

# NOAA Appropriations Toolkit

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Thank you for helping to ensure that the mission of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—to protect of life and property, and stewardship of our ocean—continues. Your voice and influence will let decision-makers on Capitol Hill know that NOAA is a valuable partner and resource to the American people. The more we raise our voices, the better the chances that our ocean communities, managers and scientists will get the funding they so desperately need. Teach your elected representatives that the more you know about NOAA, the more important it becomes to enable this agency to serve our nation from shore to shining shore.

## **You have power to make a difference.**

This toolkit offers a few tools that can help you amplify your voice in support of NOAA and all that depends on a healthy ocean.

Thank you for your support. Please contact Adam Mistler ([amistler@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:amistler@oceanconservancy.org)) with any questions you have on this information.

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## Key Messages

We have provided sample talking points for you to build from as you talk about the importance of NOAA funding to your elected officials, local papers, neighbors, co-workers and more.

- NOAA ocean, coastal, and fisheries funding matters for me and my community. I am glad that the Senate has proposed strong funding levels, but very worried about the Trump administration and the House of Representatives proposals to gut some key NOAA programs. **I want [insert Member of Congress here] to commit to supporting the Senate proposed funding levels for NOAA's ocean and fisheries programs.**
- I am particularly concerned about funding for [insert program or line item you care about] and how budget cuts will impact [the work that I do/community I live in].
- For example, if funding were to be cut from [insert program], I know that I would be impacted in these ways [provide 2 or 3 reasons why cutting funding would impact you].

- As my elected representative in Washington D.C., I hope you will do the right thing for coastal communities, small businesses and ocean lovers across the United States - please, protect the agency that does so much for us all. Fund NOAA.

## What You Can Do

### Tool #1: Write Something Public

Writing something and putting it out in the public eye is a great way to get your Member's attention – they know that not only you care, but that you're letting everyone else know that you care and why they should too. Bonus points: A written product gives you something great to share over social media too. Share your story and get your message out there!

Let us know if you place a piece – we often use articles, op-eds, Letters to the Editor and Blogs when we meet with members of Congress to help reinforce the message for those decision-makers

#### ➤ Op-Eds

- **Determine which news outlet to submit to:** Look into your options for which newspaper our outlet you want to submit an op-ed to and pick your three best options. Some key considerations: When did it last publish anything on NOAA or the ocean? Who wrote it? What was the tone? Who was it targeting? What's the submission process and guidelines?
- **Draft your piece:** Make it topical, relevant to the newspaper's readership and personal. Inject your personal perspective into the piece. Stick to your key messages (ideally not more than 3) and have a strong "ask".
- **Keep it short:** Most papers accept op-eds that are 750 words on average.
- **Plan on timing:** Newspapers want an exclusive. This means you cannot offer your piece to several papers at the same time. Submit to your first option and wait the requisite number of days (often stated on op-ed submission pages) before moving on to your next option. Don't inundate the newspaper with email or phone enquiries. That is not a helpful strategy, although sometimes it does pay off to go through a journalist you've worked with in the past.
- **Yay, your op-ed got printed!:**
  - **If the newspaper has a digital version,** tweet the op-ed to your representative. Post it to Facebook. Share it with Ocean Conservancy so we can promote it and get your friends and community activists to share it online as well. It will let your representative know that a lot of voters care about this issue and want to see action in favor of NOAA.
  - **If you only have hard copies:** Get a couple of printed copies. Archive one. Snail mail another to your representative along with a cover letter stating why they should care. Or better yet, bring it along with you to your in-district meeting. If you can scan the article and share it with us, the OC team will make sure your Member of Congress gets it.
- **Boo, your op-ed didn't get printed:** That's OK! It's not a loss – just turn it into a blog instead. Then use social media to get that blog in front of members of Congress! See blog guidance below.

