

institute; and up to \$1,500,000 may be used to support the FDA's participation in biomanufacturing innovation institutes.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$80,000,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 140,000,000  |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 268,063,000  |

The Committee provides \$268,063,000 for construction of research facilities, including no less than \$140,000,000 for Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs. The recommendation is \$188,063,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$128,063,000 above the budget request.

#### NIST EXTRAMURAL CONSTRUCTION

The Committee provides \$125,563,000 for NIST Extramural Construction projects as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NIST to provide the amounts listed in the table and NIST shall perform the same level of due diligence as with any other external partners.

#### NIST EXTRAMURAL CONSTRUCTION

| Recipient   | Project Purpose   | Recommended (\$) |
|---|---|------------------|
| Burlington Technical Center .....                               | Burlington Aviation Technology Center Facility .....            | 10,000,000       |
| Fort Hays State University .....                                | Renovation of Forsyth Library .....                             | 17,000,000       |
| Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus. | Acquisition and Renovation of Aerospace Simulation Center ..... | 4,750,000        |
| Missouri State University .....                                 | Ozarks Health and Life Science Center .....                     | 20,000,000       |
| University of Maine .....                                       | Green Engineering and Materials Research Factory of the Future  | 10,000,000       |
| University of New Hampshire .....                               | Jackson Estuarine Lab Expansion and Renovation .....            | 3,813,000        |
| University of South Alabama College of Medicine.                | Renovation and Expansion of Research and Education Facilities   | 60,000,000       |

#### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$5,430,607,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 6,963,712,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 6,276,198,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$6,276,198,000 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. The recommendation is \$845,591,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$687,514,000 below the budget request.

#### OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$3,840,300,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 4,689,381,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 4,451,783,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$4,451,783,000 for NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities [ORF]. The recommendation is \$611,483,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$237,598,000 below the budget request.

*Adjustments to Base.*—The increased funding provided shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, across all NOAA line offices, among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

In addition, the Committee provides the various requested increases for Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions.

*NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.*—The Committee accepts the administration’s budget proposal to consolidate funding for the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and its supporting functions into a single PPA within Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. In so doing, the Committee has moved funding from all other NOAA line offices.

#### NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$705,750,000 for the National Ocean Service [NOS]. NOS programs provide scientific, technical, and management expertise to promote safe navigation; assess the health of coastal and marine resources; respond to natural and human-induced threats; and preserve coastal and ocean environments.

The Committee’s recommendations are displayed in the following table:

#### NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|   | Committee<br>recommendation |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Navigation, Observations and Positioning:                     |                             |
| Navigation, Observations and Positioning .....                | 176,000                     |
| Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts .....                | 34,000                      |
| Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations ..... | 47,000                      |
| <b>Total, Navigation, Observations and Positioning .....</b>  | <b>257,000</b>              |
| Coastal Science and Assessment:                               |                             |
| Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration .....   | 97,250                      |
| Competitive Research .....                                    | 29,000                      |
| <b>Total, Coastal Science and Assessment .....</b>            | <b>126,250</b>              |
| Ocean and Coastal Management and Services:                    |                             |
| Coastal Zone Management and Services .....                    | 58,000                      |
| Coastal Zone Management Grants .....                          | 88,500                      |
| National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund .....               | 36,000                      |
| Coral Reef Program .....                                      | 40,000                      |
| National Estuarine Research Reserve System .....              | 34,000                      |
| Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas .....                  | 66,000                      |
| <b>Total, Ocean and Coastal Management and Services .....</b> | <b>322,500</b>              |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL, NOS .....</b>                                 | <b>705,750</b>              |

*Land and Water Reference Datums.*—Within the funding provided for Navigation, Observations and Positioning, the Committee provides \$6,000,000 to modernize the National Spatial Reference System and the National Water Level Observation Network for improved climate decision support through upgraded national water level models, real-time inundation alerts, high tide flooding outlooks, and long-term sea level trends.

*Navigation, Observations and Positioning.*—The Committee strongly supports activities under Navigation, Observations and

Positioning, including full operational funding for NOAA's Navigation Response Teams.

*Ocean Mapping and Coastal Charting.*—Within Navigation, Observations and Positioning, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for NOS to continue coordinating and implementing an interagency mapping, exploration, and characterization strategy for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as the Arctic and sub-Arctic shoreline and nearshore of Alaska. For the latter activity, NOAA shall work closely with the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee and the State of Alaska to ensure that mapping efforts are coordinated and adhere to the priorities identified in the Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy.

*Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System [PORTS] Program.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for PORTS.

*Precision Navigation.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to begin making preparations to commence additional precision navigation projects in fiscal year 2022 and beyond. The Committee believes that all U.S. seaports identified in the February 2020 Precision Navigation Socioeconomic Study should be considered for inclusion in the next precision navigation project(s) and directs that preference shall be given to U.S. seaports that have immediate access to multiple interstate and railroad systems and at least 10,000 miles of inland waterway connections, are ranked within the top 15 by total tonnage of goods shipped and received, and which are currently performing or scheduled to perform channel expansion to accommodate larger draft vessels.

*Geospatial Modeling Grants.*—The Committee rejects the proposal to decrease funding for the Geospatial Modeling Grants program and provides \$8,000,000 within Navigation, Observations and Positioning for the program for which all funding shall be distributed externally.

*Hydrographic Research and Technology Development.*—The Committee supports the efforts of the Joint Hydrographic Center funded through Hydrographic Research and Technology Development and provides an additional \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for additional mapping and charting research and development activities demonstrating the use of autonomous vessels for the collection of hydrographic data as well as for collaborative demonstration, testing, evaluation and research-to-operations transition of new technology. In addition, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 for NOAA to continue supporting joint ocean and coastal mapping centers in other areas of the country and \$1,000,000 to designate an additional center co-located with an institution of higher education as authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11).

*Coastal Survey Data.*—NOS is directed to submit a report to the Committee, within 1 year of the date of enactment of this act, on progress it has made toward conducting comprehensive coastal survey work in Alaska. The report shall detail steps taken to implement NOAA's strategy, developed pursuant to section 3 of the 2019 Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States, for mapping the Arctic and sub-Arctic shoreline and nearshore of Alaska.

*Hydrographic Charting.*—The Committee continues to note the massive backlog for charting of navigationally significant areas and has provided an additional \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts.

The Committee believes Arctic surveys could be completed more efficiently through increased and accelerated contracting. Therefore, NOAA is directed to award contracts for hydrographic surveys in the Arctic as early in the calendar year as possible to maximize the operational season, utilizing effective and efficient contract services. Within the amount provided for Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts, NOAA is directed to accelerate the acquisition of survey data through the use of contractors. In addition, NOAA is directed to utilize all contractors that are available, qualified, and experienced in the Arctic for U.S. Arctic hydrographic surveys.

*Gulf of Mexico Coast Survey.*—The Committee encourages NOS to engage in high-priority cooperative habitat mapping in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly in areas currently unmapped but prone to disaster. In doing so, NOS may prioritize areas where understanding the long-term implications of new energy exploration would be critical.

*Integrated Ocean Observing System [IOOS].*—Within increased funding provided for IOOS, NOS shall work to complete and operate the National High Frequency Radar System to close key gaps in the U.S. surface current mapping system. Furthermore, NOS shall expand the regional underwater profiling gliders program to ensure streamlined access to data for weather forecasting and hurricane prediction, disaster response, forecasting of freshwater and marine water quality, detection of harmful algal blooms [HABs], and safe maritime operations. NOS is also directed to increase support to maintain the buoy systems supported by IOOS and to continue to add additional buoys in regional priority areas.

The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 amount to continue the five IOOS HAB pilot programs initiated in fiscal year 2020 and to continue to support the HAB monitoring and detection test bed in the Gulf of Mexico initiated in fiscal year 2021.

*Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration.*—Within the funds provided for Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for operations and staffing of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center [DRC], which shall continue to serve as the Gulf Coast's headquarters for NOAA's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations. In addition, the Committee provides no less than \$4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the Disaster Preparedness Program to bolster NOS's emergency response efforts to coastal storms and other disasters.

*Marine Debris.*—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 for NOAA's Marine Debris Program. Within the funding provided NOAA shall prioritize support for its competitive extramural funding programs and the programs authorized in the Save our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224).

Within funding for the competitive extramural programs, NOS is encouraged to prioritize funding for projects that support cleanup efforts within marine sanctuaries or marine national monuments,

projects in rural and remote communities that lack infrastructure to address their marine debris problems, and projects that address the impact of marine debris in fresh water systems that are a source of drinking water.

*National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science [NCCOS].*—The Committee provides \$50,000,000 for NCCOS. The Committee directs NCCOS to expand efforts related to coastal sustainability and resilience, including assessing the effects of land-use on coastal and marine resources, measuring societal benefits of coastal restoration and green infrastructure, encouraging citizen science monitoring of coastal and marine resources, and assessing the adaptive capacity of human communities to coastal hazards.

The Committee does not accept the proposed transfer from Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration and encourages cooperation on research priorities and activities between NCCOS and the Hydrology and Water Resources Cooperative Institute funded by the National Weather Service.

*Harmful Algal Blooms.*—The Committee understands that HABs in their various forms are a national problem that require collaboration with local partners to monitor, predict, track, and respond to HAB events. Within funding for Competitive Research, the Committee provides up to \$6,000,000 to accelerate deployment of effective methods of intervention and mitigation to reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of HAB events in freshwater systems, including the Great Lakes ecosystem. Of this amount, \$2,000,000 shall be used to explore innovative methods to increase monitoring and detection of HABs in freshwater systems by partnering with academic institutions with expertise in unmanned aircraft systems. Additionally, the Committee encourages NOS to expand its collaboration with coastal States across the country to address HABs in the marine environment.

*HAB Regional Watershed Integrated Assessments and Action Strategies.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes Integrated Assessment and Action Strategy to HAB prevention, control, and mitigation efforts in the Great Lakes region, and encourages the Federal Interagency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia, established under section 4001 of title 33, United States Code, and the Interagency Working Group tasked with implementing the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act to identify and prioritize additional watersheds that would benefit from the development of regionally-specific Integrated Assessments and Action Plans, including those regions that have been impacted by freshwater and saltwater HABs.

*Integrated Water Prediction [IWP].*—Within funding provided for Coastal Zone Management and Services, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 level for NOS to continue supporting the development and operation of the IWP program with the National Weather Service.

*Improving Coastal Resilience.*—Within the increased funding for Coastal Zone Management and Services, NOAA shall enact systemic changes to engagement, service delivery, and training to equip coastal communities, especially those with underserved populations, with improved capacity to address coastal hazards. In addition, NOAA shall translate climate data and information into tools,

services, and training that can be used for decision-making at a community level.

*Digital Coast.*—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for the implementation of the Digital Coast Act (Public Law 116–223).

*Regional Data Portals.*—Within funding provided for Coastal Zone Management and Services, The Committee provides \$4,000,000 for the regional ocean partnerships, or their equivalent, to enhance their capacity for sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data to support regional coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes management priorities.

