



# NOAA FISHERIES

Office of  
Habitat  
Conservation

## FY2017 President's Budget Highlights

### Habitat Conservation and Restoration

NOAA Fisheries requests \$58.4 million for Habitat Conservation and Restoration in FY2017.

This request would provide \$31.8 million to protect healthy habitats from loss and degradation by:

- Conducting thousands of consultations each year with federal agencies whose proposed actions may affect essential fish habitat.
- Requiring fish passage at hydropower dams licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Identifying and mapping locations of deep-sea coral through the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program.

This request would provide \$21.1 million to restore coastal habitat by:

- Restoring habitats that have been negatively impacted by oil spills and hazardous substance releases through the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program. The NOAA Restoration Center leads the restoration planning and implementation for these disasters (most notably the Deepwater Horizon oil spill).
- Providing technical and financial assistance through the Community-based Restoration Program for the implementation of community-driven habitat restoration. Selected projects leverage substantial investments from partners.

This request would provide \$5.5 million to coordinate NOAA programs and activities in the Chesapeake Bay by:

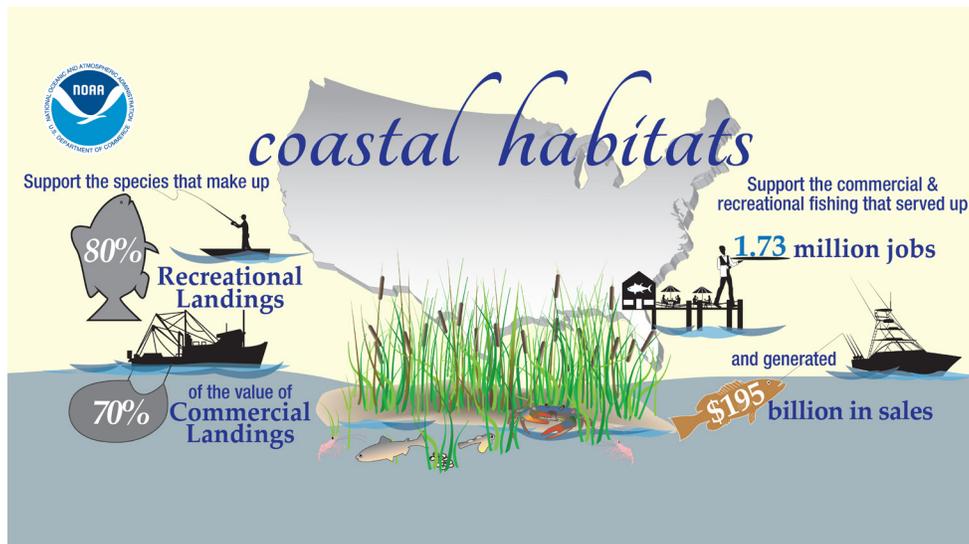
- Supporting targeted restoration, protection, and monitoring of vital habitats and fishery resources.
- Synthesizing and delivering scientific data to support management of oysters, blue crab, striped bass, and other ecologically and commercially important species.
- Operating and maintaining the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) and delivering information about the Bay to the public.

This request would also support the NOAA Habitat Blueprint, which works to increase the effectiveness of NOAA's habitat conservation efforts for the benefit of fisheries, coastal and marine life, and the coastal communities and economies they support. The Blueprint principles emphasize strengthening internal and external partnerships, implementing actions in an ecosystem context, and focusing work where it can have the greatest impact. In ten Habitat Focus Areas across the country, we are bringing together a wide variety of partners to leverage resources and make measurable progress toward habitat-related objectives.

## Budget Increase For Habitat Conservation

### Increase Consultation and Essential Fish Habitat Implementation Capacity

NOAA is requesting an increase of \$6.5 million to build capacity for Essential Fish Habitat consultations and bolster habitat conservation support in the fishery management council process. This would address growing permitting needs due to Gulf of Mexico restoration, infrastructure development projects, and other activities. At current staffing levels, NOAA cannot address the existing consultation demands, impacting our ability to protect habitats needed to support commercial and recreational fishing. This request is part of a NOAA initiative to expedite review and permitting of development projects that benefit the economy and create new jobs.



## Other Budget Increases Supporting Habitat Conservation

### Consolidate and Increase Funding for Regional Coastal Resilience Grants (NOS)

NOAA is requesting an increase of \$15 million, for a total of \$20 million, under the Coastal Management Grants line to support activities that benefit both coastal ecosystems and economies. This would consolidate all coastal resilience funding under NOS. NMFS and NOS will coordinate execution of the consolidated resilience grant funding in a complementary manner to provide coastal communities with technical and financial support.

### Establish Ecosystem-based Solutions for Fisheries Management (NMFS)

NOAA is requesting an increase of \$5.9 million to expand understanding of the value of inshore habitat. Coastal habitats support fish populations and increase the resilience of coastal communities, but they are facing increasingly frequent and intense weather and changing ocean conditions. This funding would help support sound management of fisheries and protected species by improving our understanding of the connections between fisheries and habitat through improved mapping, monitoring, research, and socioeconomic data.

For more information on all of these budget requests, please see the [NOAA Bluebook](#)

For more information about NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation visit [www.habitat.noaa.gov](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov)