Endangered Species Act consultations under section 7(a)(2). Further, NMFS shall complete an assessment of what is causing any observed permit delays and propose measures to improve the permit approval process.

*Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species.*—The recommendation includes \$124,000,000 for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species. Within this amount, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act Permitting Capacity and no less than \$4,000,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program.

*Sea Turtles.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level for NMFS to continue scientifically advisable operations of, and full funding for, ongoing work on endangered and threatened sea turtle conservation, including captive sea turtle rearing and Turtle Excluder Device research and certification to reduce sea turtle bycatch. NOAA committed to Congress that it would continue its sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation programs until it found suitable non-governmental partners to take over this program in full. Therefore, NMFS is directed to maintain adequate capacity of the sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation program until it can assure Congress that those critical activities have been fully transferred to partner organizations.

*Southern Resident Killer Whales.*—Within the amount provided for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides not less than \$1,500,000 for the Southern Resident Killer Whales program to increase research and monitoring to improve the recovery of the species.

*North Atlantic Right Whale.*—The Committee remains concerned that North Atlantic right whale populations continue to be critically low. Therefore, the Committee rejects the President's proposal to reduce funds and instead provides \$1,000,000 above the President's budget request within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species for research and monitoring of North Atlantic right whales, to better understand how the species interacts with fisheries and shipping traffic, and how it is adapting to changing ocean conditions and shifting feeding grounds. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize development of a habitat suitability index, along with aerial surveys and passive acoustic monitoring in

the waters of the Northeast U.S. region and development of long-term tagging methods.

*Species Recovery Grants.*—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction for Species Recovery Grants and recommends \$1,504,000 above the President’s request.

*Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans.*—The Committee provides \$66,420,000 for Pacific Salmon, \$4,679,000 above the requested level, and rejects the reduction to Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs). Instead, the recommendation provides no less than \$5,000,000 within Pacific Salmon to implement NMFS’ comprehensive plan to address the backlog of HGMPs submitted to Congress as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–113), including to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State agencies, Tribes, and the Hatchery Scientific Review Group as needed. Failure to approve these HGMPs has exposed NMFS to litigation for failure to fulfill its obligations under the Endangered Species Act. This funding is essential for NMFS to expedite review and approval of the HGMP backlog and prevent hatchery shutdowns.

*New Obligations Under the 2018 Recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.*—The recommendation includes \$30,000,000 for activities related to the 2018 Recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Within these funds, the Committee directs NOAA to develop and implement a plan to maximize the increase of relevant salmon stocks through the implementation of actions referenced in the treaty and supporting agreements, in addition to activities funded under the Salmon Management Activities line. The Committee is frustrated by the lack of information from the Administration regarding the Federal responsibilities related to the recent recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and directs the Department, prior to the obligation of any funds and within 60 days of enactment of this Act, to brief the Committee on this plan. Further, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with biannual status reports on these activities and their impact on salmon stocks, beginning no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

*Antarctic Research.*—The Committee rejects the elimination of Antarctic Research in the budget request and provides funding at no less than the fiscal year 2019 level in Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services.

*Cooperative Research.*—The recommendation does not adopt the proposed reduction for Cooperative Research and continues funding for this activity at no less than the fiscal year 2019 level. Cooperative research shall be used to support external, independent data collection and other research. NOAA shall ensure that this research is ingested into fishery stock assessments in a timely manner.

*Fish Information Networks.*—The Committee provides \$171,000,000 for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, \$13,344,000 above the request. Within these funds, \$23,500,000 is provided for Fish Information Networks, the State-Federal cooperative programs that coordinate data collection, data management, and informational management essential for accurate monitoring of commercial and recreational fishing impacts.

*Plankton Recorder Survey.*—The Committee notes the importance of understanding the distribution of plankton to inform the con-

ervation of North Atlantic right whales. Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides not less than \$300,000 to conduct a continuous plankton recorder survey in partnership, on a voluntary basis, with research institutions, nonprofit organizations, commercial vessels, and other Federal agencies. The relevant survey samples should be analyzed, stored, archived, and made publicly available as quickly as is practicable. NOAA is further directed to coordinate with the Government of Canada to develop a transboundary understanding of plankton abundance and distribution.