*National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund.*—The Committee provides \$36,000,000 for the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund, also known as the National Coastal Resilience Fund, for collaborative partnerships that incorporate non-Federal matching funds. Of the amount provided, not less than \$4,000,000 shall be for project planning and design. In selecting the areas of focus for the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund, NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation should consider proposals that enhance ocean and coastal management; bolster coastal infrastructure and resilience; support regional collaborative efforts and partnerships; and help coastal communities adapt to changing ocean conditions.

*Coral Reef Program.*—The Committee recognizes the unique ecological and economic value of coral reefs, including the benefit of buffering coastal communities from hazards such as coastal storms and hurricanes. Furthermore, urgent efforts are needed to reverse the decline of coral populations in the United States. Therefore, the Committee provides \$13,500,000 for NOS to work with academic institutions and non-governmental research organizations to establish innovative restoration projects to restore degraded coral reefs. This may include efforts related to NOAA’s “Mission: Iconic Reef” initiative to restore coral reefs within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, as well as other landscape-scale coral reef restoration initiatives and the necessary research and development for these efforts.

*Temperate and Cold-Water Corals.*—The Committee urges NOAA’s coral reef program to support research of all coral species, including temperate and cold-water corals.

*Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.*—The Committee notes that calendar year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Public Law 92–532) to protect areas with conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. The Committee recognizes the importance of Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, especially in light of warming and acidifying oceans, and provides \$66,000,000, which is \$9,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. The Committee encourages NOAA to utilize telepresence technology to expand understanding of sanctuaries through deep-water exploration, education, and research.

*Marine National Monuments.*—Within funding provided for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, up to \$1,200,000 may be used for competitive research and management grants for existing marine national monuments administered by NOS, provided that such grants are subject to a 100 percent non-Federal match.

*National Estuarine Research Reserve System [NERRS].*—The Committee recognizes that the NERRS sites provide mixed-use areas that are protected for long-term research, monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship and provides \$34,000,000 for the program. The Committee is aware of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendation to expand the NERRS network and awaits action from NOAA on currently pending site nominations.

NOAA NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,073,950,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. NMFS programs provide for the management and conservation of the Nation's living marine resources and their environment, including fish stocks, marine mammals, and endangered species.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|   | Committee recommendation |
|---|--------------------------|
| Protected Resources Science and Management:                 |                          |
| Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species .....        | 154,250                  |
| Species Recovery Grants .....                               | 8,000                    |
| Atlantic Salmon .....                                       | 6,733                    |
| Pacific Salmon .....  | 70,000                   |
| Total, Protected Resources Science and Management .....     | 238,983                  |
| Fisheries Science and Management:                           |                          |
| Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services ..... | 167,255                  |
| Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments .....  | 201,515                  |
| Observers and Training .....                                | 58,584                   |
| Fisheries Management Programs and Services .....            | 135,427                  |
| Aquaculture .....   | 20,000                   |
| Salmon Management Activities .....                          | 66,205                   |
| Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions .....           | 43,000                   |
| Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants .....                  | 3,500                    |
| Total, Fisheries Science and Management .....               | 695,486                  |
| Enforcement .....   | 79,481                   |
| Habitat Conservation and Restoration .....                  | 60,000                   |
| GRAND TOTAL, NMFS .....                                     | 1,073,950                |

*Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research Funding Transfer.*—The bill maintains the provision restricting the use of the Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research funds transferred from the Department of Agriculture to NOAA in a way that better meets the intended purpose of the transfer mandated by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (15 U.S.C. 713c–3). None of the funds may be used for internal NOAA or DOC management but may only be used for activities that directly benefit U.S. fisheries and fishery communities.

As part of the fiscal year 2022 spending plan, NOAA shall include a detailed accounting, by object class, of how the Promote and

Develop transfer funds will be allocated based on the funding criteria described in this bill.

*Saltonstall-Kennedy [S-K] Grant Program.*—Prior to obligating any funds for the S-K Grant Program, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan describing which fisheries activities will be funded in each region and how the plan incorporates regional priorities. In so doing, NOAA shall consult with a diverse group of industry participants representing the entirety of the supply chain, from all regions of the country, to identify funding priorities. Within funds provided, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize support for applications that improve marketing and development of the seafood industry.

*NMFS Staffing.*—The Committee acknowledges that NMFS regional and scientific staff are most effective in meeting their mission when located in the communities they serve. To the greatest extent practicable, the Committee directs NMFS to proactively station regional science center staff and leadership within the regions they serve. NMFS shall consider community impacts and the comprehensive value of NMFS staff presence on regional and local scales when making stationing decisions or considering actions to consolidate staff.

*Fisheries Surveys and Offshore Wind.*—The Committee supports the responsible development of renewable energy projects off the Atlantic Coast, as proposed by the President. The Committee provides a total of \$18,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level across NMFS to address consultation and permitting, stock assessment, management, and protected resources needs related to the expansion of offshore wind energy projects. Of this amount, \$3,000,000 is within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species; \$3,500,000 is within Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services; \$7,000,000 is within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; and \$5,000,000 is within Fisheries Management Programs and Services.

*NMFS Project Consultations.*—Within Protected Resources Science and Management, the Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for NMFS to address the backlog of consultation requests under the Endangered Species Act [ESA] (Public Law 93-205). The Committee directs NMFS to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies to improve coordination and efficiency of consultations within the permitting process.

*North Atlantic Right Whale.*—The Committee remains concerned that the North Atlantic right whale population remains critically low, especially since 2017 when an Unusual Mortality Event was declared. Therefore, the Committee provides an additional \$14,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species for North Atlantic right whale-related research, monitoring, and conservation efforts. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to support disentanglement, stranding response, and necropsy activities, and encourages the development of habitat and distribution models and long-term tagging methods. The Committee directs NOAA to support monitoring efforts, including aerial surveys, vessel surveys, and passive acoustic monitoring in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean that is equiva-

lent to or greater than the efforts supported by the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, particularly in the Gulf of Maine and other areas where there are data gaps on North Atlantic right whale habitat or increased risk from human activities. Within increased support provided, not less than \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level shall be to support pilot programs to develop, refine, and field test innovative lobster and other fishing gear technologies as described in Senate Report 116–127 and codified in Public Law 116–93.

Within increased funding provided, \$10,000,000 shall be provided to States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to cover costs paid for by the fishing industry to comply with the final 2021 rule to modify the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan [ALWTRP] (FR–210827–0171), as well as additional uses outlined below. This assistance may be used by the relevant States to help defray the cost of compliance with new regulations, including for gear modification, configuration, and marking within the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. Additional eligible uses of the funds may include implementing electronic tracking requirements within the Northeast lobster fishery and research to inform future management actions, including in preparation for potential subsequent modifications to the ALWTRP. Funding to the States shall be proportional to the number of active federally permitted lobster trap harvesters in each State, and no State with at least 20 active federally permitted lobster trap harvesters shall receive less than 4 percent of the total funding.

Further, the Committee recognizes the transboundary nature of the North Atlantic right whale. The 2021 Conservation Framework within the Biological Opinion notes that action in both the United States and Canada would be necessary to positively impact the population trajectory for right whales. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to work with Canada to develop risk reduction measures that are comparable in effectiveness for both vessels and fisheries, and to incorporate Canadian fishery measures, Canadian vessel restrictions, and U.S. vessel restrictions into the evaluations under the Conservation Framework, as soon as possible. NOAA is also encouraged to improve regional management efforts by including pertinent States and interstate bodies in bilateral engagements with Canadian officials regarding coordinated efforts to enhance North Atlantic right whale recovery.

*Protected Species in the Western Pacific.*—Within funding for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian sea turtles, and false killer whales in the Western Pacific.

*Prescott Grants.*—Within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides \$5,000,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program, a \$1,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level.

*Sea Turtle Stranding Response and Rehabilitation.*—Within funding for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides \$1,500,000 for NOAA to provide direct support to institutions and organizations permitted to provide sea turtle stranding response and/or rehabilitation. In so doing, NOAA shall

also seek to leverage and strengthen partnerships with capable university veterinary schools.

*Sea Turtle Conservation.*—NOAA committed to the Committee that the agency would continue its sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation programs at the NMFS Galveston Laboratory until it found suitable non-governmental partners to assume the program in full. However, NMFS has not reported to the Committee that it has secured commitments from any suitable partners. Therefore, NMFS is directed to maintain adequate capacity of the sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation program until it can report to the Committee that these critical activities have been fully assumed by partner organizations.

*Species Recovery Grants.*—The Committee directs NMFS to utilize both the ESA Recovery Plan and the Marine Mammal Protection Act [MMPA] Take Reduction Plan priorities when evaluating marine mammal projects.

*Atlantic Salmon.*—NOAA has identified major threats to Atlantic salmon, including interrelated effects of freshwater salmon habitat loss, lost prey buffering, and marine derived nutrients from declines of co-evolved diadromous species. Within the funding provided for Atlantic Salmon, the Committee directs NOAA to enable a broader use of funds for restoration of diadromous species and habitats that support salmon recovery by providing ecological functions critical to the Atlantic salmon life cycle. The Committee recognizes the benefits of restoring co-evolved sea-run fish species in support of recovery of Atlantic salmon and encourages NOAA to partner with States to develop fish passage performance standards for sea-run species and prioritize project selection, funding and staff resources considering those benefits. The Committee further directs NOAA to ensure that adequate resources continue to be provided for State agencies to implement the recovery strategy effectively, including to ensure stable staffing levels.

*Pacific Salmon.*—Within the funding provided for Pacific Salmon, the Committee encourages NOAA to work with partners to address the backlog of hatchery genetic management plans and expedite approval.

*Climate-Ready Fishery Management.*—The Committee recognizes that sustainable fishery management is made more challenging by climate change driven impacts, including changes in the distribution, productivity, and abundance of fish stocks. Thus, the Committee provides \$8,000,000 within Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services to establish an operational system that provides climate-informed advice on changing ocean conditions, impacts on marine resources, and best management strategies to reduce impacts and increase economic resilience. In addition, NMFS shall establish Fisheries and Climate Decision Support Systems to deliver the climate-informed advice needed for effective marine resource management in rapidly changing oceans.

*Northeast Groundfish Research.*—The Committee is concerned about the decline of the Northeast multispecies fishery and the health of fishing stocks in the Gulf of Maine. Within funding provided for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the Committee provides \$2,500,000 for groundfish research, with a focus on the effects of changing climatic conditions and warming

waters on the fishery, including stock health and natural mortality. NOAA is further encouraged to prioritize research regarding relative gear efficiency, stock boundaries, and other topics that can improve groundfish stock assessments in the next 5 years. Within funding provided, \$500,000 shall be obligated to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the New England Fishery Management Council's Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group Report, as was directed in Senate Report 116–127 and codified in Public Law 116–93, and to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the 2020 report of the Groundfish Trawl Task Force, as was directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–260. This funding is intended to support new and innovative research, including by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, separately by, or in collaboration with, outside partners such as higher education institutions or State agencies, and in cooperation with the fishing industry.

*Electronic Monitoring and Reporting [EM/ER].*—Within funding for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, NOAA shall continue to support the development, testing, and installation of EM/ER technologies, including development of electronic reporting systems for commercial fishermen, image classification efforts in New England, and improving the national EM image library. Within the funds provided for these activities, not less than \$5,500,000, an increase of \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year enacted 2021 level shall be available, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 3701, for collaborative partnerships that include non-Federal matching funds to implement cost-shared EM/ER programs that support fisheries conservation and management. During the development and implementation of EM/ER programs, NOAA shall consult directly with industry and work through the Fishery Management Councils (established under sections 1851 and 1852 of title 16, United States Code) to develop appropriate cost-sharing arrangements that are commensurate with the ex-vessel value of the fishery.