Helpful resources:

- Harvard Kennedy School: [How to Write an Op-Ed or Column](#)

- Advocacy How-To's: [Write or Generate an Op-Ed and Send Your Published Op-Ed to Your Member of Congress](#)

#### ➤ Letters to the Editor

- **Keep it short- 150-200 words is ideal.** It's also helpful to check out other letters published in the paper you're targeting to see if there is a particular length or format that the paper prefers.
- **Make one point (or at most two) in your letter.** State to the point clearly, ideally in your first sentence.
- **Make your letter timely.** If you are not addressing a specific article, editorial or letter that recently appeared in the paper you are writing to, try to tie the issue you want to write about to a recent event.
- **Make sure you have an action item for people.** What should they do with the information you are giving them? What person are you targeting?
- **Find the angle that makes your point interesting or noteworthy.**
  - Timing- Why is it relevant now?
  - Significance to readership- Why should your community care? Think about your audience
  - Geographic proximity- How does it affect where you are?
  - Prominence- Anybody famous or important that makes it more interesting?
  - Human Interest- Give it a human spin (i.e. children, mothers, education).
- **Yay, your LTE got printed!** See guidance under OpEds for what to do next. Most importantly, share on social media!
- **Boo, your LTE didn't get printed:** That's OK! It's not a loss – just turn it into a blog instead. Then use social media to get that blog in front of members of Congress! See blog guidance below.

Need help figuring out what to write? [Here is a great example](#) of a LTE from the Baltimore Sun

Helpful resources:

- International Society for Technology in Education: [Letter to the Editor/Op-Ed Tips and Templates](#)

#### ➤ Blogs

Writing a blog is a guaranteed way to get your story out there, and is very effective when paired with a strong social media push. It can also be easily used by other NOAA supporters –if we know about it, we will bring a copy of your blog into Congressional meetings or share a link to it in emails to staff. One potential strategy: start by writing an OpEd or LTE, and if it doesn't get placed just turn it into a blog.

- **Use your organization's blog:** If you work for an organization that has a blog, consider writing a blog about the importance NOAA funding has for your organization.
- **Work with us to write a #TheMoreYouNOAA blog:** Ocean Conservancy is running a blog series call 'The More You NOAA' to capture personal stories regarding the importance of managing resources. Think you have a story that we should be sharing? We'd be happy to work with you. Contact Adam Mistler ([amistler@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:amistler@oceanconservancy.org))

- **Create your own personal blog on Medium:** [Medium](#) is like the Twitter of blogs. You don't have to plan to write a running series of blogs to have an account. Want to write a short piece for why you care about NOAA funding? [Open a Medium account](#) and post it there.
- **For any blog you do, always share it on social media.** Either directly reference relevant Members of Congress, or tag them when sharing the blog on social media. Also use the Twitter hashtag #TheMoreYouNOAA and we'll share it out even further.

## Tool #2: In-District Meetings

In-person meetings are one of the most effective ways to influence your Senator or Representative. Face-to-face meetings in the District, especially when the Member of Congress is home, are a great way to put your issue front and center as something “people in the District” care about. Let us know if you schedule a meeting – we will be sure to remind that office that constituents have been discussing the NOAA budget the next time we meet with them too.

- **Timing:** August Recess is a great time to meet with members in-district (meaning, when they are at home and not in D.C.) or with their local staff. It is the time of year they are most focused on hearing from constituents at home.
- **How to schedule an In-District meeting:**
  - Figure out how many people besides yourself will be attending the meeting (smaller groups are preferred)
  - Locate the in-district or in-state office that is closest to you
  - Have multiple dates in mind (usually 3-4)
  - Contact the Member of Congress's scheduler (this is usually the person that answers the phone)
  - Make sure the scheduler is aware of the meeting topic, the primary contacts' name, who else is in the group, and the primary contacts' email address
  - Once your meeting is on their calendar, call the day prior to the meeting to confirm
- **Preparation for the Meeting**
  - **Prepare and practice your discussion points:** Think about what you want to talk to your member of Congress about and why it matters to you. Include a personal story. Sit down with a friend and practice what you want to say and ask them for feedback. Always keeping in mind how your Member of Congress's support for NOAA's budget will impact you and your district.
  - **Bring materials with you:** Visual aids, print outs, spreadsheets, information packets. These types of materials offer a point of reference for your Senator or Representative and his or her staff.
  - **Get videos and photos:** With permission from your Member of Congress and/or their staff, take pictures or video of your meeting before, during, or after. After the meeting, share your pictures through social media. Tag your representative, #theMoreYouNOAA, and perhaps even your hometown paper, radio or TV station. Consider writing a blog or op-ed about your experience (more tips on this tactic in Tool #2).