*Salmon Management Activities.*—The recommendation rejects the proposed reductions to Genetic Stock Identification and Pacific Salmon Treaty within Salmon Management Activities and provides no less than the amounts provided in fiscal year 2019.

*Mitchell Act Hatchery Programs.*—From the funds provided for Salmon Management Activities and 2018 Recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, NOAA shall provide no less than \$25,000,000 for Mitchell Act activities, which enable Federal agencies to work with Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to establish and operate a series of hatcheries and passage facilities to improve declining fish runs in the Columbia River, ensure conservation of these critical natural resources, maintain economically viable tribal, commercial, and sports fisheries, and provide prey for Southern Resident killer whales.

*Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions.*—The recommendation provides \$41,500,000 for Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, which is \$3,847,000 above the President's request. The Committee does not approve the proposed reduction to Interstate Fishery Management Commissions and continues to provide the fiscal year 2019 level. Further, within the funds provided for Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, \$250,000 is included to implement the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Climate and Communities Initiative and to update the FEP to support climate-ready fisheries and ecosystem-based fisheries management.

*State Waters.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to ensure Regional Fishery Management Councils work in an open and collaborative way with states during the consideration of any actions that affect state waters.

*Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants.*—The recommendation rejects the proposed elimination of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants and instead provides \$3,500,000.

*Exempted Fishing Permits for Red Snapper Fishing.*—The Committee appreciates the work done thus far by the five Gulf States to develop and implement Exempted Fishing Permits. Given these permits will improve recreational fishing access and data collection, within amounts provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments, the Committee provides \$10,000,000 for the development, implementation and validation of electronic logbook data for the federally permitted charter-for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Within these funds, the Committee also directs NMFS to deliver technical support as needed to the Gulf States to prioritize and ensure successful implementation of each State plan. Additionally, NOAA shall continue to provide the



Committee with quarterly updates on these efforts as directed in fiscal year 2019.

*South Atlantic Reef Fish.*—NMFS is encouraged to leverage efficiencies learned through the Gulf of Mexico red snapper process to better the science and management of red snapper and other reef fish in the South Atlantic. NMFS shall consider employing the independent and alternative stock assessment strategies directed by the Committee for the Gulf of Mexico to supplement NMFS assessments of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee provides up to \$1,500,000 for these activities and notes deficiencies that have plagued reef fish management in the Gulf of Mexico also affect NMFS management of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee encourages NMFS to incorporate this data into the agency's own stock assessments as expeditiously as possible.

*National Catch Share Program.*—The Committee reminds NOAA that catch share programs reduce harmful competition between fishing vessels, thereby helping to reduce occupational hazards, avoid market-gluts, maximize profits, and reduce ecological damage. The Committee therefore rejects the proposed reduction of funding and provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for the National Catch Share Program within Fisheries Management Programs and Services. Additionally, within the funds provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, NOAA shall develop a priority list of other species that should be considered for inclusion in the Seafood Import Monitoring Program in order to: (1) reduce human trafficking in the international seafood supply chain, (2) reduce economic harm to the American fishing industry, (3) preserve stocks of at-risk species around the world, and (4) protect American consumers from seafood fraud. NOAA shall provide this list to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

*Enforcement.*—The Committee provides \$73,500,000 for Enforcement, which is \$19,428,000 above the request. The Committee disagrees with the proposed elimination of the Cooperative Enforcement Program that includes the execution of Joint Enforcement Agreements. The recommendation instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 amount for the Cooperative Enforcement Program, which is critical for proper surveillance and enforcement of our Nation's fisheries laws. The Committee appreciates the proposal to hire additional enforcement officers and special agents and includes \$1,000,000 above the request to augment the proposed increase in staff. This added staffing and the remaining increase of funds shall be used to expand efforts to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing related to seafood import traceability and port security as well as to increase joint operations to inspect and enforce import restrictions on IUU products and expand investigations.

*Habitat Conservation and Restoration.*—The Committee provides \$61,625,000 for Habitat Conservation and Restoration, which is \$23,750,000 above the request. Further, the recommendation rejects the reductions to Essential Fish Habitat Consultations and Fisheries Habitat Grants and provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for each program.