Furthermore, NMFS shall continue to work in fiscal year 2022 with the charter for-hire recreational fishery fleet in the Gulf of Mexico; the Northeast multispecies groundfish fishery fleet, including small vessels within that fleet; the Maine lobster fleet; and any regional fishery fleet interested in implementing EM/ER technologies to better track information that is currently collected through the use of human observers.

*Gulf Reef Fish.*—Within funding for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the Committee provides no less than \$2,000,000 for NMFS to support Gulf reef fish surveys, research, and sampling. NMFS is also directed to continue to collaborate with NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research on the agency-independent population assessment of greater amberjack funded within Sea Grant.

*Fisheries Surveys.*—The Committee is concerned about continuing reports of reduced fisheries surveys and assessments, separate from the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee believes it is imperative that NMFS take the necessary steps to ensure that historical levels of survey coverage are achieved in fiscal year 2022 and has provided an additional \$10,000,000 above the

fiscal year 2021 enacted level within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments for this purpose. At this funding level the Committee expects NMFS to contract no fewer than six surveys for Alaskan bottom trawl surveys and cooperative research, including a survey to capture movement of fish populations out of historic survey areas, and no fewer than four vessels for West Coast groundfish surveys. This amount also fully funds both Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program [NEAMAP] trawl surveys, including the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey.

*Seafood Industry Research and Assessment.*—NMFS shall work with partners in the Northeast lobster industry, including all relevant States and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to closely monitor and assess economic trends within the industry subsequent to the final 2021 rule to modify the ALWTRP (FR-210827-0171). NOAA shall document its findings to the Committee, to include a cumulative estimate of any economic losses incurred by industry that are directly attributable to the final rule to modify the ALWTRP, not later than the end of fiscal year 2022.

*State Management for Recreational Red Snapper.*—The Committee remains invested in ensuring the sustainable management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper and reiterates past direction that successful implementation of Reef Fish Amendment 50: State Management for Recreational Red Snapper shall be a top priority for NOAA and that such efforts should occur in coordination with the Gulf States. Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides not less than \$5,000,000 for NMFS to continue to work with the Gulf States to ensure successful implementation of State management for red snapper, including the actions described in the following paragraphs.

The Committee supports the recent actions of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to (1) delay implementation of State-specific calibration until 2023 and (2) to request that NMFS contract with a non-governmental entity to assess whether the Marine Recreational Information Program or the catch data programs administered by the Gulf States provide the best estimates of recreational red snapper catch in the Gulf of Mexico, as was directed by Congress in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116-260.

The Committee lauds the efforts of the team of academic researchers that recently finalized the “Great Red Snapper Count” [GRSC]. The GRSC provided a first of its kind estimate of absolute abundance of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and demonstrated that there are up to three times more red snapper in the Gulf than previously estimated by NMFS. The Committee supports full integration of the GRSC data and Gulf States catch data into the upcoming red snapper research track stock assessment to be completed in 2023 and in the operational assessment that will follow in 2024 so that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance and more targeted catch data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

*South Atlantic Reef Fish.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year enacted 2021 level to support South Atlantic reef fish surveys, research, and sampling.

*Fishing Gear Selectivity Study.*—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, NOAA shall consider conducting a multiyear, agency-independent study to evaluate the selectivity and potential bias of different gears used to assess reef fish populations in the South Atlantic region, which should build on recent work being conducted by State agencies on red snapper.

*Fisheries Effort Survey [FES].*—The Committee is concerned by reports that the Marine Recreational Information Program FES may be vastly overstating fishing effort. While the FES methodology represents a clear improvement from previous methodologies, the Committee supports the cautious approach to utilizing these estimates advocated by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committees. The Committee encourages NMFS to conduct a thorough analysis of the effect of such estimates on stock status and allocation before they are used for stock management.

*Data Collection for Recreational Fisheries.*—The Committee provides up to the fiscal year enacted 2021 level within Fisheries Data Collection, Surveys, and Assessments, to support collaborative programs focused on improving recreational fishery data collection, as articulated in sections 102, 201, and 202 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–405). This funding should focus on assisting States to establish, test, and implement more reliable recreational fishery data collection tools, such as smartphone applications or text messaging supplements.

*Fisheries Information Networks.*—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Fisheries Information Networks. Within the amounts provided, NMFS shall dedicate funds to support Fisheries Information Systems grants at no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted amount.

*Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Research.*—The Committee is concerned about the stock condition and lack of basic fishery-independent data (i.e., biological, life history, movement, and health information) for many important fish species in the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, within funds for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides \$4,000,000 for NMFS, via a partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, to provide no fewer than five grants to academic partners, including consortiums of universities, and other partners to conduct fishery-independent research on trans-boundary, multi-jurisdictional fish species in the Gulf of Mexico for which current data is deficient (e.g., cobia, tripletail, tarpon, and gray triggerfish), including species that are solely managed by the Gulf States.

*Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishing Effort.*—The Committee is concerned that shrimp fishing effort data collection and analysis in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery will be interrupted by the termination of 3G cellular transmission service used by NMFS in its Electronic Logbook [ELB] program. The Committee recognizes that this scientific data is essential to the annual evaluation of the fishery's effects on sea turtle and red snapper conservation mandates. Within the funding provided in Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides \$1,000,000 for

NMFS, in consultation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and shrimp industry stakeholders, to continue the development and implementation of a new approved ELB that archives vessel position and automatically transmits scientific shrimp fishing effort data via cellular service to NMFS. NMFS is further directed to submit a report to the Committee not less than 180 days after enactment of this act outlining progress made to develop and implement the new ELB program.

*Northwest Fisheries Ecosystem Monitoring System.*—Within funds for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides \$850,000 to maintain a time-series monitoring system of hydrographic and ecological data to inform fishery management on the Northern California Current.

*American Lobster and Jonah Crab Research.*—The Committee provides up to \$300,000 within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments to support a cooperative research program to collect biological, fishery, and environmental data for American lobster and Jonah crab using modern technology on commercial fishing vessels.

*Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Abundance.*—The Committee provides \$650,000 within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments for the collection of Atlantic menhaden abundance data in the Chesapeake Bay in partnership with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and relevant States.

*Cooperative Research.*—Depleted fish stocks result in significant economic losses to our Nation. At a time when fishing opportunities are constrained by uncertainty in stock assessments and increased access to healthy stocks depends on better data, the Committee believes that maintenance of ongoing monitoring programs, surveys, and improved research is critical. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for these purposes. The Committee directs NMFS to prioritize trawl surveys that are designed and conducted cooperatively with industry and States to provide empirical measures of fish stock abundance, such as swept area biomass surveys. The Committee recognizes the need for supplemental stock abundance information that could reduce uncertainty and increase confidence in stock assessment results used to set annual fishery catch limits. NMFS is encouraged to prioritize studies conducted cooperatively with States, industry, and non-profit institutions using video systems deployed in commercial trawl nets for surveys. NMFS is also encouraged to focus on improved understanding of natural mortality and relative gear efficiency to ensure accurate measures of catchability. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to consider prioritizing cooperative research efforts for species that are experiencing shifts in range and population density due to warming waters and other global environmental changes.

*Horseshoe Crab Survey.*—The Committee remains concerned about the ability to estimate the abundance of the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab population. Adequate data are required to ensure State and interstate managers can effectively manage the stock, 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 this important survey to generate

the data necessary to ensure the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab stock remains on a sustainable path.

*Plankton Recorder Survey.*—The Committee notes the continued importance of understanding the distribution of *Calanus finmarchicus* plankton to inform the conservation 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.

*Northeast Multispecies Fishery.*—The Committee recognizes that the New England groundfish fisheries management programs continue to present substantial financial challenges to the participants as well as to the economic sustainability of those fisheries and fishing communities. Therefore, the Committee rejects the proposed cut to Observers and Training and provides not less than \$6,000,000 within Observers and Training for grants to the fishing industry to fully cover At-Sea Monitoring industry costs, including sector costs, in the New England groundfish fishery. Any additional At-Sea Monitoring costs, including shore side infrastructure, observer training, observer equipment and gear, electronic monitoring, and NOAA support costs shall, to the extent practicable, be included in subsequent budget requests, starting in fiscal year 2023. NOAA shall ensure the costs and benefits of At-Sea Monitoring are commensurate with the gross revenues of vessels in the fishery. Before obligating any of these funds, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan.

*North Pacific Observer Coverage.*—Within Observers and Training, the Committee provides no less than \$8,500,000 for the North Pacific Observers Program, a \$1,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. This additional funding will offset observer costs normally paid for by harvesters in fisheries that are undertaking a transition to EM/ER. Additionally, NOAA is encouraged to identify and implement any efficiencies that would mitigate the cost burden shouldered by small vessel operators in the fixed-gear fleet.

*For-Hire Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation.*—The Committee provides no less than \$1,500,000 within Fisheries Management Programs and Services and \$1,500,000 within Enforcement to support the continued, timely implementation of electronic logbooks for the federally permitted charter-for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico.

*Video Review of Electronic Monitoring Data.*—Within funding provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the Committee provides \$400,000 for the video review of the West Coast groundfish electronic monitoring data and \$400,000 for the video review of the Gulf of Alaska partial coverage electronic monitoring data.

*Pacific Bluefin Tuna.*—The Committee is concerned by the depleted status of Pacific bluefin tuna. The Committee directs NOAA to work with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and other relevant agencies, to ensure NOAA takes a strong position on the need for scientific integrity, independent science, and management accountability for internationally managed species. The Committee encourages NOAA to adopt a precautionary negotiating position

with strict harvest control rules that ensure measurable interim progress in rebuilding Pacific bluefin tuna and that hold all countries accountable to recover the population to sustainable levels no later than 2034. The Committee also encourages NOAA to provide capacity for Management Strategy Evaluation or similar processes to optimize science-based decisions, provide transparency, and ensure an equitable balance of responsibility and benefits as the stock recovers. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to provide resources to support engagement of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and U.S. stakeholders in the formulation of strong U.S. positions throughout the international negotiations.

*International Fisheries Management Coordination.*—The Committee is aware that conflicting American and Canadian fisheries management measures in the Gulf of Maine have generated concerns from the domestic fishing and lobster industries, due to differing conservation regulations. The Committee encourages NOAA to work with Canadian and State fisheries officials to explore the possibility of developing an agreement that provides for cooperative fisheries management of this unique area.

*Predator Control Pilot Program.*—The Committee encourages NOAA to conduct a predator control pilot program on the Tuolumne River funded by the Modesto Irrigation District, the Turlock Irrigation District, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. In implementing the program, NOAA should work with appropriate State agencies and take into account implementation findings from the Stanislaus program.

*Harmful West Coast Large Mesh Drift Gillnets.*—The Committee remains concerned with the use of indiscriminate large mesh driftnets. More selective gears can be used to target swordfish and other highly migratory species. The Committee directs NMFS to consult with the Pacific Fishery Management Council on a strategy to phase out the use of large mesh driftnets and permit the use of alternative fishing methods to increase the economic viability of the West Coast-based swordfish fishery while minimizing bycatch to the maximum extent possible.