➤ **Following-up**

- Keep the names and business cards of the staffers you spoke with. Use these as a reference when you email or call the office to follow up. NOTE that staffers will be more responsive than your Senator or Representative.
- Be sure to send out a follow up email or phone call. Address the talking points from the meeting, and inquire if anything was accomplished or has changed.
- Be attentive and responsive. Answer any questions from your Senator or Representative and their staff to the best of your ability and send out any supplemental information they ask for.
- Persistence is key, if the staffers have no answers for you on whether or not your Senator or Representative will support NOAA, notify them of the next date you will call or send an email.

Helpful resources:

- Congressional Management Foundation: [Face-to-Face with Congress – Before, During, and After Meetings with Legislators](#)

### Tool #3: Attend an In-District Event

Often, your member of Congress will host and attend in-district events and town halls. If you can, visit their website and social media platforms to see if there is one near you, and attend!

- **Bring visual aids with you:** Bring any visual aids or other materials you might have about the importance of NOAA to you and your community with you. If you are able to talk to the Member of Congress directly, share that information.
- **Get videos and photos:** Take pictures or video of the event before, during, or after. After the meeting, share your pictures through social media. Tag your representative, #TheMoreYouNOAA, and perhaps even your hometown paper, radio or TV station. Consider writing a blog or op-ed about your experience (more tips on this tactic in Tool #2).
- **Follow up:** Try and get contact information to follow-up with staff after the event to continue your conversation.

Helpful resources:

- Town Hall Project: [Find in-district events and town halls by Zip Code](#)

### Tool #4: Leverage Social Media

Utilize social media as a means to raise awareness, frame the issue, influence decision-makers, create a sense of community, promote events, and celebrate successes. If you share on social media, please let us know so we can share your posts as well.

Four ideas for social media content:

- **Text:** Explain why you care about our ocean and why NOAA matters. This toolkit has sample talking points (Page 2) and details on the House and Senate budget numbers (below)
- **Photo and videos:** A picture or video (no longer than 1:30 mins) of your community, beautiful oceanscapes and marine wildlife or NOAA science in action would all make for a strong social media post. A good photo/video paired with a succinct caption is worth a thousand words.
- **Quote:** Post a quotable quote from an inspirational leader or perhaps even your representative. Remember to tag them (@TheirName) too!
- **Link:** Is there a news story or an op-ed piece that you agreed or disagreed with? Share it, tag the reporter or the author (@TheirName) and use the right hashtags to plug into the conversation.

You can also consider including links to informative pieces on NOAA's budget, such as our [#TheMoreYouNOAA blog series](#) and budget explainers ([Senate](#), [House](#) and [President](#)). Finally, if you get an op-ed or Letter to the Editor placed in your local paper, or write a blog post, include the link on your social media pages!

Use the Hashtag #TheMoreYouNOAA

➤ **Twitter**

Members of Congress are surprisingly attuned to comments on Twitter. It's a public way to hold them to task, and some members will even engage directly with constituent tweets. Like Facebook, tweets with photos tend to get retweeted or favorited the most. Please also use the hashtag #TheMoreYourNOAA when you post on Twitter. A hashtag is a helpful way to use the same keyword to categorize an issue or event in order to join a conversation or community. Don't forget to tag your representative!

**Informative Tweets:** Tweets that provide substantive information (ideally, with links to more information) about a particular issue you care about help provide depth to your engagement online. Consider tagging your Member of Congress to let them know you are engaged on the topic.

- [@ Member of Congress] Your coastal communities need you to support Senate NOAA funding levels #TheMoreYouNOAA <http://bit.ly/2u0CHht>
- NOAA supports coastal economies & ocean resources, cutting funding is unacceptable #TheMoreYouNOAA <http://bit.ly/2uVcr4Z>
- The House wants to cut NOAA funding by a shocking \$700 million. This is unacceptable #TheMoreYouNOAA <http://bit.ly/2umAV9r>

**Thank-You Tweets:** When a Member of Congress does something that you are particularly excited about, let them know you support their actions by tweeting 'at' them. Examples include:

- Thank you [@ Member of Congress] for standing up for our ocean, coastal economies and critical research! #TheMoreYouNOAA
- Thank you @RepJoseSerrano for your support of robust NOAA funding which is vital for our coasts #TheMoreYouNOAA
- Thank you @RepCartwright for supporting NOAA Climate Research Funding #TheMoreYouNOAA

➤ **Facebook**

Statistics show Facebook posts accompanied with a picture or video get more likes, comments and shares. Please also use the hashtag #TheMoreYourNOAA and #NOAA when you post on Facebook. Feel free to tag us in your posts with [@Ocean Conservancy](#). And do add your representative too.