*Highly Migratory Species.*—NOAA is encouraged to continue its efforts to competitively award studies of highly migratory fish spe-

cies. Additional research is needed to continue to improve management of these species.

*Lionfish.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to award competitive grants to address Lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

*Horseshoe Crabs.*—Adequate data is required to ensure states and interstate managers can effectively manage the Horseshoe Crab population, which is important to the biomedical and commercial fishing industries, as well as to the ecology of the Mid-Atlantic region. The Committee directs NMFS to continue the Horseshoe Crab survey to generate the data necessary to ensure that the Horseshoe Crab stock remains on a sustainable path.

*Oyster restoration.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to competitively select external partners to research alternative substrates for oyster restoration. NOAA shall consider survivability as part of the oyster restoration program in the Chesapeake Bay. Within Habitat Conservation and Restoration, the Committee encourages NOAA to support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

*Bycatch Reduction and Incidental Take Permits.*—The Committee is concerned by changing ocean conditions that are disrupting ecosystem stability, leading to increased conflicts between commercial shellfish fisheries and protected species. To resolve this conflict, the Committee encourages NMFS to ensure that it dedicates adequate resources (1) to expeditiously evaluate any application that it receives for an incidental take permit for shellfish fisheries, (2) to support the NOAA Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program for research and development of gear innovations to prevent entanglements while allowing for continued fishing in these fisheries, and (3) to continue robust participation in collaborative efforts to reduce fishing gear conflicts.

*Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery.*—The Committee recognizes the ongoing impacts on the Pacific coast groundfish fishery trawl industry resulting from NMFS’s delay in promulgating regulations to collect loan payments for the 2003 fishing vessel and permit buyback program. This delay caused an additional \$4,000,000 in interest to accrue, resulting in an estimated \$10,000,000 of additional loan payments for the Pacific coast groundfish fishery trawl industry. The Committee notes the implementation of the Revitalizing the Economy of Fisheries in the Pacific Act of 2014, section 3095 of Public Law 113–291, which is intended to provide relief related to this legacy issue.

*Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.*—The Committee recommends \$595,393,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which represents an increase of \$70,333,000 over fiscal year 2019 and is \$286,244,000 above the request.

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Climate Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....	\$74,000

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH—Continued  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Regional Climate Data and Information .....	41,500
Climate Competitive Research .....	71,000
<b>Climate Research .....</b>	<b>186,500</b>
<b>Weather and Air Chemistry Research</b>	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....	82,279
U.S. Weather Research Program .....	37,400
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar .....	12,634
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative .....	15,000
<b>Weather and Air Chemistry Research .....</b>	<b>147,313</b>
<b>Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research</b>	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....	35,345
National Sea Grant College Program .....	73,000
Marine Aquaculture Program .....	12,000
Ocean Exploration and Research .....	44,000
Integrated Ocean Acidification .....	20,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring .....	48,500
National Oceanographic Partnership Program .....	6,500
<b>Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research .....</b>	<b>239,345</b>
High Performance Computing Initiatives .....	22,235
<b>Total, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....</b>	<b>\$595,393</b>

*Climate Research.*—The Committee commends the scientists and researchers at NOAA for their exemplary work in preparing the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA), which found that (1) the impacts of climate change are already being felt in the United States, (2) these impacts will intensify in the future, (3) human activity is the primary cause of climate change, (4) there is no credible alternative scientific theory to explain the observational data, (5) the extent of future impacts will depend largely on actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and (6) current global and regional efforts to adapt to these impacts do not approach the scales needed to avoid substantial damages to the U.S. economy, environment, and human health and well-being over the next decades.

These stark facts underscore the need for continued investment in climate research to inform policy decisions across every sector of American society. Therefore, the Committee provides \$186,500,000 for Climate Research, an increase of \$27,500,000 above fiscal year 2019, and \$98,991,000 above the President's request. The recommendation rejects the proposal to eliminate funding for the NCA and instead provides \$3,000,000 to continue this work. The Committee further emphasizes that the NCA is congressionally-mandated and shall not be impeded.

