
National Ocean Service

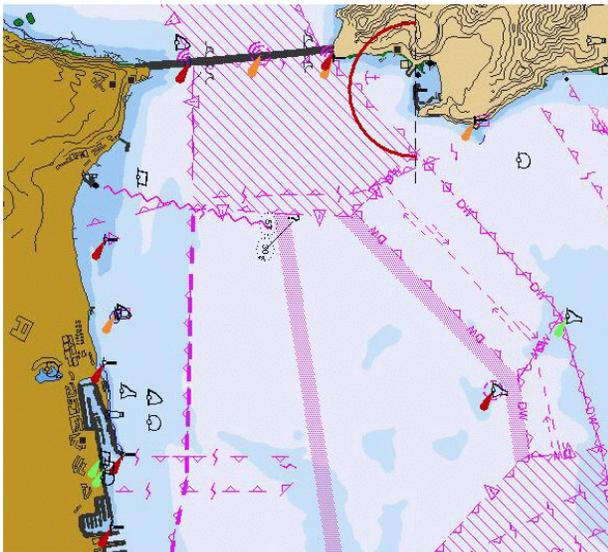
FY 2004 Budget Highlights

In FY 2004, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) requests \$391M in the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) account and \$20M in the Procurement, Acquisitions and Construction (PAC) account for a total of \$411M. The FY 2004 request reflects an increase of \$6.5M in program changes over the FY 2003 President's Budget.

FY 2004 Program Changes

Ninety-five percent of America's non-NAFTA trade moves through the marine transportation system. The combination of high vessel traffic, hazardous cargo, and ships operating close to the ocean bottom make accurate navigation information even more essential for the safety of lives, property and the environment.

Mapping and Charting: NOAA requests an increase of \$5.0M to continue building and maintaining electronic navigational charts, to accelerate the development of NOAA's oceanographic forecast models, and to enhance NOAA's hydrographic surveying capability.



Electronic Navigational Charts: NOAA requests an increase of \$2.0M to improve, expand and maintain electronic navigational charts (ENC) coverage to enhance navigation safety in the Nation's ports, waterways, and offshore waters.

Built to international standards, NOAA ENCs are an extremely accurate and detailed chart database which can be displayed on electronic charting systems aboard ships. The ENC gives the user more complete and valuable information than the paper chart, and can provide much greater accuracy than existing paper chart products. With the requested increase, NOAA will produce one hundred additional ENCs in FY 2004 to provide contiguous ENC coverage for the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast. At the requested FY 2004 funding level, NOAA will build and maintain up to 550 ENCs of the required 1,000 ENCs in its suite by the end of FY 2006.

Oceanographic Forecast Model Systems: NOAA requests an increase of \$1.0M to develop forecast model systems for key ports and bays and to transition them to 24x7 operational status. Oceanographic forecast model systems have reached a level of sophistication such that they can now be used to benefit safe and efficient maritime commerce in the U.S. by providing a variety of real-time and forecast information, with full 3-dimensional coverage of a port, bay, or coastal region. The parameters forecast by these model systems, such as water levels, current fields, salinity, and water temperature, can also be extremely beneficial to protecting the marine environment, which is critical for recreational boating and tourism.

Vessel Time Charter: An increase of \$2.0M is requested for a vessel time charter to expand NOAA's hydrographic surveying capacity.

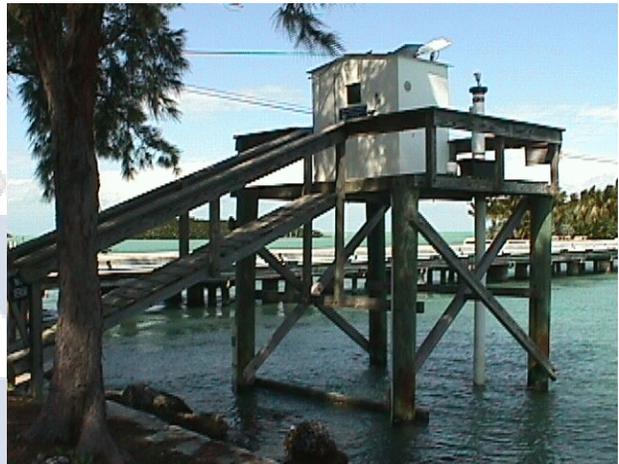
Hydrographic survey data is the foundation of NOAA's nautical charts. NOAA is working to reduce the backlog of charted areas in need of survey, and to improve the accuracy of the data collected. Since about 1996, NOAA has promoted using a mix of resources – in-house, contract, and charter – for hydrographic surveying. NOAA believes that its plan for using a mix of government and private resources provides a viable solution to acquiring hydrographic survey data, providing options to deploy resources where they will be most effective, and ensuring that all participants will have ongoing incentives to perform efficiently and effectively.

This increase will augment the funds for a time charter requested in the FY 2003 President's Budget. NOAA estimates that the FY 2004 request will increase the amount of hydrographic survey data collected by the time charter from approximately 400 square nautical miles (snm) per year, to approximately 550 snm per year. The vessel will split its time between Alaska and Gulf of Mexico, where the most critical survey needs exist.

Tide and Current Data: NOAA requests an increase of \$1.5M to strengthen the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON).

National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON): An increase of \$1.5M is requested to address critical needs of NOAA's 175 NWLON stations. NWLON monitors tide, water level and other oceanographic and meteorological parameters, and is a critical observation network for nautical charting, real-time navigation, hazardous material response efforts, marine boundaries, long-term sea level rise, tsunami and storm surge warnings, habitat restoration, and many other applications, including homeland security and acting as a Federal backbone network for regional observing systems such as

the Physical Oceanographic Real-time System (PORTS). Requested funds will begin the upgrade of water level stations with new equipment, allow for the repair of NWLON stations around the country, and add meteorological and oceanographic sensors at various stations.



NOAA FY 2004 Budget

National Ocean Service (OR&F)	FY 2004 Change (\$M)
Mapping & Charting	
Electronic Navigational Charts	\$2.0
Mapping & Charting Base	\$1.0
Vessel Time Charter	\$2.0
Tide & Current Data	
NWLON	\$1.5
TOTAL	\$6.5

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