Sample Posts:

- NOAA ocean, coastal, and fisheries funding matters for me and my community. I am glad that the Senate has proposed strong funding levels, but very worried about the Trump administration and the House of Representatives proposals to gut some key NOAA programs. I want [tag Member of Congress here] to commit to supporting the Senate

proposed funding levels for NOAA's ocean and fisheries programs. [link to anything you've written, #TheMoreYouNOAA blog series, etc]

- NOAA funding is important to me and my [community/business/university/etc.]. Right now, members of Congress are deciding how much they want to fund this critical ocean agency. Learn more about why funding our ocean is critical [link to #TheMoreYouNOAA blog series]

### Tool #5: Email or Call your Member of Congress

If you can't do anything else, a quick call or e-mail to your Member of Congress can still help move the ball forward. Calls tend to be most effective when there is an immediate action to be taken (like a vote), but a constant drumbeat of constituent calls about NOAA is an effective way to remind the Member that their constituents care about and are paying attention to what they're doing to support NOAA funding.

- **Identify yourself as constituent:** Provide your name, town, and even Zip Code. Calls and messages get filed as "constituent" or "not constituent" and you want to get filed as a constituent to make sure your message is paid attention to.
- **Keep it short, simple, and focused:** Make your "ask" in the first 1-2 sentences. The entire message should be as short as possible. E-mails should be no longer than 1-2 brief paragraphs.

Sample e-mail (which can be used alternatively as a phone script):

Dear [*Your Member of Congress*]: My name is [X], and I am writing to ask you to commit to supporting the Senate proposed funding levels for NOAA's ocean and fisheries programs. NOAA ocean, coastal, and fisheries funding matters for me and my community. I am glad that the Senate has proposed strong funding levels, but very worried about the Trump administration and the House of Representatives proposals to gut some key NOAA programs.

I am particularly concerned about funding for [*insert program or line item you care about*] and how budget cuts will impact [*the work that I do/community I live in*]. For example, if funding were to be cut from [*insert program*], I know that I would be impacted in these ways [provide 2 or 3 reasons why cutting funding would impact you]. The Senate has proposed strong funding for these programs, and I urge you to support those funding levels in negotiations for any final spending bill.

Sincerely,  
[*Name + Full Address or City, State, Zip Code*]

## Reference Materials

### Priority Targets

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are the powerful members of Congress who ultimately hold the purse strings of the federal budget. If you live or work in states and districts of key appropriators, your voice is incredibly valuable. Below you'll find links to committee members. For convenience we have also included contact and social media information for some key appropriators and coastal members.

➤ **Senate Appropriators & Select Coastal Members**

All members of the Appropriations Committee – whether you see their name reflected below or not – are important in this discussion.

- Senate Appropriations Full Committee can be [found here](#) and are listed below.
- Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee can be [found here](#) and are also listed below.

Particularly important and vocal appropriators and coastal members include:

Senator	State	Office Phone	Twitter Handle
<b>Richard Shelby (R)</b>	Alabama	202-224-5744	@SenShelby
<b>Lisa Murkowski (R)</b>	Alaska	202-224-6665	@lisamurkowski
<b>Dianne Feinstein (D)</b>	California	202-224-3841	@SenFeinstein
<b>Chris Murphy (D)</b>	Connecticut	202-224-4041	@ChrisMurphyCT
<b>Chris Coons (D)</b>	Delaware	202-224-5042	@ChrisCoons
<b>Marco Rubio (R)</b>	Florida	202-224-3041	@marcorubio
<b>Brian Schatz (D)</b>	Hawaii	202-224-3934	@brianschatz
<b>John Kennedy (R)</b>	Louisiana	202-224-4623	N/A
<b>Susan Collins (R)</b>	Maine	202-224-2523	@SenatorCollins
<b>Chris Van Hollen (D)</b>	Maryland	202-224-4654	@ChrisVanHollen
<b>Thad Cochran (R)</b>	Mississippi	202-224-5054	@SenThadCochran
<b>Jeanne Shaheen (D)</b>	New Hampshire	202-224-2809	@SenatorShaheen
<b>Jeff Merkley (D)</b>	Oregon	202-224-3753	@SenJeffMerkley
<b>Jack Reed (D)</b>	Rhode Island	202-224-4642	@SenJackReed
<b>Lindsey Graham (R)</b>	South Carolina	202-224-5972	@LindseyGrahamSC
<b>Patrick Leahy (D)</b>	Vermont	202-224-4242	@SenatorLeahy
<b>Patty Murray (D)</b>	Washington	202-224-2621	@PattyMurray

➤ **House Appropriators & Select Coastal Members**

All members of the Appropriations Committee – whether you see their name reflected below or not – are important in this discussion.