*Earth's Radiation Budget.*—The Committee is aware of significant risks posed by the potential introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and proposals to inject material to affect climate, which is the subject of a forthcoming National Academies of

Sciences study supported by NOAA and NASA. To monitor and assess these risks requires significant improvements to observations of the chemistry of the stratosphere and the reflectivity of the atmosphere to establish baselines as well as advancements in models for forecasting. Therefore, the Committee provides \$13,000,000 in Climate Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes for observations, monitoring, and forecasting of stratospheric conditions and Earth's radiation budget. Within these funds, the Committee further directs OAR to improve the understanding of the impact of atmospheric aerosols on radiative forcing as well as on the formation of clouds, precipitation, and extreme weather.

*Arctic Research.*—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of Arctic Research and provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level in both Regional Climate Data and Information and Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes for this work.

*Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program.*—The Committee rejects the termination of the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program and instead provides the program an increase of \$3,000,000, as compared to the fiscal year 2019 level, within Regional Climate Data and Information. The Committee directs NOAA to expand the geographical coverage of the program with a long-term goal of providing comprehensive decision-support services and tools to local and regional decision makers in all States and territories. The Committee appreciates the benefits of partnering with academia in these efforts but reminds NOAA that the intent of this program is to be customer-focused rather than purely in the pursuit of science.

*National Integrated Drought Information System.*—The Committee continues, at no less than the fiscal year 2019 level, funding for the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) to support existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships. The Committee encourages the development of a soil moisture monitoring network, the expansion of work on seasonal, sub-seasonal, and low flow water predictions, as well as expanding the network of cooperative institutes and other academic collaborations in these fields.

*Climate Competitive Research.*—The Committee rejects the elimination of Climate Competitive Research as well as any transfers or eliminations of activities, funds, or staff out of this budget line proposed in the President's budget. Instead, the recommendation includes \$71,000,000 for this critical research, which is \$11,000,000 above fiscal year 2019.

*Weather and Air Chemistry Research.*—The Committee provides \$147,313,000 for Weather and Air Chemistry Research, which is \$11,933,000 above fiscal year 2019. The recommendation rejects the proposals to close the Air Resources Lab and to decrease funding for Weather and Air Chemistry Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for each of these activities. The recommendation also includes up to \$10,000,000 for Vortex-Southeast.

*U.S. Weather Research Program.*—The Committee provides \$37,400,000 for the U.S. Weather Research Program. The recommendation approves neither the proposal to terminate the Airborne Phased Array Radar research, nor the proposal to reduce funding and programs within the U.S. Weather Research Program

and instead maintains the funding levels provided in fiscal year 2019.

*Infrasonic Weather Monitoring Research.*—The Committee believes that advanced infrasound signal processing methodologies and studies have the potential to improve forecast accuracy and encourages NOAA to continue research in this area. The Committee consequently rejects the proposal to terminate Infrasonic Weather Monitoring Research.

*Weather Sensor Improvement Research.*—Within funding provided for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee encourages NOAA to support external research opportunities with academic institutions to further develop and test severe weather monitoring systems to include technologies in support of the National Mesonet Program. Testing priority shall be given to states most economically impacted by extreme weather.

*Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.*—The Committee provides \$35,345,000 for Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. The Committee acknowledges that this figure appears to be slightly below the fiscal year 2019 funding amount, but emphasizes that it is in fact a modest increase to these underlying programs as the recommendation shifts the \$3,000,000 that is proposed for the elimination of the Automated Unmanned Vehicle Demonstration Testbed into the new Unmanned Systems program in the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The Committee does not approve the proposed termination of the Genomics program and instead directs NOAA to expand this work within the increased available base funds.

Further, the Committee expects NOAA to fully fund these cooperative institutes at appropriate levels in future years, including well-established institutes focused on watershed impacts on marine and Great Lakes ecosystems, remote sensing, and long-term monitoring of the impacts of environmental hazards on marine and Great Lakes ecosystem health.

*National Sea Grant College Program.*—The Committee once again rejects the President's proposal to eliminate the National Sea Grant College Program. Instead, the Committee provides an increase of \$5,000,000 as compared to the fiscal year 2019 level.

*American Lobster Research.*—Within increased funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee encourages the funding of partnerships between State agencies, academia, and industry to address American lobster research priorities. Research should focus on stock resilience in the face of environmental changes, including life history parameters, distribution and abundance, and species interactions, with the purpose of informing future management actions.