*Bycatch Reduction.*—The development and implementation of practical bycatch solutions is a priority for U.S. and international fisheries management and protected species conservation. NMFS is directed to make no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level available for competitive grants to non-Federal researchers working with U.S. fishermen on the development of improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies.

*Workforce Training.*—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for NMFS to establish a workforce training pilot program for the seafood industry to support a more robust and diverse domestic seafood sector. In piloting the program, NMFS is encouraged to partner with Minority Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Alaska Native Serving Institutions, Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and community colleges.

*Marine Aquaculture.*—The Committee provides \$20,000,000 for NMFS Aquaculture, which is \$2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. Within the additional funding provided, \$1,300,000 is for NOAA to upgrade equipment and to increase the amount of

staff focused on aquaculture at all NMFS fisheries science centers, including to return staffing levels to those in fiscal year 2010 at the Northeast and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers.

*Regional Pilots in Sustainable Aquaculture.*—The NMFS Aquaculture Office is directed to continue the regional aquaculture pilot program, in partnership with the three interstate marine fisheries commissions, to establish partnerships between the seafood industry and community partners that can develop, validate, and deploy economically and environmentally sustainable aquatic farming techniques and regional business practices to grow domestic seafood production. To maximize the impact of these pilot grants, NMFS is encouraged to give priority consideration to promising but less commercially developed technologies, such as those targeting shellfish, seaweed, and other relative newcomers to the domestic aquaculture industry. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 in the NMFS Aquaculture budget for this purpose.

In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the NMFS Aquaculture Office, in partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, to continue the multi-year Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture demonstration pilot system in State waters of the Gulf of Mexico that was initiated in calendar year 2021.

*Oyster Aquaculture, Research, and Restoration.*—Within NMFS Aquaculture, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to support ongoing research in off-bottom Eastern oyster production in coastal areas, particularly in areas where this method is being exploited for commercial production, including the Gulf of Mexico, and encourages NMFS to dedicate resources to support regional partnerships for genetics, disease, and economic modeling.

*Salmon Management Activities.*—Within the amount provided for Salmon Management activities, the Committee provides \$43,500,000, an increase of \$4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, to enable NOAA, the Pacific States, and Tribal communities to continue activities in support of the obligations set forth in the renegotiated annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty [PST]. Before any of these funds may be obligated, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan that is reflective of the funding recommendations produced by the U.S. section of the Pacific Salmon Commission. In doing so, NOAA is directed to consult with the Pacific States, Tribal communities, and other stakeholders. Further, NOAA is encouraged to minimize, to the extent practicable, the amount of funds withheld for administrative expenses.

The Committee also provides not less than \$22,000,000 for the operation and maintenance of Mitchell Act hatcheries and directs NOAA to continue genetic stock identification for salmon recovery and management.

*Little Port Walter Research Station and Salmon Hatchery.*—The Committee is deeply frustrated by NMFS's June 2021 announcement that it would begin to phase out and transfer/privatize responsibility for Chinook salmon production at its Little Port Walter Research Station in Alaska, beginning in August 2021. The Committee reminds NMFS, NOAA, and the Department of the require-

ments of section 505 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), which prohibits the use of funds to “contract out or privatize any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees unless the Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance.” The Committee notes that press releases do not suffice for official notification. Therefore, until such time that the Committee receives official notification for the plan to transfer/privatize hatchery operations at Little Port Walter Research Station, NMFS is directed to cease any phase out activities and continue all operations at the Little Port Walter Research Station at levels consistent with those performed in prior fiscal years.

Not later than 15 days after the end of each quarter of fiscal year 2022, NOAA shall provide the Committee with an obligations report that details the previous quarters actual obligations for all activities at Little Port Walter, as compared to the actual obligations provided for the same quarter in fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021, as well as target obligations for all ensuing fiscal quarters, as compared to the actual obligations provided for the same quarter in fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

*Fishery Councils and Commissions.*—The Committee provides a total of \$43,000,000 to support the Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and International Fisheries Commissions. Of the amount provided, not less than \$2,000,000 shall be for the three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions. The Committee recognizes the important role that regional management plays in sustaining a balanced ecosystem and healthy fish populations and the advantage that aggregate data can provide in understanding emerging trends across our Nation’s fisheries. The Committee directs the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions to prioritize research and monitoring of high priority species in the face of changing environmental conditions.

*Understanding Ocean Uses.*—The Committee is monitoring development of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission’s Draft Addendum XXIX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The addendum will fill an important data gap and significantly improve spatial characterization of the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries providing important information about where existing uses intersect with protected resources, such as the North Atlantic right whale, and other uses such as offshore wind energy development and aquaculture. If Addendum XXIX is adopted, the Committee encourages NMFS’s swift implementation through the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Public Law 103–206).

*Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated [IUU] Fishing.*—The Committee directs NOAA to continue to dedicate the necessary resources to combat IUU fishing, including an increase of \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to enforce the program established under section 539 of Public Law 115–141. The Committee also encourages NMFS to consider changes to the Seafood Import Monitoring Program [SIMP], which may include updating key data elements used to determine a complete chain of custody for fish or fish products, improving how import information is collected and stored, improving systems used to verify specific supply chain infor-

mation, and improving systems used to identify and bar fish or fish products sourced using convict, child, forced, or indentured labor. NOAA is encouraged to consult with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Labor, and other relevant agencies to develop a strategic plan to develop, mature, and adopt artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to detect imports of fish and fish products at risk of being associated with IUU fishing.

The Committee is aware of commercial space-based radio frequency [RF] detection technologies that can be used to track maritime vessels even when vessels turn off their Automatic Identification System, which is a common practice among foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing. Identifying when and where IUU fishing may be occurring is critical to NMFS Enforcement mission. Therefore, the Committee provides not less than \$500,000 for NMFS to further test and evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. commercial space-based RF data collection capabilities to track foreign vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and other remote maritime regions of economic, environmental, and national security significance.

*Cooperative Agreements with States.*—The Committee provides not less than \$18,500,000 for cooperative enforcement agreements with States, including for execution of Joint Enforcement Agreements [JEAs], which are critical for proper surveillance and enforcement of our Nation’s fisheries laws. In addition, because of the critical role these State and territorial agencies play, the Committee believes that it is important to better understand their needs to consider how to improve support for them. Therefore, within 180 days of enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to inventory and report to the Committee the needs of its partner State and territorial law enforcement agencies, in particular with regard to shortages of trained personnel, maintaining maritime domain awareness, formal operational agreements with other Federal law enforcement agencies, access to advanced technological enforcement tools, and other issues as warranted.

*Northeast Lobster Enforcement.*—Within Enforcement, the Committee provides not less than \$1,400,000 for NMFS, in partnership with the relevant States, JEA partner agencies, and the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission, to continue the pilot cooperative offshore lobster enforcement program that was initiated in fiscal year 2021.

*Habitat Conservation and Restoration.*—The Committee provides \$60,000,000 for Habitat Conservation and Restoration activities. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted amount to address the Essential Fish Habitat consultation backlog. The Committee encourages NOAA to include a broader ecosystem-based management philosophy; expand criteria to include recreational species, managed commercial species, and forage species; and prioritize proposals that engage local communities. NOAA should continue to emphasize the value of partnerships when evaluating grant applications.

*Oyster Restoration.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level within Habitat Conservation and Restoration to support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

## NOAA OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee's recommendation provides \$679,990,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR]. OAR programs provide environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA weather forecasts, climate predictions, and marine services. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a network of scientists in its Federal research laboratories, universities, and joint institutes and partnership programs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

## OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|  | Committee recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Climate Research:                                      |                          |
| Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....  | 106,944                  |
| Regional Climate Data and Information .....            | 55,976                   |
| Climate Competitive Research .....                     | 70,000                   |
| Total, Climate Research .....                          | 232,920                  |
| Weather and Air Chemistry Research:                    |                          |
| Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....  | 87,665                   |
| U.S. Weather Research Program .....                    | 33,763                   |
| Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar ..... | 19,512                   |
| Joint Technology Transfer Initiative .....             | 13,130                   |
| Total, Weather and Air Chemistry Research .....        | 154,070                  |
| Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research:              |                          |
| Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes .....    | 38,000                   |
| Ocean Exploration and Research .....                   | 45,000                   |
| National Sea Grant College Program .....               | 90,000                   |
| Sea Grant Aquaculture Research .....                   | 15,000                   |
| Integrated Ocean Acidification .....                   | 18,000                   |
| Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring .....      | 63,500                   |
| National Oceanographic Partnership Program .....       | 5,000                    |
| Total, Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research .....  | 274,500                  |
| High Performance Computing Initiatives .....           | 18,500                   |
| GRAND TOTAL, OAR .....                                 | 679,990                  |

*Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.*—For more than 60 years, the United States has led the world in atmospheric observations and climate modeling to understand and predict how the climate is changing. However, the atmospheric baseline observing infrastructure is aging and in need of reinvestment. Therefore, within Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, the Committee provides \$20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to rebuild and enhance regional greenhouse gas observing systems by increasing the number of sites, the number of samples per site, and the temporal resolution. The Committee also provides \$10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to develop a global, high-resolution atmospheric model with at least a three kilometer resolution to improve understanding and prediction of climate-driven, extreme weather events.

*Continuity of Atmospheric Observations.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA’s Global Monitoring Laboratory both for the integrity of U.S. atmospheric observations, but also for its role to provide calibration services for more than 150 partners worldwide. However, some of the most critical sites in the system are vulnerable to natural hazards, such as volcanic eruptions. Therefore, the Committee encourages NOAA to consider how to provide continuity of atmospheric observations in a cost-effective manner, and to submit its findings to the Committee, along with proposals to address the issue.

*Arctic Research.*—The Committee provides no less than \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Arctic research funded under Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and Regional Climate Data and Information.

*Earth’s Radiation Budget.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for continued modeling, assessments, and, as possible, initial observations and monitoring of stratospheric conditions and the Earth’s radiation budget, including the impact of the introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and the assessment of solar climate interventions. NOAA is encouraged to develop an interagency program, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and other relevant agencies, to manage near-term climate hazard risk and coordinate research in climate intervention and to coordinate with NASA for long-range manned and autonomous in-situ atmospheric observational capabilities. The Committee also directs OAR, in coordination with NASA and the Department of Energy, as appropriate, 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.

*Resilience and Adaptation Cooperative Institute [CI].*—The Committee encourages NOAA to consider the establishment of a CI for Coastal Resilience and Adaptation. The CI could benefit NOAA’s other coastal resilience programs by providing additional research, data collection, experience, and strengthened relationships with institutions conducting coastal resilience and adaptation research and applied science activities.

*Regional Climate Data and Information.*—As the Nation continues to experience the increasingly disruptive impacts of climate change, NOAA’s role as a provider of climate data, models, projections, and services is becoming more prominent and critical to our society. Therefore, the Committee provides \$10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level within Regional Climate Data and Information to greatly expand OAR’s Climate Adaptation Programs, formerly known as the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program, to help communities plan for and build lasting and equitable climate resilience. The Committee also provides \$3,000,000 to broaden drought prediction outreach to underserved communities through the National Integrated Drought Information System [NIDIS] as authorized in the NIDIS Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–430).

