



May 13, 2024

# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) FY2025 Budget Request and Appropriations

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an agency in the Department of Commerce whose mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; share that information; and conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. NOAA’s work is divided among six line offices: National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS); National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); National Ocean Service (NOS); National Weather Service (NWS); Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR); and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO). NOAA’s Mission Support provides planning, leadership, finances, information technology, educational programming, and other support across the line offices.

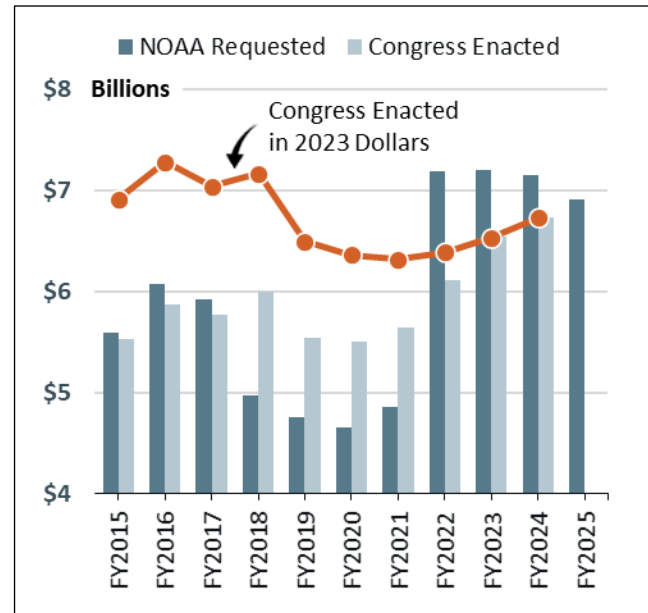
Congress has provided NOAA with annual mandatory and discretionary appropriations. Mandatory appropriations, which generally comprise a small percentage of total NOAA funding, are disbursed to various accounts that support programs in NOS, NMFS, and OMAO. NOAA’s discretionary appropriations typically are included in the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations act. Discretionary appropriations support two broad accounts—Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) and Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC)—as well as a few smaller accounts. This product focuses on the Administration’s request for NOAA’s FY2025 discretionary funding for ORF and PAC. It describes some of NOAA’s proposed changes in the FY2025 budget request, including to NOAA’s NESDIS, NOS, and OAR line office activities.

## Agency Funding

NOAA requested over \$6.9 billion in discretionary *direct obligations* for ORF and PAC for FY2025, including almost \$6.5 billion in appropriations (**Figure 1**). NOAA requested a total of \$7.1 billion in direct obligations for all accounts. Direct obligations include annual appropriations, transfers, and recoveries from prior year obligations. The request is \$129.0 million above the FY2025 base level and \$175.1 million over the FY2024 enacted amount. NOAA calculated the FY2025 base level as equal to the FY2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution (P.L. 118-40) amount plus expected “Adjustments-To-Base,” such as certain inflationary adjustments. Proposed changes to the base level reflect Administration priorities. For FY2024, Congress provided \$6.7 billion in annual ORF and PAC discretionary direct obligations (**Figure 1**). Congress also has provided NOAA with supplemental appropriations available to the agency in FY2025; these are described in the following section.

**Figure 1. ORF and PAC Annual Direct Obligations, FY2015-FY2025**

(\$ in billions, nominal and adjusted)



**Sources:** CRS, from NOAA budget justifications, congressional explanatory statements, and Office of Management and Budget, *Historical Tables*, Table 10.1.

**Notes:** See text for abbreviations. Figure does not include supplemental appropriations. Direct obligations include appropriations, transfers, and recoveries from prior year obligations.

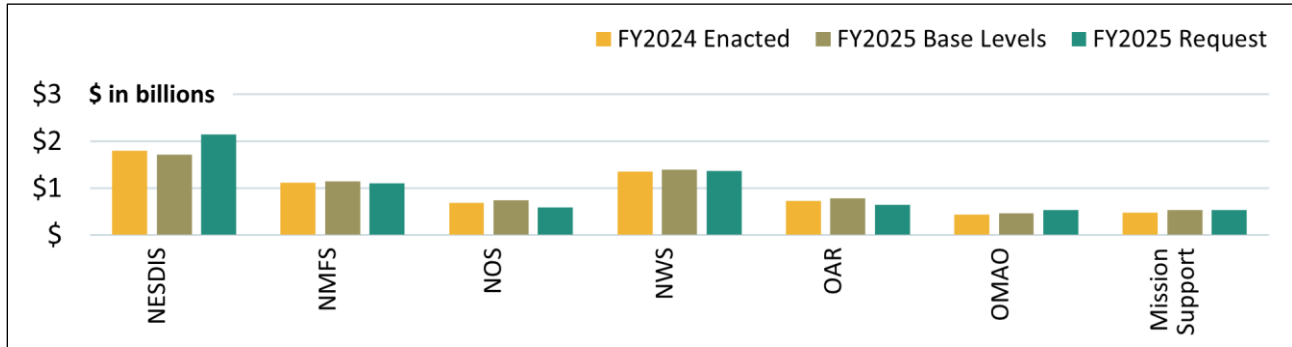
## Supplemental Appropriations Available in FY2025