*Marine Aquaculture Program.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA's Marine Aquaculture research and development activities that help coastal communities maintain a safe and sustainable local seafood supply through research and technology transfer to support and expand America's aquaculture industry. As such, the Committee provides \$12,000,000 for Marine Aquaculture. The Committee further encourages NOAA to partner with Historically Black Colleges and Universities that conduct aquaculture research to reach those urban communities impacted by rising seafood prices.

*Ocean Exploration and Research.*—The Committee rejects the requested decrease in funding for Ocean Exploration and Research and instead provides \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 amount. The Committee encourages NOAA to use not less than \$7,000,000 to fund non-profit organizations operating ocean-going ships of exploration using tele-presence technology, and applied exploration, to map critically important areas within America’s Exclusive Economic Zone, our territory islands, as well as sites of submerged human history, particularly in the Pacific.

*Integrated Ocean Acidification.*—The Committee is increasingly concerned about the impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities and industries and therefore rejects the proposed reduction to the Integrated Ocean Acidification program. The recommendation instead includes \$8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level for this important work. Within the increase, NOAA shall, in partnership with academia and the private sector, prioritize efforts at understanding, monitoring, and mitigating coastal ocean acidification, especially where it impacts fisheries and aquaculture.

The Committee encourages NOAA, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to implement a program to competitively award prizes under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) to stimulate innovation to advance the understanding, research, or monitoring of ocean acidification or its impacts, or to develop management or adaptation options for responding to ocean acidification. In prize competitions, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize communities, environments, or industries that are currently in distress due to the impacts of ocean acidification.

*Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring.*—The recommendation does not adopt the requested reduction in funds for Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring and instead provides \$48,500,000. Within the increase, NOAA shall expand coverage of biogeochemical and Deep Argo floats to improve ecological and sub-seasonal-to-seasonal weather forecasting as well as to provide observational data on the health and state of the ocean, particularly in the deep sea, the tropics, and the Arctic.

*Cloud Computing for Research.*—The Committee supports NOAA’s transition to high performance computing on the cloud for its research needs in OAR. The Committee provides not less than \$10,000,000 in High Performance Computing Initiatives to prepare for this transition and to explore long-term contracting options with vendors for these services. The Committee further directs NOAA to develop a long-term cloud computing strategy for its future research needs and to report to the Committee on the strategy within 180 days of the enactment of this Act.

*National Weather Service.*—The Committee recommends \$1,099,549,000 for National Weather Service (NWS), Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is \$110,251,000 above the President’s budget request. The Committee reaffirms its commitment to the weather enterprise and the necessity of maintaining the mission of protecting life and property within the Federal Government. While the Committee does not oppose the continued growth of the private weather industry, the increasing frequency and intensity of

natural disasters epitomize the need for the public provision of this critical information.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
Operations, Research, and Facilities  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Observations .....	\$230,770
Central Processing .....	99,797
Analyze, Forecast, and Support .....	546,300
Dissemination .....	75,482
Science and Technology Integration .....	147,200
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Total, National Weather Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	\$1,099,549

*NWS Staffing.*—The Committee remains concerned about continuing reports of staffing and management challenges within NWS. NOAA and the Department of Commerce are directed to ensure that NWS fulfills its critical mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation’s citizens, including by filling all vacancies as expeditiously as possible. In its fiscal year 2020 spend plan, the NWS shall include a separate accounting of all NWS funded positions. In fiscal year 2020, the Committee directs NWS to continue the quarterly management, staffing, and budget briefings first required in fiscal year 2018.

*National Ice Center.*—The Committee strongly supports the National Ice Center (NIC) and the critical information it provides to our armed forces as well as for the further understanding of our planet. The recommendation accepts the technical transfers to NWS to operationalize the functions of the NIC.

*Observations.*—The recommendation provides \$230,770,000 for observation activities. The recommendation includes not less than \$22,000,000 for the National Mesonet Program, \$15,500,000 above the request. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed reduction to Marine Observations in support of the tsunami mission and provides not less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level to continue those activities. The Committee also rejects the proposed reductions to Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) Platform and Aircraft-based Observations Data Buy and provides not less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level for each activity.

*Central Processing.*—The recommendation includes \$99,797,000 for Central Processing while rejecting the proposed reduction to the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System. The Committee further rejects the proposal to terminate 74 Information Technology Officers who are critical to the delivery of timely and actionable forecasts.