*Forward Looking Building Standards.*—The Committee remains concerned about how climate change will impact the built environ-

ment and that standards previously set with an assumption of a stable climate system will expose many Federal and non-Federal investments to significant, but avoidable, risk. Therefore, the Committee directs NOAA, in collaboration with NIST, to identify and support the utilization of an authoritative set of forward-looking, long-term meteorological information that models future extreme weather events, other environmental trends, projections, and up-to-date observations, including mesoscale meteorological information.

*Tornado Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for both the VORTEX–USA and VORTEX–SE programs.

*Weather Modeling Improvement and Innovation.*—Within funding for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the Earth Prediction Innovation Center [EPIC], as authorized by the NIDIS Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–423). The Committee expects that this investment will lead to improvements in NOAA’s operational weather forecasting capabilities to protect life and property.

*Subseasonal to Seasonal Weather Prediction.*—Within funding for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for a subseasonal to seasonal research program to seed innovative research testbeds. Such efforts shall include a pilot project for subseasonal to seasonal precipitation forecasts for water management in the western United States recommended in NOAA’s report to Congress pursuant to section 201 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–25). The pilot project should be carried out in coordination with the National Weather Service and should be focused on achieving measurable objectives for operational forecast improvement, including forecasts of seasonal mountain snowpack accumulation and total seasonal precipitation.

*Fire Weather.*—As the Nation combats yet another dangerous and extreme wildfire season, the Committee notes with urgency the importance of improving fire weather modeling, prediction, detection, and decision support tools. The Committee provides not less than \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level within the U.S. Weather Research Program for these efforts.

*Next Generation Phased Array Weather Radars.*—The Committee strongly affirms NOAA’s investment in the development of advanced radar systems and technology to satisfy its weather and related requirements. Within the Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar PPA, the Committee provides an increase of \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to strengthen NOAA’s collaboration with current CI partners with expertise in this area. This investment should also work in parallel to provide complimentary research and development to meet National Weather Service requirements and to reduce long-term operations and maintenance costs of the future national radar network. Further, the Committee directs NOAA, within 270 days of enactment of this act, through its intramural radar research center of excellence at the National Severe Storm Lab, and its affiliated academic partner, to provide a report of the feasibility and capability for a single-face

rotating phased array radar to improve NOAA's weather prediction.

*Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.*—The Committee provides \$38,000,000, an increase of \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, for Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.

The Committee continues to strongly support the established institutes, including those focused on watershed effects on marine ecosystems, remote sensing, long-term monitoring of oil spill impacts on marine ecosystem health, coastal resilience, ocean exploration within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, and HABs.

*Aquatic Invasive Species.*—The Committee directs NOAA to establish the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program and Mitigation Fund, as authorized by the Vessel Incident Discharge Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282).

*Ocean Exploration.*—The Committee provides \$45,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research, an increase of \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. Within the funding provided, OAR is directed to accelerate efforts to map and characterize America's Exclusive Economic Zone and extended Outer Continental Shelf, including by maximizing the amount of funding provided for the Ocean Exploration CI and supporting competitive awards for deep ocean research combining seismic and acoustic methods. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

*National Sea Grant College Program.*—The Committee provides an increase of \$15,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the Sea Grant program and its research, education, extension, and outreach activities, which are critical for coastal communities and benefit the entire Nation. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Sea Grant program to prioritize providing training, education, outreach, and technical assistance for young fishermen as authorized under the Young Fishermen's Development Act (Public Law 116–289).

*Coastal Resilience.*—Within the additional funding provided for the Sea Grant program, NOAA is encouraged to increase coastal resilience activities across all State programs. This may include recruitment of resilience-focused staff and enhancing research, engagement, decision support, and project implementation. NOAA is encouraged to prioritize work to enhance the coastal resilience of remote communities most at-risk for natural disasters and chronic events, with a priority given to challenges faced by Tribal, indigenous, or economically disadvantaged communities.

*American Lobster Research.*—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee provides \$4,000,000 for partnerships among State agencies, academia, and industry to address American lobster research priorities in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and southern New England. Research should focus on development of gear technologies, including subsea gear location field work and operationalizing technology to the scale of commercial fisheries, as well as other relevant topics necessary to help industry comply

with the requirements of set forth in the final 2021 rule to modify the ALWTRP (FR–210827–0171).

*Pacific Highly Migratory Species.*—The Committee notes the ecological and economic importance of Pacific highly migratory species such as tuna, swordfish, marlin, and pelagic sharks. Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 for a highly migratory species research grant program for the Pacific and Western Pacific regions to address critical science gaps and management challenges in collaboration with academia and other relevant institutions and partners.

*Contaminants of Emerging Concern.*—The Committee is alarmed by reports of contaminants of emerging concern that may cause ecological or human health impacts, including PFAS, in coastal and estuarine waters. The Committee notes that more research is needed to better understand the prevalence, transportation, accumulation, effects, and fate of contaminants of emerging concern within coastal waters. Therefore, the Committee provides \$1,000,000 within the Sea Grant program to partner with State agencies and academic institutions to research and monitor these emerging contaminants.

*Sea Grant Aquaculture Research.*—The Committee provides \$15,000,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research, which is \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. NOAA is directed to support marine aquaculture research and development in partnership with universities, including with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Similar research efforts have led to beneficial outcomes such as the development and commercialization of new technologies to meet the domestic demand for seafood, including finfish, shrimp, and oysters. Within the funding provided, NOAA is encouraged to explore new research topics, including engineering of ocean-based infrastructure, and accumulation and metabolization rates of brevetoxins in commonly farmed shellfish, and to support a sustainable carbon sequestration demonstration project in deep ocean water.

*Integrated Ocean Acidification.*—The Committee provides \$18,000,000 for Integrated Ocean Acidification to address the growing problem of ocean acidification and its effects in coastal areas on shellfish and other fisheries. OAR is encouraged to consider partnering with academic institutions to operate regional research and education centers to address the impacts of ocean acidification, including by supporting additional monitoring hardware needed to make new observations in these regions.

*National Oceanographic Partnership Program [NOPP].*—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for NOPP to continue to facilitate interagency and public-private partnerships to advance ocean science research, development, and education. The Committee recognizes the important role NOPP has played in supporting and facilitating partnerships and encourages continued focus in areas such as ocean exploration and mapping; uncrewed systems research, development, testing, and training; environmental monitoring; and resource management. Within the funding provided, not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to support the NOPP program office and the Ocean Research Advisory Panel as part of NOAA's responsibility under Public Law 116–283.

## NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,224,963,000 for the National Weather Service [NWS]. NWS programs provide timely and accurate meteorologic, hydrologic, and oceanographic warnings and forecasts to protect life and property and improve the economic productivity of the Nation. NWS is also responsible for issuing operational climate forecasts for the United States. The Committee has made saving lives and livelihoods through accurate weather forecasting a priority.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|  | Committee recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Observations .....                       | 247,522                  |
| Central Processing .....                 | 106,669                  |
| Analyze, Forecast and Support .....      | 573,902                  |
| Dissemination .....                      | 114,346                  |
| Science and Technology Integration ..... | 182,524                  |
| GRAND TOTAL, NWS .....                   | 1,224,963                |

*NWS Staffing.*—The Committee recognizes and appreciates NWS's commitment and efforts-to-date to fill vacancies, especially for weather forecast personnel. However, there are still fewer NWS employees now than there were in 2016, and the Committee continues to be concerned with the number of NWS employee vacancies given the importance of the NWS mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens. Therefore, the Committee provides a total of \$15,000,000 above the request level to increase NWS staffing, including \$1,000,000 within Central Processing; \$10,000,000 within Analyze, Forecast and Support [AFS]; and \$4,000,000 within Science and Technology Integration.

In addition, NOAA shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on all NWS staffing issues consistent with prior year direction.

*NWS Staffing in Alaska.*—The Committee remains concerned about potential NWS staffing reductions in Alaska and reminds NWS that any staffing changes must comply with the reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. Prior to proposing any staffing reductions, NWS shall conduct community outreach meetings in all affected communities.

*Programmatic Priorities.*—The Committee supports the programmatic priorities identified in the budget request including, Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Predictions, Fire Weather Predictions, Flood Inundation Mapping, Space Weather Research to Operations, Seasonal Forecast System, Expanding Internship Opportunities, Expanded and Enhanced Services to Vulnerable and Underserved Communities, and Maintaining the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean [TAO] Array and expects these initiatives to be supported within the funding provided to NWS. The Committee directs NWS to iden-

tify the funding levels for each of these initiatives as part of the agency's 2022 spending plan.

*National Mesonet Program.*—The Committee provides no less than \$26,000,000 for the continuation and expansion of the National Mesonet Program, which is an increase of \$4,300,000 over the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. Investments going forward should sustain coverage of data types and areas now included within the National Mesonet Program, as well as reduce weather radar gaps, expand in-situ and remote sensing capabilities to provide weather measurements in high-risk areas, and enhance coverage by the National Mesonet Program in non-contiguous states and territories.

The Committee encourages the National Mesonet Program to continue to proactively work with other Federal agencies, including the NSF and the U.S. Geological Survey, to identify observations and platforms of opportunity in areas with sparse instrumentation that may be transferred to the National Mesonet Program.

Of the funds provided, up to \$750,000 may be used for Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System activities, and up to \$500,000 may be used for costs associated with the National Mesonet Program Office.

*Automated Surface Observing System [ASOS].*—The Committee supports NWS's ongoing efforts to prolong the service life of ASOS. NWS is directed to ensure that rural and remote communities who disproportionately rely on ASOS operability for continued reliable air service are provided with additional resources, such as trained human observers, to continue observing capabilities in the event of an ASOS outage.

*National Data Buoy Center [NDBC].*—The Committee provides sufficient funding to maintain, at a minimum, NDBC operations at 80 percent data availability. The Committee directs NOAA to include a schedule to restore existing data buoy operability and its strategy to minimize outages in the future as part of the agency's spending plan.

*Environmental Processes in the Arctic.*—Within the funding provided for AFS, the Committee encourages NWS to develop capacity for seasonal to multiannual timescale predictions of environmental processes in the Arctic.

*Tsunami Warning Program.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the Tsunami Warning Program to ensure that high-quality tsunami watches, warnings, and advisories are issued to safeguard lives and property. The Committee directs NWS to expeditiously fill the current vacancies.

*Dissemination.*—Within Dissemination, the Committee provides \$17,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level to optimize and upgrade the integrated dissemination program.

*Office of Water Prediction [OWP].*—The Committee provides no less than \$40,500,000 for OWP, which receives funding across multiple NWS budget lines, including a \$1,000,000 increase above the enacted level within Central Processing and a \$4,500,000 increase above the enacted level within Dissemination. The Committee maintains the direction carried in previous fiscal years for NWS to continue to expedite hiring within the National Water Center [NWC] Water Prediction Operations Division and reach full oper-

ating capability no later than the end of fiscal year 2022. NOAA shall also continue to transition OWP personnel from other offices to the NWC, as deemed necessary to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with an updated staffing plan for the NWC.

The Committee also directs NWS to continue to expeditiously transition the water resources prediction capabilities developed by OWP, including flood inundation mapping products, into operations.