- House Appropriations Full Committee can be [found here](#) and are listed below.
- Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee can be [found here](#) and are also listed below.

Particularly important and vocal appropriators and coastal members include:

Representative	State	Office Phone	Twitter Handle
<b>Robert Aderholt (R)</b>	Alabama	202-225-4876	@Robert_Aderholt
<b>Martha Roby (R)</b>	Alabama	202-225-2901	@RepMarthaRoby
<b>Barbara Lee (D)</b>	California	202-225-2661	@RepBarbaraLee
<b>Rosa DeLauro (D)</b>	Connecticut	202-225-3661	@rosadelauro
<b>Mario Diaz-Balart (R)</b>	Florida	202-225-4211	@MarioDB
<b>Thomas Rooney (R)</b>	Florida	202-225-5792	@TomRooney
<b>Debbie Wasserman-Schulz (D)</b>	Florida	202-225-7931	@RepDWStweets
<b>Chellie Pingree (D)</b>	Maine	202-225-6116	@chelliepingree
<b>Andy Harris (R)</b>	Maryland	202-225-5311	@RepAndyHarrisMD
<b>Katherina Clark (D)</b>	Massachusetts	202-225-2836	@RepKClark
<b>Steven Palazzo (R)</b>	Mississippi	202-225-5772	@CongPalazzo
<b>Rodney Frelinghuysen (R)</b>	New Jersey	202-225-5034	@USRepRodney
<b>Nita Lowey (D)</b>	New York	202-225-6506	@NitaLowey
<b>Grace Meng (D)</b>	New York	202-225-2601	@RepGraceMeng
<b>Jose Serrano (D)</b>	New York	202-225-4361	@RepJoseSerrano
<b>Matt Cartwright (D)</b>	Pennsylvania	202-225-5546	@RepCartwright
<b>John Carter (R)</b>	Texas	202-225-3864	@JudgeCarter
<b>Henry Cuellar (D)</b>	Texas	202-225-1640	@RepCuellar
<b>John Culberson (R)</b>	Texas	202-225-2571	@CongCulberson
<b>Derek Kilmer (D)</b>	Washington	202-225-5916	@RepDerekKilmer
<b>Jaime Herrera-Buetler (R)</b>	Washington	202-225-3536	@HerreraBeutler

## NOAA Budget Analysis

### ➤ FY18 Senate Budget Proposal

The Senate marked up their NOAA Budget Proposal on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2017. Topline NOAA funding is largely even with most (not all!) programs being flat or increased: The Senate bill proposes cutting NOAA's budget by \$85 million, and that decrease is largely accounted for by a single satellite program.

Important programs that the President proposed eliminating and that the House would slash funding for would be funded in the Senate proposal, including Sea Grant, Coastal Zone Management grants, and Climate Research funding.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS)**

- A 3% increase is proposed for NOS, with *every* line being either flat or increased!
- Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is flat with FY17, with \$70 million for CZM Grants and \$15 million for Regional Coastal Resiliency Grants (RCRG). The President proposed eliminating both. The House would fund CZM Grants at \$45 million and eliminate RCRG.
- Hydrographic Surveys and IOOS Observations are both increased by around 10%, with proposed FY18 funding of \$30 million and \$33.7 million, respectively.
- Competitive Research would be funded at \$11 million, which is a 10% increase from FY17 and more than double what the House proposed.
- The National Estuarine Research Reserve System would be funded at \$25 million, 6% higher than both FY17 and the House proposal.
- Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration would be boosted 2.6% to \$74.5 million, with \$2.4 million directed to the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center, \$3 million directed to Harmful Algal Blooms, and a \$500k increase to Marine Debris.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

- Fisheries Science and Management programs overall see a 4% increase, landing at \$556 million.
- Under Fisheries Science and Management, Aquaculture is proposed at \$15 million, 61% higher than FY17.
- Salmon Management Activities and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants both see increases of around 5% from FY17, to around \$35 million dollars.
- Under Protected Resources...
- Species Recovery Grants are funded at \$7 million, almost 13% higher than the FY17 level.
- Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles & Other Species comes in at \$113 million (slightly higher than FY17) and the report ensures that NOAA spends "no less than the [FY17] amount" on Prescott Grants as well as Hawaiian Monk Seals and Sea Turtles.
- A large amount of Committee Report language is also dedicated to red snapper management, and there is a reference in the bill to pilot programs for state-led fisheries management.