*Analyze, Forecast, and Support.*—The recommendation includes \$546,300,000 for Analyze, Forecast, and Support activities. This level includes up to \$28,000,000, but not less than \$20,000,000, to address the backlog in facilities maintenance. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed NWS workforce savings that would only serve to exacerbate the staffing problems noted above. The Committee further rejects the proposed reduction to the Office of Water Prediction as well as the consolidation of the functions of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, the Climate Prediction Center, and the Weather Prediction Center.

*Tsunami Warning Program.*—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to the Tsunami Warning Program and instead provides not less than \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level. Further, the Committee rejects the closure of any facilities related to the Tsunami Warning Program.

*Dissemination.*—The Committee provides \$75,482,000 for Dissemination Operations, Research, and Facilities, which includes the technical transfer from Dissemination Procurement, Acquisitions, and Construction proposed in the President’s budget.

*Science and Technology Integration.*—The recommendation includes \$147,200,000 for Science and Technology Integration but approves neither the termination of COASTAL Act or of Aviation Science Research to Operations, nor the reduction to Numerical Weather Prediction.

*National Water Center.*—The Committee does not adopt the termination of funding for Hydrology and Water Resources within Science and Technology Integration. Instead, the recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2019 level to continue research activities to improve fine and large-scale measurements of snow depth and soil moisture data that can be used to expand and improve the National Water Model and contribute directly to the mission of NOAA’s National Water Center.

*Storm Surge Modeling Technology.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to continue to pursue collaborations that will improve upon NOAA’s current Sea, Lake, and Overland Surge from Hurricanes model; and encourages NOAA to consider integrating improved technologies into standard modeling operations for storm surge, inland flooding, and the combination of both.

*National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.*—The Committee recommends \$281,790,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS), Operations, Research, and Facilities.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	
Office of Satellite and Product Operations .....	\$186,790
Product Development, Readiness, and Application .....	28,500
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs .....	1,800
Office of Space Commerce .....	1,800
Group on Earth Observations .....	500
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems .....	219,390
National Centers for Environmental Information .....	62,400
Total, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	\$281,790

*Office of Satellite and Product Operations.*—The recommendation includes \$186,790,000 for the Office of Satellite and Product Operations, which includes the proposed transfer of funds associated with the operationalizing of functions in the Polar Weather Sat-



ellites and the Low Earth Orbit programs in the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction account.

*Office of Space Commerce.*—The Committee rejects the proposal to transfer the functions of the Office of Space Commerce and Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs and instead maintains their funding within NOAA NESDIS.

*National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).*—The Committee recommends \$62,400,000 for NCEI, which includes not less than \$4,000,000 for Regional Climate Centers despite the proposal to terminate them.

*Mission Support.*—The recommendation includes \$294,666,000 for Mission Support, Operations, Research, and Facilities.

MISSION SUPPORT  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Mission Support	
Executive Leadership .....	\$28,305
Mission Services and Management .....	154,712
IT Security .....	15,079
Payment to DOC Working Capital Fund .....	62,070
Mission Support Services .....	<u>260,166</u>
Office of Education	
B–WET Regional Programs .....	9,000
Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions .....	20,000
NOAA Education Program Base .....	5,500
Office of Education .....	<u>34,500</u>
Total, Mission Support, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	<u>\$294,666</u>

*Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment.*—The Committee is highly concerned by the threat of sexual assault and sexual harassment faced by individuals in the workplace, especially those in nontraditional work settings such as NOAA research vessels or private fishing vessels. The Committee recognizes the efforts made by NOAA in addressing these threats and directs no less than \$1,000,000 from the funding provided for Mission Services and Management for continued efforts to reduce these risks and to provide assistance and counseling to victims.

*Office of Education.*—The Committee rejects all of the proposed cuts to the Office of Education and believes the enactment of these proposals would do great harm to the future of oceanic and atmospheric sciences. The Committee recognizes that the changing climate and increasing degradation of our environment will necessitate greater future investments in these scientific fields and their corresponding workforces. Consequently, the recommendation includes \$34,500,000 for NOAA’s Office of Education, an increase of \$6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level, which includes continued support for Environmental Literacy Grants and for improving geographic literacy. Of this amount, \$20,000,000 is provided to continue the Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions, and \$9,000,000 is provided to continue the Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B–WET) regional pro-

grams. NOAA is also encouraged to engage students in live, interactive programming using telepresence technology.

*Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO).*—The recommendation includes \$247,859,000 for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities. The Committee appreciates the clear and concise regular briefings provided by OMAO’s leadership and encourages them to continue with the same frequency and detail as in fiscal year 2019. Further, the Committee has found the NOAA Fleet Plan to be very useful in considering the future needs for NOAA’s ships and looks forward to receiving a corresponding future-looking fleet plan for NOAA’s aircraft.

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS  
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES  
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	
Marine Operations and Maintenance .....	\$195,547
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services .....	37,250
Unmanned Systems Operations .....	15,062
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Total, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities .....	\$247,859

*Marine Operations and Maintenance.*—The recommendation provides \$195,547,000 for Marine Operations and Maintenance. Within this amount, no less than \$3,125,000 is provided to mitigate any loss of mission integrity due to unexpected ship failures, including by chartering days at sea with non-NOAA vessels and other measures, as appropriate.

*Monitoring of Atmospheric Rivers.*— Improving understanding of atmospheric rivers is critical to preparing for concentrated rain storms and flooding along the U.S. West Coast. Therefore, within the amount provided for Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services, the Committee provides no less than \$1,500,000 for use of airborne assets to conduct winter storm observations to better observe and predict these extreme weather events.

*Unmanned Systems Operations.*—The Committee supports NOAA’s proposal to establish a centralized program for Unmanned Systems Operations (UxS), as authorized by the CENOTE Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–394). In support of these efforts, the Committee accepts the closure of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program and the termination of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Demonstration Testbed. In lieu of these programs, the Committee provides \$10,397,000 above the request within the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Unmanned System Operations, to support these activities under this new management structure and directs NOAA to prioritize operations and research for unmanned systems in consultation with the UxS Executive Oversight Board, including OAR. Further, within these funds, the Committee provides not less than \$2,000,000 for the competitive acquisition of unmanned systems data as a cost-effective augmentation to NOAA’s observational suite.

## PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total program level of \$1,509,000,000 for Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC), of which \$1,496,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund and \$13,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations.

The following narrative descriptions and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this Act.

## PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION

(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
<b>National Ocean Service</b>	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction .....	\$3,000
Marine Sanctuaries Construction .....	5,000
<b>Total, NOS-PAC .....</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research</b>	
Research Supercomputing/CCRI .....	49,000
<b>National Weather Service</b>	
Observations .....	21,129
Central Processing .....	67,000
Dissemination .....	10,000
Weather Forecast Office Construction .....	15,000
<b>Total, NWS-PAC .....</b>	<b>113,129</b>
<b>National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service</b>	
GOES R .....	304,056
Space Weather Follow-on .....	38,600
Polar Weather Satellites .....	755,038
CDARS .....	14,850
Low Earth Orbit (LEO) .....	33,202
Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) .....	25,219
System Architecture and Engineering (SAE) .....	44,822
Satellite CDA Facility .....	2,450
<b>Total, NESDIS-PAC .....</b>	<b>1,218,237</b>
<b>Mission Support</b>	
NOAA Construction .....	21,000
<b>Office of Marine and Aviation Operations</b>	
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion .....	24,634
New Vessel Construction .....	75,000
<b>Total, OMAO-PAC .....</b>	<b>99,634</b>
<b>Total, Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction .....</b>	<b>\$1,509,000</b>

*National Ocean Service Construction.*—The Committee does not adopt the proposal to reduce funding for construction within the National Ocean Service. The recommendation includes \$3,000,000 for National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction and \$5,000,000 for Marine Sanctuaries Construction.

*Research Supercomputing.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of supercomputing capacity to further research efforts re-

garding weather and climate modeling and therefore recommends \$49,000,000 for OAR Research Supercomputing, which is \$23,000,000 above the request.

*National Weather Service Observations.*—The Committee rejects the proposed reductions to Observations under National Weather Service PAC and provides not less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted levels for the Service Life Extension Program for Next Generation Weather Radar and the Service Life Extension Program for the Automated Surface Observing System.