*Hydrology and Water Resource Programs.*—Within Science and Technology Integration [STI], the Committee provides \$20,000,000, which is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, for NWS to continue support for the Hydrology and Water Resources CI.

*Consumer Option for an Alternative System To Allocate Losses [COASTAL] Act Implementation.*—Within funding provided for STI, the Committee provides the requested amount for continued development and implementation of the COASTAL Act. The Committee supports NOAA’s work to assist homeowners impacted by destructive winds and storm surges associated with hurricanes and superstorms. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to leverage existing Federal assets, expertise, and partnerships in carrying out COASTAL Act activities.

*Oversight.*—The Act includes a \$1,500,000 transfer from NWS to the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General [OIG] for budgetary and programmatic oversight activities. The Committee directs NWS to work collaboratively with the OIG.

NOAA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$335,631,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service [NESDIS] operations. NESDIS programs operate environmental polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites and collect and archive global environmental data and information for distribution to users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science, and engineering, the general public, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

The Committee’s recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|  | Committee recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:             |                          |
| Office of Satellite and Product Operations .....       | 201,393                  |
| Product Development, Readiness and Application .....   | 41,283                   |
| Office of Space Commerce .....                         | 20,000                   |
| U.S. Group on Earth Observations .....                 | 1,000                    |
| Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems ..... | 263,631                  |

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

|  | Committee<br>recommendation |
|--|-----------------------------|
| National Centers for Environmental Information ..... | 72,000                      |
| GRAND TOTAL, NESDIS .....                            | 335,631                     |

*Office of Space Commerce [OSC].*—The Committee is extremely disappointed with NESDIS’s execution of the fiscal year 2021 funding provided to initiate a space traffic management [STM] pilot program, with seemingly little progress made in implementing the pilot. Based on this lack of progress in carrying out this Congressional priority, the Committee questions the ability of NESDIS to manage OSC over the long-term and suggests changing the management structure of OSC so that it reports directly to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. The Committee expects much more progress in fiscal year 2022 and provides \$20,000,000 for OSC, which is \$10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. Within the funding provided, the Committee directs OSC to advance STM and space situational awareness capabilities, in collaboration with industry and Federal partners. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, NESDIS shall provide the Committees with a detailed spending plan for the funding provided to OSC.

The Committee withholds 25 percent of funds provided for Executive Leadership within the Mission Support line office until NOAA submits a five-year strategic plan for OSC to achieve full operational capability, including out-year mission deliverables and expected budgetary requirements.

*NESDIS Regional Support.*—The Committee commends the progress NESDIS has made to maintain, improve, and operate the satellite observations that underlie NOAA’s forecasts and research, as well as NESDIS’s work to negotiate access to data from international partners and to ingest that data into NOAA systems. The progress to increase accessibility of NOAA’s environmental data together for all users and stakeholders, moves NESDIS closer to realizing the longstanding goal of making Earth observations universally available. As the quality, quantity, and accessibility of data increase, the Committee urges NESDIS to consider deploying more of its subject matter experts, expertise, or both, regionally to demonstrate new uses of satellite data and integrated information systems to meet local and specific needs, educating and partnering with scientists and users in the community who can use and expand the applications of the data, and learning from those community users in the process.

*National Centers for Environmental Information [NCEI].*—The Committee provides \$72,000,000 for NCEI, including not less than \$10,000,000 for Regional Climate Services, \$6,650,000 for Regional Climate Centers, and \$6,000,000 for Coastal Data Development. NOAA shall consider the Coastal Data Development program as the central repository to manage data collections from NOAA uncrewed systems to achieve the Commercial Engagement Through

Ocean Technology [CENOTE] Act (Public Law 115–394) goals by amplifying the use of data for environmental and economic innovation. Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOAA to fully support critical international partnerships, including the Global Climate Observing System.

#### NOAA MISSION SUPPORT

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$341,182,000 for NOAA’s mission support activities. These programs provide for overall NOAA management, including staffing of the Under Secretary’s office and services to NOAA field offices, as well as NOAA’s Education Office.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

#### MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|  | Committee recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mission Support Services:  |                          |
| Executive Leadership .....   | 29,500                   |
| Mission Services and Management .....  | 177,315                  |
| IT Security .....  | 16,000                   |
| Payment to DOC Working Capital Fund .....  | 67,867                   |
| Facilities Maintenance and Capital Improvements .....                                  | 12,000                   |
| Total, Mission Support Services .....  | 302,682                  |
| Office of Education:   |                          |
| NOAA Education Program Base .....  | 8,000                    |
| José E. Serrano Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions ..... | 22,000                   |
| BWET Regional Programs .....   | 8,500                    |
| Total, Office of Education .....   | 38,500                   |
| GRAND TOTAL, MISSION SUPPORT .....   | 341,182                  |

*Tribal Liaison.*—The Committee provides \$500,000 within Executive Leadership for NOAA to increase staffing to strengthen communications and outreach to Tribal governments, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

*NOAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*—The Committee applauds NOAA for taking steps to build a more diverse and inclusive workplace. The Committee supports NOAA’s requested increases within Mission Services and Management and provides not less than \$4,000,000 to accelerate NOAA’s Diversity and Inclusion Plan, to expand NOAA’s recruiting program, and for equity assessment and implementation support in compliance with Executive Order 13985.

*Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment.*—The Committee commends the agency for its efforts to provide employees a workplace free from sexual assault and sexual harassment, including issuance of NOAA Administrative Order [NAO] 202–1106 and creation of the Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Program. The Committee directs NOAA to continue implementing NAO 202–1106 and expanding services and within Mission Services and Management provides \$900,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for these purposes. NOAA shall continue to provide the Committee

with a copy of the report required under section 12.02 of NAO 202–1106.

*Mission Services and Management Programmatic Increases.*—The Committee supports the following programmatic increases within Mission Services and Management as detailed in the budget request: Acquisition and Grants Office, Facility Program Capacity, Budget Position Management System, Finance Transaction Processing, and Spectrum and expects these initiatives to be supported within the funding provided to Mission Support. The Committee directs Mission Support to identify amounts for each of these initiatives as part of the agency’s 2022 spending plan.

*Technical Transfer.*—The Committee accepts the proposed transfer from the DOC Working Capital Fund to Mission Services and Management.

*Facilities Maintenance and Improvements.*—The Committee provides \$12,000,000 for Facilities Maintenance and Capital Improvements to address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs at NOAA facilities. Before any of these funds may be obligated, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan that explains what projects will be supported with the provided funding, as well as a prioritized list of the backlog of needed facilities repair, improvement, and maintenance projects. Within the funding provided, NOAA shall begin the business case analysis for a new center of excellence, as requested.

*Cooperative Science Center for Ocean Education.*—The Committee supports this important effort to conduct research, build institutional capacity, and increase the number of graduate students, particularly from underrepresented communities, to help prepare a future workforce to support NOAA’s scientific mission.

*Providing Opportunities within the Ocean Sciences.*—As part of the administration’s emphasis on increasing diversity in STEM, the Committee encourages NOAA to partner with an established consortium of higher education, industry, and non-profit organizations to offer access to a research vessel and to associated programming dedicated to increasing opportunities for underrepresented groups within the ocean sciences.

*National Ocean Sciences Bowl [NOSB].*—In celebration of its 25th year of existence, and to maximize chances for an in person national finals competition experience for diverse participants from across the country, NOAA is encouraged to continue its support of the NOSB by fully funding NOAA’s contributions to NOSB in fiscal year 2022, in partnership with other agencies and non-Federal entities.

#### NOAA OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$291,478,000 for NOAA’s marine and aviation operations. The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations [OMAO] provides aircraft and marine data acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the existing fleet; planning of future modernization; and technical and management support for NOAA-wide activities through the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

## OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

|   | Committee recommendation |
|---|--------------------------|
| Marine Operations and Maintenance .....         | 182,405                  |
| Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services ..... | 38,700                   |
| Autonomous Unmanned Technology Operations ..... | 18,000                   |
| NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps .....           | 52,373                   |
| GRAND TOTAL, OMAO .....                         | 291,478                  |

*Office of Health Services.*—The Committee provides the requested increase for the Office of Health Services and commends the Office for its work to keep NOAA operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Charter Vessels.*—The Committee has closely followed and consistently supported NOAA’s plan to recapitalize its vessel fleet. However, the Committee is increasingly concerned about the growing backlog of unfulfilled responsibilities in NOAA’s charting and survey mission, particularly with respect to Arctic waters. For this reason, the Committee encourages NOAA to enter into charter agreements for the services of not less than two private sector vessels to supplement its charting and survey efforts.

*Aviation Accession Training.*—The Committee provides no less than \$2,000,000 within Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services to support OMAO’s aviation accession training program, as authorized in section 105 of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-259).

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

*Airborne Phased Array Radar [APAR].*—The Committee directs OMAO, in coordination with OAR, NWS, and external partners, to develop and submit to the Committee, within 90 days of enactment of this act, a complete research-to-operations transition plan for APAR, in accordance with the requirements for agency transition plans set forth under NAO 216-105B, section 3.06.

*Autonomous and Uncrewed Technology Operations [AUTO].*—The Committee provides \$18,000,000 for AUTO, which is an increase of \$4,335,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level.

Within the funds provided, no less than \$8,500,000, an increase of \$3,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level, shall be used to support extramural partnerships with universities and oceanographic institutions for uncrewed maritime systems [UMS] research, development, testing, and training, including research to improve precise marine navigation and coastal resilience through improvements to uncrewed platforms. Further, the Committee provides up to \$3,500,000 to continue funding agency-wide data acquisition from UMS, as defined within Public Law 115-394, as well as for acquisition of UMSs that can serve as a cost-effective augmentation for relevant research missions and fisheries data collection surveys.

Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOAA to continue to use partnerships with universities, oceanographic institutions, and other Federal agencies, especially the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, to leverage UMS assets and facilities to support program development. The Committee also encourages OMAO to coordinate with IOOS regarding use of underwater gliders when implementing the NOAA Unmanned Systems Strategy.

#### NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Committee's recommendation provides \$64,034,000 for NOAA Special Projects as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NOAA to provide the amounts listed in the table and NOAA shall perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

#### NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS

| Recipient   | Project Purpose   | Recommended (\$) |
|---|---|------------------|
| Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Survey. | Coastal and Nearshore Mapping of Alaska .....   | 5,000,000        |
| Alaska Research Consortium .....                    | Seafood Processors Refrigeration Certificate Training Program ...   | 987,000          |
| AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles ...              | Blue Economy STEM Education Program .....   | 600,000          |
| Audubon Nature Institute .....                      | Emergency Response Communications Equipment .....   | 435,000          |
| Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.              | Ocean Science STEM Educational Workshops .....  | 89,000           |
| Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).    | Chicago Urban Flood Susceptibility Project .....  | 175,000          |
| City of Milwaukee .....                             | Kellogg Dam Channel Study .....   | 585,000          |
| Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.        | Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction Program Upgrade and Expansion.  | 760,000          |
| County of Midland .....                             | Tittabawassee River Watershed Data Collection and Resiliency Planning.  | 400,000          |
| Department of Land and Natural Resources.           | Coastal Restoration and Stewardship .....   | 2,100,000        |
| Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. | Makai Island Neighbor-Watch Pilot Program .....   | 190,000          |
| Georgia Institute of Technology .....               | Coastal Infrastructure and Resilience Research Initiative .....   | 5,000,000        |
| Greater Farallones Association .....                | Ocean Ecosystem Restoration Project .....   | 2,000,000        |
| Gulf of Maine Research Institute .....              | Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Climate Center Project .....   | 650,000          |
| High Technology Foundation .....                    | I-79 Technology Corridor Consortium .....   | 2,000,000        |
| Kako'o 'Oiwai .....                                 | He'eia Restoration .....  | 1,500,000        |
| Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo .....                           | Restorative Aquaculture for Stock Enhancement .....   | 141,000          |
| Lake Champlain Basin Program .....                  | Lake Champlain Monitoring Observatory .....   | 750,000          |
| Maine Department of Marine Resources.               | Maine Lobster Industry Planning .....   | 765,000          |
| McKenzie River Trust .....                          | Finn Rock Floodplain Habitat Restoration Project .....  | 1,699,000        |
| Monmouth University .....                           | Monmouth University Coastal Resilience Planning .....   | 460,000          |
| Montclair State University .....                    | Traveling HAB Laboratory Education Program .....  | 400,000          |
| Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management.         | Great Bay Estuary Restoration Plan .....  | 1,000,000        |
| NCCOS Cooperative Oxford Laboratory                 | Bay and Ocean Research Initiative .....   | 120,000          |
| New England Aquarium .....                          | New England Aquarium Ocean Research Programs .....  | 1,000,000        |
| New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.             | Improving Protections for Endangered North Atlantic Right Whales and Mitigating Regulatory Impacts on U.S. Fisheries. | 50,000           |
| New Mexico State University .....                   | ZiaMet MesoNet Weather Monitoring Network Expansion .....   | 1,821,000        |
| NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.         | Mallows Bay Virtual Paddle Experience Development .....   | 95,000           |
| Northwest Straits Commission .....                  | Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative .....  | 3,000,000        |
| NYC Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency.           | Integrated Modeling of Compound Flood Risks Initiative .....  | 150,000          |
| Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.         | Expand Adoption of Electronic Monitoring in Alaska Fisheries ....   | 2,000,000        |

## NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS—Continued

| Recipient  | Project Purpose  | Recommended (\$) |
|--|--|------------------|
| Purple Mai'a Foundation .....                        | Native Hawaiian Fishpond Coastal Monitoring and Outreach .....                                   | 445,000          |
| Roger Williams University .....                      | Development for Equitable Growth of Shellfish Aquaculture Industry in Rhode Island.              | 1,600,000        |
| Save the Bay .....                                   | Watershed Education Program Initiative .....   | 300,000          |
| Scripps Institution of Oceanography .....            | Southern California DDT ocean dumpsite characterization, monitoring, and research pilot project. | 5,600,000        |
| State of Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources.       | Hawaiian Coral Ark Facility Support .....  | 286,000          |
| Stockton University .....                            | Stockton University, Coastal Resiliency Equipment, Education, and Outreach.                      | 500,000          |
| The Desert Research Institute .....                  | Climate Research Initiative .....  | 2,000,000        |
| The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk ..                  | Removal of Derelict Lobster Pots .....   | 569,000          |
| The National Aquarium, Inc .....                     | National Aquarium STEM Education Initiative .....  | 332,000          |
| The Nature Conservancy .....                         | Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration Initiative .....  | 150,000          |
| The Ocean Foundation .....                           | Oregon Kelp Forest Survey .....  | 945,000          |
| The University of Mississippi .....                  | Infra-sonic Weather Monitoring Research to Improve Detection of Violent Weather.                 | 2,000,000        |
| Tillamook County .....                               | Tillamook County Fish Passage Restoration .....  | 2,500,000        |
| University at Albany—SUNY .....                      | Vertical Sensing Evaluation Initiative .....   | 900,000          |
| University of Delaware/Delaware State University.    | Sustainable Energy Research .....  | 1,290,000        |
| University of Hawaii .....                           | Pu'uloa Shoreline Biocultural Restoration .....  | 445,000          |
| University of Maine .....                            | Support for Local and Regional Seafood Systems .....   | 2,000,000        |
| University of Rhode Island .....                     | On-water Research Facility Initiative .....  | 250,000          |
| University of Rhode Island .....                     | Plastics Pollution Research Initiative .....   | 1,000,000        |
| University of Rhode Island .....                     | Sustainable Seafood Research Collaborative .....   | 1,000,000        |
| University of Vermont .....                          | University of Vermont, Land Cover Observatory .....  | 2,000,000        |
| University of Wisconsin-Madison .....                | Scanning High-resolution Interferometer Sounder (S-HIS) Next Generation (NG).                    | 1,200,000        |
| Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. | Improving Summer Flounder Fisheries Management in a Changing Ocean.                              | 300,000          |
| Worcester State University .....                     | Diversity and Inclusion in STEM Initiative .....   | 500,000          |

## NOAA PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$1,532,558,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 2,226,982,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 1,776,718,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,776,718,000 for NOAA's Procurement, Acquisition and Construction [PAC]. The recommendation is \$244,160,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$450,264,000 below the budget request.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

## PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

[In thousands of dollars]

|  | Committee recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| National Ocean Service:                                |                          |
| National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction ..... | 6,500                    |
| Marine Sanctuaries Construction .....                  | 5,500                    |
| Total, NOS-PAC .....                                   | 12,000                   |
| Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:            |                          |
| Research Supercomputing/CCRI .....                     | 50,000                   |

## PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

|   | Committee<br>recommendation |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Total, OAR–PAC .....  | 50,000                      |
| National Weather Service:                                       |                             |
| Observations .....  | 23,229                      |
| Central Processing .....  | 68,000                      |
| Dissemination .....   | 10,000                      |
| Facilities Construction and Major Repairs .....                 | 14,000                      |
| Total, NWS–PAC .....  | 115,229                     |
| National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service: |                             |
| Geostationary Systems—R .....                                   | 335,500                     |
| Polar Weather Satellites .....                                  | 405,000                     |
| Space Weather Follow On .....                                   | 146,900                     |
| Geostationary Earth Orbit .....                                 | 190,000                     |
| Low Earth Orbit .....   | 79,400                      |
| Space Weather Next .....  | 55,000                      |
| Common Ground Services .....                                    | 64,294                      |
| Projects, Planning, and Analysis .....                          | 15,945                      |
| Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering .....             | 78,500                      |
| Satellite CDA Facility .....                                    | 2,450                       |
| Total, NESDIS–PAC .....   | 1,372,989                   |
| Mission Support:  |                             |
| NOAA Construction .....   | 65,000                      |
| Total, Mission Support–PAC .....                                | 65,000                      |
| Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:                       |                             |
| Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion .....        | 27,500                      |
| Vessel Recapitalization and Construction .....                  | 113,000                     |
| Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction .....                | 37,000                      |
| Total, OMAO–PAC .....   | 177,500                     |
| Unobligated balances from prior years .....                     | – 16,000                    |
| GRAND TOTAL, PAC .....  | 1,776,718                   |

*Judgment Fund Repayment.*—The agreement does not provide funding for NOAA to make payments to the Department of the Treasury Judgment Fund.

*National Marine Sanctuaries Construction.*—The Committee provides \$5,500,000 for PAC needs throughout the sanctuaries system. Within funding provided, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize recapitalization of National Marine Sanctuaries vessels.

*High Performance Computing.*—The Committee recognizes NOAA's high performance computing needs and its current limitations on providing high fidelity results in near real-time and provides \$6,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. Within funding provided for Research Supercomputing/CCRI, \$15,000,000 shall be used to continue to develop a dedicated high performance computing facility in collaboration with partners that have existing high performance computing expertise and scientific synergies.

*Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Array.*—The Committee provides not less than a \$7,000,000 increase to recapitalize the TAO array.

*Integrated Water Prediction [IWP].*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Central Processing under NWS PAC, which includes not less than \$5,739,000 to procure operational high performance computing resources to enable modeling improvements associated with the IWP initiative.

*Weather Radar Maintenance.*—Within funding provided for NWS Facilities Construction and Major Repairs, the Committee provides not less than \$5,500,000 to support relocation and recapitalization of existing Doppler weather radars operated by NWS.

*NESDIS Budget Reorganization.*—The Committee partially rejects the administration’s proposal to reorganize the NESDIS PAC budget structure to combine funding for next-generation satellite programs with current, ongoing programs of record that have codified life cycle costs in this act. No amount of assurances regarding additional transparency or oversight can substitute for the transparency that is provided by having discrete PPA’s for each ongoing program of record. Further, the Committee is not compelled to make budget structure changes because of burdensome internal bureaucratic processes that make requesting reprogrammings difficult.

That said, the Committee has created a new Low Earth Orbit [LEO] PPA and a new Space Weather Next [SWNEXT] PPA that are intended to complement the current, ongoing programs of record (i.e., Polar Weather Satellites and Space Weather Follow On, respectively) and fund activities to support continuity of observations from LEO and those observations that support NOAA’s space weather forecast operations. The Committee has also accepted the proposal to create a Common Ground Services PPA, formerly known as Satellite Ground Services.

Within LEO the Committee provides \$79,400,000, which includes the requested amounts for Cooperative Data and Rescue Services, COSMIC-2/GNSS RO, and extension of the Polar Operational Environmental Satellites.

*Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering [SAE].*—The Committee provides \$25,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for Joint Venture Partnerships with NASA and the commercial sector to continue to leverage emerging capabilities for NOAA’s operational use.

The Committee also provides \$15,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level for the commercial data purchase and commercial weather data pilot programs, which is to be divided between the two programs as deemed appropriate. Within funding provided, NOAA is encouraged to establish a pilot program to procure space weather observations consistent with the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow [PROSWIFT] Act (Public Law 116–181).

*NOAA Satellite Reporting.*—The Committee directs NOAA to provide quarterly programmatic and procurement status reports of all satellites actively orbiting, in space but in standby mode, and under development, unless any reprogramming, system failure, construction delay, or other extraordinary circumstance warrants an immediate update. As part of the agency’s quarterly satellite briefing, NOAA shall include updates on preparations and enhancements necessary to accommodate an increased volume of satellite

data and shall compare initial cost estimates to actual expenditures.

*Facilities Maintenance.*—The Committee provides \$65,000,000 for NOAA’s highest priority facilities repair and deferred maintenance requirements. Thirty days before obligating any funds, NOAA shall submit a report detailing how the funds will be expended and an explanation of why these projects were prioritized. The Committee directs NOAA to prioritize funding for infrastructure projects related to marine operations, including facilities to accommodate NOAA research vessels. NOAA is also directed to immediately inform the Committee if there are any significant schedule delays or project cost increases.

The Committee is concerned that several NMFS laboratories will soon be unable to perform basic scientific functions, given the significant age of infrastructure, state of disrepair, and changing physical environment in which they are located. The Committee therefore encourages NOAA to accelerate the competitive solicitation process for proposals from academic, university, and nonprofit partners to co-locate NMFS laboratories, as a means of leveraging research efforts and enhancing scientific capabilities.

*Uncrewed Technology Acquisitions.*—The Committee provides \$2,500,000 for the Uncrewed Systems Operations Center to procure uncrewed marine surface systems, as requested in the budget.

