



FY 2004 Budget Highlights

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations

NOAA's Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO) requests \$109.1 million (M) in the Program Support budget activity of Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) and \$9.1M in the Procurement, Acquisitions and Construction (PAC) account. The FY2004 request includes a decrease of \$46.1 from the FY2003 President's Budget. This activity funds:

- operation and maintenance of NOAA's ships and aircraft and some of NOAA's outsourcing to meet ship and aircraft support needs
- replacement, upgrade and major repair of NOAA's ships and aircraft
- Commissioned officers assigned to operational, technical and management billets throughout NOAA
- NOAA's operational diving program
- NOAA's small-boat safety program

Ships and aircraft support that will be provided in FY2004 includes:

- 4400 days-at-sea collecting data to manage the nation's fishery stocks and protect marine mammals; to update nautical charts for safe marine commerce, to predict climate changes and to maintain healthy coasts
- 2025 flight hours collecting data for hurricane and winter-storm predictions, climate predictions and environmental monitoring

FY 2004 Program Changes

Marine Services: NOAA requests \$0.5M to allow compliance with International Maritime Organization requirements for safe operation of NOAA ships through training and certification of ships' complements. An additional \$1.6M is requested for operation of FAIRWEATHER to collect data for nautical charting in the waters near Alaska, and \$0.5M is requested to increase the strength of the NOAA Corps to support NOAA ships, aircraft and Line Office programs.

Fleet Maintenance and Planning: NOAA requests an increase of \$0.4M for FAIRWEATHER maintenance.

Aircraft services: NOAA requests an increase of \$1.5M to maintain NOAA aircraft and aircraft instrumentation used for data collection and an increase of \$0.3M for required aircraft regulatory and safety upgrades.

Aircraft Replacement: NOAA requests \$4.6M to complete instrumentation upgrades on the high-altitude G-IV jet to allow collection of data to improve hurricane predictions. NOAA also requests \$1.3M for required regulatory and safety upgrades to NOAA aircraft and \$1.6M to upgrade navigation systems on NOAA's P-3 "Hurricane Hunter" aircraft. NOAA requests \$1.6M to replace the Turbo Commander aircraft needed for snow surveys for flood predictions and water-management information.

FY 2004 Reductions

NOAA requests a decrease of \$50.9M for the new fishery survey vessel (FSV) construction program. Funds for construction of FSV #1 (OSCAR DYSON) were previously appropriated and funds for FSV #2 are included in the President's FY03 budget. A delay in the award of the option for FSV #3 is appropriate due to the delay in the construction schedule of FSV #1. NOAA also requests a decrease of \$3.2M for WHITING major repairs which are funded in the FY03 President's budget.