



HABITAT CONSERVATION & RESTORATION

FY 2011 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests \$54.9M, an increase of \$10.4M, in FY 2011 for habitat conservation and restoration of coastal and inland areas. This budget request supports NOAA and Department of Commerce's efforts to conserve, protect, and manage living marine resources in a way that ensures their continuation as functioning components of marine ecosystems, affords economic opportunities, and enhances the quality of life for the American public. Coastal areas are tremendous economic resources, generating more than 28 million jobs in the United States. Commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generates \$185 billion in sales to the nation's economy (Fisheries Economics of the U.S., 2006). Approximately 75 percent of commercial and recreational fish species depend on the coasts for their primary habitat, spawning grounds, and nursery areas.

Community-Based Restoration (\$23.8M): NMFS requests an increase of \$10.4M for a total request of \$23.8M to implement larger-scale ecological restoration that achieves significant benefits for threatened and endangered species. Since 1996, the Community-based Restoration Program has funded more than 1,500 habitat restoration projects in 26 states, the Caribbean and the Pacific. These projects have restored over 41,000 acres of fishery habitat and opened more than 1,700 miles of stream for migratory fish. In FY11, NOAA will focus on increasing habitat to support recovery of listed species by reversing the loss of coastal wetlands that provide spawning and rearing habitat, improving hydrological function of coastal wetlands, and restoring the ecological functions of our rivers. The requested funding will advance national priorities for larger-scale habitat restoration and strengthen NOAA's leadership role in science-based conservation.

Open Rivers (\$6.1M): Through this initiative the Restoration Center provides technical expertise and financial assistance to support community driven, watershed-level dam removal projects. Projects increase fish passage opportunities that will improve habitat condition

and fish populations. NOAA has removed 90 dams and stream blockages opening more than 1,700 miles of high quality river habitat for migratory fish.

Great Lakes Habitat Restoration (\$1.5M): Much of NOAA's work in the region is focused on supporting community-identified restoration priorities in Areas of Concern (AOC), which are environmentally degraded areas within the Great Lakes basin. To qualify as an AOC, an area must contain one or more beneficial use impairments - a significant negative change in the chemical, physical or biological integrity of a water body. In FY11 NOAA will continue to leverage state, local, and tribal partnerships for lake-wide ecosystem problems, such as persistent contaminants in sediment and the loss of high-quality fish and wildlife habitat.

Habitat Conservation (\$19.1M): These funds support necessary consultations nationwide to protect essential fish habitat (EFH) from federal agency actions that could potentially threaten these valuable resources (e.g., construction, dredging, filling of wetlands, hydroelectric power plant operation, waste discharges, and energy development). The request will also support efforts to describe and identify EFH and evaluate the impacts of fishing activity on EFH. The request includes \$2.8M for technical and legal capabilities to help meet increased responsibilities under the Energy Policy Act, including an upcoming increase in number of dams requiring re-licensing.

Deep Sea Coral (\$2.5M): Funds support the continued implementation of the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program mandated by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The program analyzes information needed to understand and conserve U.S. deep sea coral, and is conducting major regional field research, mapping and habitat characterization activities, beginning in the Southeast U.S. and West Coast.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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