*Vessel Recapitalization and Construction.*—The Committee provides \$113,000,000 in Vessel Recapitalization and Construction, which includes \$63,000,000, as requested, to commence the mid-life repair period for the NOAA research vessel Ronald H. Brown.

*Aircraft Recapitalization.*—The Committee provides \$37,000,000 for Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction, which includes \$15,000,000 to complete NOAA’s effort to replace its current high altitude jet, \$5,000,000 to begin Service Depot Level Maintenance for NOAA’s two P-3 Hurricane Hunter aircraft, and funding to procure one new King Air aircraft as called for in the NOAA Aircraft Plan, delivered to Congress in October 2019. The Committee is committed to funding the NOAA Aircraft Plan as received by Congress and will only consider additional investments should an updated plan be received. All future NOAA Aircraft Plans shall include a procurement plan for each identified aircraft, to include a current best estimate of the cost to procure such aircraft.

*Mission Requirement Costs.*—NOAA is directed to document within all of its future budget requests any unfunded mission requirement costs, and particularly those that are necessary to maintain the optimal operational tempo of NOAA assets and posture of NOAA facilities.

*Oversight.*—The Committee provides a \$3,000,000 transfer to the OIG for oversight and audits of major procurements, including weather satellites and research vessels.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$65,000,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 65,000,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 65,000,000   |

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$65,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund [PCSRF]. The recommenda-

tion is equal to both the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and the budget estimate. Funds are for conservation and restoration of Pacific salmon populations. State and local recipients of this funding will provide matching contributions of at least 33 percent of Federal funds. In addition, funds will be available to Tribes without a matching requirement.

NOAA is directed to report on how its current priorities meet the intent of the PCSRF to support the recovery and protection of all declining salmon stocks.

#### FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$349,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 349,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 349,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and the budget request.

#### FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | -\$7,600,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | -18,000,000  |
| Committee recommendation ..... | -17,652,000  |

The Committee recommends that direct loans administered through this account for individual fishing quotas may not exceed \$24,000,000. Traditional direct loans may not exceed \$100,000,000, which is the same as the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and the budget request, despite scoring differences. The Committee encourages NOAA to facilitate new vessel construction, vessel replacement, and upgrades within the Fisheries Finance Program to the greatest extent practicable.

### OTHER

#### DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$73,000,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 91,746,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 87,500,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$87,500,000 for Departmental Management [DM], Salaries and Expenses. The recommendation is \$14,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$4,246,000 below the budget request. The increased funding provided for DM shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, the requested fiscal year 2022 program increases, and the activities that were proposed to be transferred from the DOC Working Capital Fund to DM. The funding also fully covers the costs of the Office of Native American Business Development, which moved from MBDA to the Office of Secretary in accordance with the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-261). Further, the Committee accepts the proposed fiscal year 2022 program decrease within DM.

Within Departmental Management, the Salaries and Expenses account provides funding for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and

support staff. Responsibilities involve policy development and implementation affecting U.S. and international activities, as well as establishing internal goals for operations of the Department.

*Staffing Levels.*—The Committee commends the Department for making real progress towards addressing deficient staffing levels and slow hiring rates, which for years have encumbered agency performance. The Committee believes that these issues still require the continued attention of the leadership of the Department and a shared commitment with the bureaus. Therefore, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on all DOC human capital issues.

*Spending Plans.*—Under section 528 of this act, the Department is required to submit a spending plan within 45 days of the enactment of this act. That plan should describe the programs, projects, and activities of the Department so that the Committee receives detailed descriptions of how the Department intends to operationalize the funding provided in annual appropriations bills. The Committee expects to receive a detailed accounting of each bureau's spending, including mandatory, reimbursable, fee-funded, or working capital fund spending, particularly with regard to specific programs, projects, and activities described in the bill and accompanying explanatory statement. The Department shall continue to work with the Committee to ensure that its spending plans provide adequate information for continued oversight of the Department.

*Salary Lapse.*—The Committee directs DOC to provide a detailed accounting, as part of the fiscal year 2022 spending plans, identifying the amount of expected salary lapse in fiscal year 2022 and an explanation of how all accrued salary lapse will be spent for all DOC bureaus and NOAA line offices that have a greater than 10 percent vacancy rate, as of September 30, 2021. Any of the identified amounts that cannot be justified as either augmenting staffing vacancies or supporting mission critical functions will be considered for rescission in fiscal year 2023.

*Section 232 Exclusion Process.*—The Committee continues to provide funding for the ongoing exclusion process for steel and aluminum tariffs applied under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-794), including no less than \$7,000,000 within BIS and \$1,500,000 within DM to augment the \$8,000,000 provided within ITA.

*Working Capital Funds.*—For each of the three working capital funds within DOC, the following is to be provided to the Committee and the OIG by November 30 of each year: (1) a comparison of the final budget or spending plan at the project or activity level to the actual year-end data as of September 30 of the prior fiscal year, including detailed narratives for variances greater than 5 percent at the project or activity level; (2) the initial budget or spending plan by project or activity for the current fiscal year; and (3) a detailed schedule of fiscal year-end unobligated and carryover balances by source funding category and by expiring budget fiscal year, to include: direct authority, Federal and intragovernmental reimbursable authority by trading partner, non-Federal reimbursable authority, amounts held for future asset replacement, and other categories.

*Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund.*—As part of the fiscal year 2023 budget request, the Department is directed to provide justification that clearly articulates why each Advancements and Reimbursements account and Working Capital Fund project administered by the Office of Acquisition Management, Office of Budget, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, and Chief of Staff should continue to be funded through the Working Capital Fund.

*Small Business Innovation Research.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR] program and its previous accomplishments in facilitating commercial successes from federally-funded research and development projects. The SBIR program encourages small domestic businesses to engage in Federal research and development and creates jobs in the smallest firms. The Committee therefore directs the DOC to place an increased focus on awarding SBIR grants to firms with fewer than 50 people.

*Improving Trade Data Reporting.*—The Committee directs the Department, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. International Trade Commission, and other relevant agencies, to review and compare methodologies for collecting and publishing gross trade flows data and detailed supply chain data to better document the country of origin for components of each imported good before it reaches U.S. consumers.

#### RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$1,123,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 1,100,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 1,100,000   |

The Committee recommendation provides \$1,100,000, which is \$23,000 below the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and equal to the budget request, for continuing renovation activities at the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

*Herbert C. Hoover Building [HCHB] Renovation.*—In fiscal year 2018, the Committee provided DOC with the full amount required for the fifth phase of the HCHB renovation. However, those funds still remain unobligated while work on phase five has yet to begin, even though phase four of the renovation is completed. In order to avoid any further delays, the Committee directs the Department to immediately commence work on phase five of the HCHB renovation, focusing on the Secretary of Commerce's office and the HCHB cafeteria facilities.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$20,000,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 126,900,000  |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 53,500,000   |

The Committee recommendation provides \$53,500,000, which is \$33,500,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$73,400,000 below the budget request. Within the funding provided, \$20,000,000 shall be used to continue phase one of the financial management and business information technology modernization, and \$33,500,000 shall be used for cybersecurity risk mitigation. The Committee directs the Department to provide an updated

out-year budget profile for both of these initiatives as part of the fiscal year 2023 budget request.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations, 2021 .....     | \$34,000,000 |
| Budget estimate, 2022 .....    | 37,087,000   |
| Committee recommendation ..... | 37,000,000   |

The Committee's recommendation provides \$37,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$87,000 below the budget request.

In addition to funds provided under this heading, the Committee recommends transfers to the OIG as follows: \$2,000,000 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; \$4,500,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; \$3,556,000 from the Census Bureau for oversight and audits of those activities; and \$2,000,000 to be derived from the Public Safety Trust Fund for Oversight of FirstNet. The Committee directs the OIG to continue to perform strict oversight activities for NOAA satellite procurements, cybersecurity, the decennial census, and the business application system modernization.

*NOAA Oversight.*—The Committee provides an additional \$2,500,000 transfer from NOAA to the OIG above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level. This includes \$1,500,000 from NOAA ORF for oversight and audits of NWS staffing, dissemination, procurements, and budgetary execution, as well as \$1,000,000 from NOAA PAC for oversight and audits of NOAA's vessel recapitalization activities.

*Working Capital Fund Audits.*—The Committee continues to direct the OIG to audit all of the working capital funds within the Department to evaluate the Department's budgetary controls over all funds. The OIG shall assess: the controls in place to develop reimbursement formulas; the relationship of reimbursements to client services; the appropriateness of the level of fund balances; and compliance with appropriations law and direction. As part of this assessment, the Inspector General shall pay particular attention to the increasing amounts of funding needed to support the Department's Office of General Counsel [OGC], including the justification and metrics for how such funding is being levied against each agency and, reciprocally, how the agencies account for the services they receive from the OGC. If at any point during these audits the OIG encounters problems with accessing any necessary information or data from the Department, the OIG is directed to notify the Committee immediately.

*Audits and Investigations.*—The Committee believes that robust investigations and audits are essential to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, but that limiting inquiries only to individuals in the Department does not necessarily lead to comprehensive findings and recommendations. The Committee directs the OIG to modify its policies and procedures to ensure that investigations or reports include interviews with all parties to the project or program in question, including, but not limited to, contractors responsible for projects under review. The Committee cautions the OIG against issuing preliminary findings prior to interviewing a majority of the

entities involved with the program or project under investigation, unless the OIG believes the findings are time sensitive or additional interviews are immaterial.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Section 101 makes Department funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for salaries and expenses available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms, and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department accounts. The provision makes transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures and requires notification to the Committee prior to capital asset disposal.

Section 104 extends congressional notification requirements and codifies the life cycle costs for NOAA satellite programs.

Section 105 provides authority for the Secretary to furnish certain services within the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides NOAA the authority to share resources with entities outside the agency.

Section 108 requires that, before charging for congressional reports, the National Technical Information Service [NTIS] advise the public of free ways to receive or access these reports. For those reports that cannot be found free of charge or when a customer requires a mailed, hard copy, NTIS may only charge a de minimis copying and mailing fee.

Section 109 allows NOAA to be reimbursed by Federal and non-Federal entities for performing certain activities. The Committee remains concerned that agreements for offsetting collections provided for under this section could result in a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, for the Department. The Department is directed to exercise caution and consider any unintended consequences that could result from such agreements including, but not limited to, augmentation of appropriations, initiation of new programs not authorized by this act or any other act of Congress, and liabilities extending beyond the period of any such agreement. The Department shall provide to the Committee monthly updates on all offsetting fee collections, including each entity participating in the agreement, as well as the terms of and specific activities funded by the agreement. Additionally, estimates of anticipated fee collections shall be included in the Department's annual spend plans. To further ensure the Committee maintains sufficient oversight for activities carried out under this section, language is included specifying that any offsetting collection would require the consent of each party subject to the agreement and all offsetting collections shall be subject to procedures set forth by section 505 of this act.

Section 110 provides authority for the programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census to enter into cooperative agreements in order to assist in improving statistical methodology and research.

Section 111 removes the requirement for matching funds for amounts provided in this act through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Section 112 allows the Secretary of Commerce to waive the cost sharing requirements for funds provided in this act under sections 306, 306A, and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-583).