*Integrated Water Prediction.*—The Committee provides \$67,000,000 for Central Processing under National Weather Service PAC, which includes not less than the fiscal year 2019 level for Integrated Water Prediction High Performance Computing as well as Research and Development High Performance Computing.

*Quarterly Satellite Reports.*—The Committee directs the Department of Commerce to continue to provide oversight of NOAA's satellite programs as directed in fiscal year 2019. NOAA shall also continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on all NOAA satellite programs not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter. These briefings shall include the status of obligations for each program, including spacecraft, launch vehicle, sensor, integration, and ground components, and proposed changes to the fly-out charts. NOAA shall also include in these briefings updates on all of its operational satellite systems.

*Space Weather Follow-On.*—The recommendation includes \$38,600,000 for Space Weather Follow-On and directs NOAA to use the amount above the request to support the GOES-U Integration.

*Commercial Data.*—The Committee provides the requested levels of funds for both the Commercial Weather Data Pilot and the Commercial Data Purchase in support of NOAA's efforts to develop alternative sources of environmental data.

*New Vessel Construction.*—The Committee provides \$75,000,000, as in prior fiscal years, for New Vessel Construction and thereby affirms its commitment to NOAA's Fleet Recapitalization Plan. The Committee expects that NOAA will ensure that these new vessels facilitate the reduction of gaps in mission coverage as current ships fall into disrepair or are decommissioned. During the recapitalization process, NOAA is encouraged to evaluate its fleet plan regularly and consider whether there are cost-effective alternatives such as vessel leasing for meeting NOAA's mission requirements.

#### PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

The Committee rejects the proposed termination of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery and recommends \$65,000,000 for this program. In addition, the accompanying bill includes language that requires all funds to be allocated based on scientific and merit principles and prohibits the availability of funds for marketing activities. Bill language is included requiring a 33 percent match from States.

#### FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

The Committee recommends \$349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund, which is the same as fiscal year 2019. This Fund is available to compensate U.S. commercial fishermen for damage or loss caused by obstructions related to oil and gas exploration, and is derived from fees collected by the Secretary of the Interior.

## FISHERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Committee rejects the elimination of Fishery Disaster Assistance in the President's budget and provides \$15,000,000 to address fisheries disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce.

## FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends language under this heading limiting obligations of direct loans to \$24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and \$100,000,000 for traditional direct loans.

## DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee recommends \$74,143,000 for Departmental Management, \$21,601,000 below fiscal year 2019 and \$61,107,000 below the request. This amount includes funds for Departmental Salaries and Expenses, Renovation and Modernization, and the Office of Inspector General.

The Committee reminds the Department that oversight of Commerce operations and budget through requests for information, briefings, and hearings are critical to ensuring that the Committee puts forward a well-informed recommendation for the fiscal year. Any action that hinders the Committee's ability to carry out its oversight authorities, such as the Secretary's unwillingness to testify before the Committee on its annual budget request, is unacceptable. The recommendation does not include the transfer of the Office of Space Commerce to the Office of the Secretary and assumes further savings in certain departmental services identified in the President's budget request related to miscellaneous expenses. Further, bill language has been included under Salaries and Expenses withholding \$15,000,000 from expenditure until the submission of the Census Bureau's annual CEDCaP spend plan.

While the Committee supports the Department taking steps to begin the modernization of its financial systems, the recommendation does not include the requested funding. The Committee supports such initiatives but requires additional insight into the multi-year requirements and costs for such acquisitions prior to providing a down payment on such longer-term activities and directs the Department to provide the Committee with the full life cycle cost including project schedule and milestones with a quarterly breakdown by fiscal year no later than 45 days after enactment of this Act.

As the Department looks to modernize and consolidate its financial system it is further directed to evaluate how it can standardize its appropriations and periods of availability (POAs) across the Department for more consistent planning, programming, budgeting, and execution across appropriations and report to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act. In the absence of justifications that clearly articulate a multi-year requirement, the Committee recommends agencies clearly articulate any multi-year requirements in accounts that are largely driven by annual salaries and expenses in future budget justifications.

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends \$40,000,000 for Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses, \$23,000,000 below fiscal year