#### **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

- Sea Grant – which the President proposed eliminating – is proposed for a \$2 million (3%) boost to \$67 million.
- Climate Research funding is proposed to be flat with FY17 at \$158 million. The President and the House propose cutting by \$30 million – nearly 20%.
- Ocean Acidification would be boosted by nearly 5% from \$10.5 million to \$11 million.
- There are also some cuts proposed in OAR:
  - Ocean Exploration and Research is rebranded as Ocean Exploration and cut from \$36 million to \$30 million. Note that a new line has also been created, Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Joint Technology Transfer Initiative, which is funded at \$3 million.
  - Weather & Air Chemistry Research would be cut from \$114 million to \$108 million.

### ➤ **FY18 House Budget Proposal**

The House marked-up their proposed NOAA budget on July 13, 2017. The [Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill](#) and the [Committee Report](#) outline the House’s proposals for funding. Below, we have outlined key areas where cuts are proposed, or where programs are maintained. Overall, the House proposes a \$700 million cut to NOAA funding across programs.

#### **National Ocean Service**

- Coastal Zone Management Grants are cut 35%, from \$70 million to \$45 million; Regional Coastal Resilience Grants, which had received \$15 million in FY17, are completely cut.
- Competitive Research is cut in half, from \$10 million to \$5 million.
- The Coral Reef Program and National Estuarine Research Reserve System are both even with FY17 levels (\$26.1 million and 23.5 million, respectively)
- Funding for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas actually would receive a \$1 million bump *up* to \$52 million!

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service**

- Under Protected Resources, the line for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, & Other Species sees a 2.5% cut, from \$111.3 million to \$108.5, while Species Recovery Grants see a relatively larger 3.4% cut, from \$6.2 million to a bit less than \$6. However, report language does direct NOAA to fund marine mammal stranding grants.
- Habitat Conservation & Restoration is cut by 2.3%, from \$52.5 million to \$51.3.
- Aquaculture sees a 14% cut from \$9.3 million to \$8 million.
- The report language directs “NOAA to work with affected communities” after fishery disasters to “identify the extent of the economic impacts.” While money was not originally directed to fishery disasters the replacement “Manager’s Amendment” package does direct \$20 million to them.

#### **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

- Climate Research funding would be cut by \$30 million - nearly 20% - compared to FY17. This would bring the line to \$128 million, consistent with the Trump administration request.

- Ocean Acidification would be cut 4%, from \$10.5 million to \$10.1.
- Laboratories and Cooperative would be cut to \$28.1 million from \$32 million, a 12% cut consistent with the Trump request.
- The Marine Aquaculture Program, which Trump proposed eliminating entirely, would be cut 26%, from \$9.5 million to \$7 million.
- Ocean Exploration and Research would be funded even with FY17 at \$36 million, more than \$16 million above the Trump administration request
- The National Sea Grant College Program, which the Trump administration recommended to be cut 100%, would be funded level with FY17 at \$63 million.

## Budget Process and Timeline

The Congressional Research Service provides substantive overviews of the budget process (and research on almost any policy topic you can think of). Recently, they provided an overview of the Congressional Budget Process, which we recommend reading if you need a refresher, or are new to thinking about the federal budget.

- [The Congressional Appropriations Process: An Introduction](#)

In addition, following the House and Senate calendars is a useful way to know where the two chambers are at in terms of legislative activity. You can find their legislative calendars below:

- [Senate Calendar](#)
- [House Calendar](#)

Finally, if you want to dig deep on the Appropriations process, check out the Appropriations Committee pages. Focus on the Commerce-Justice-Science committees for both Chambers to stay up-to-date on the NOAA budget.

- [House Appropriations Committee](#)
- [Senate Appropriations Committee](#)