Congress provided supplemental appropriations to NOAA for ORF and PAC that are available in FY2025. According to NOAA, the following amounts are available in FY2025:

- \$515.6 million for restoration, observation, modeling, forecasting activities, and other purposes (provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [IIJA]; P.L. 117-58);
- \$330.0 million for conservation, restoration, protection, construction, reviews, research and forecasting, computing, aircraft acquisition, and other purposes (provided under P.L. 117-169, known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 [IRA]); and
- \$34.0 million for fishing gear and techniques, aircraft acquisition, and other uses (provided under P.L. 117-328).

**Figure 2. NOAA Annual ORF and PAC Discretionary Direct Obligations** (\$ in billions, nominal)

Figure is interactive in the HTML version of this In Focus



**Source:** CRS using NOAA, *Budget Estimates Fiscal Year 2025*, Congressional Submission and explanatory statement accompanying P.L. 118-42.

**Notes:** See text for abbreviations. NOAA released its FY2025 budget request prior to final enactment of FY2024 funding levels. NOAA calculated the FY2025 base level as equal to the FY2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution (P.L. 118-40) amount plus expected “Adjustments-To-Base,” such as certain inflationary adjustments.

Total Direct Obligations, or total program or funding levels, include annual appropriations, transfers, and recoveries from prior year obligations but exclude any supplemental appropriations

### Issues for Congress

NOAA requested changes across the agency for FY2025, with the largest funding changes in the NESDIS, OAR, and NOS line offices (**Figure 2**) in comparison to the FY2024 enacted level and FY2025 base level. NOAA requested smaller changes for the other line offices, including decreases for NMFS and increases for NWS, OMAO, and Mission Support.

#### NESDIS Changes

NOAA requested \$2.1 billion for NESDIS in FY2025, \$341.3 million above the FY2024 enacted amount and \$423.4 million above the FY2025 base level. The request includes increases from the FY2025 base level for the Polar Weather Satellites (PWS), which provide global meteorological observations for short- and midterm forecasts and weather warnings, and Geostationary Earth Observations (GEO), which provide space-based environmental monitoring. NOAA requested \$342.4 million for FY2025 (\$342.4 million FY2024 enacted; \$183.5 million FY2025 base level) for PWS and \$798.4 million (\$285.0 million FY2024 enacted; \$285.0 million FY2025 base level) for GEO programs.

#### NOS Changes

NOAA requested \$590.7 million for NOS in FY2025, \$93.3 million below the FY2024 enacted amount and \$148.8 million below the FY2025 base level. Broadly, NOAA’s proposed changes would decrease or terminate funding for nonfederal grants and cooperative agreements. The largest changes would include terminating Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CPF/CDS; \$54.6 million FY2024 enacted; \$37.7 million FY2025 base level) and base funding for the National Coastal Resilience Fund (\$32.0 million FY2024 enacted; \$34.0 million FY2025 base level) and decreasing funding for Integrated

Ocean Observing System regional observations by \$32.5 million (\$42.5 million FY2024 enacted; \$42.5 million FY2025 base level) and NOS competitive research grants by \$17.5 million (\$20.0 million FY2024 enacted; \$22.5 million FY2025 base level). NOAA requested some of the changes to support “other NOAA and Administration priorities.” NOAA plans to use funds from IIJA and IRA for some of the NOS activities (e.g., \$232.5 million of IIJA funds are provided for NOS in FY2025).

#### OAR Changes

NOAA requested \$645.7 million for OAR in FY2025, \$80.3 million below the FY2024 enacted amount and \$142.5 million below the FY2025 base level. Broadly, NOAA’s proposed changes would decrease or terminate funding for nonfederal grants and cooperative agreements. The largest proposed changes would terminate funding for CPF/CDS (\$19.2 million FY2024 enacted; \$20.8 million FY2025 base level) and the acquisition of phased array radar (acquired via FY2023-FY2024 funds). NOAA also requested to decrease or terminate funding for several nonfederal grant programs, including decreasing ocean exploration and research by \$21 million (\$46.0 million FY2024 enacted; \$46.4 million FY2025 base level) and terminating Sea Grant aquaculture research (\$14.0 million FY2024 enacted; \$14.0 million FY2025 base level). According to NOAA, some of the changes are to support “other NOAA and Administration priorities.” NOAA plans to use funds from IIJA and IRA to fund some of the OAR activities (e.g., \$36.6 million of IIJA funds are provided for OAR in FY2025).

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