

Senate Appropriators this week released their version of funding legislation for oceans, air, and lands and water programs at NOAA and EPA. These appropriations bills—referred to as [Commerce-Justice-Science](#) (which contains NOAA) and [Interior-Environment](#) (which contains EPA and Interior) —show positive progress and position ocean and coastal programs well for ongoing negotiations.

Today we can thank the Senate for moving us in a strong direction, but there are still many steps before we get to final funding levels. Over the coming months we will be reaching out with guidance on next steps and actions you can take to help protect strong funding for ocean programs. Stay tuned.

Below we summarize some important takeaways. For full details, please review the attached spreadsheet.

- **Let's first take a look at NOAA funding levels.** Overall, things are looking pretty good for NOAA! As we saw in our last update, Congress is not inclined to adopt the deep cuts to NOAA programs that the White House proposed. While the House's funding proposal fell short in a few key areas, such as climate, overall our Representatives clearly listened to the ocean community and NOAA stakeholders more broadly. The Senate [looks even better](#).
 - ❖ **National Ocean Service**
 - *Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS) Regional Observing*: Funded at \$37 million – a 6% increase in funding compared to FY18.
 - *NOS Competitive Research*: Funded at \$18 million – a 38% increase in funding compared to FY18.
 - *Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas*: Funded at \$54.5 million – flat funded from FY18.
 - *National Estuarine Research Reserve System*: Funded at \$27.5 million – a 10% increase in funding compared to FY18.
 - *Coastal Zone Management Grants*: Coastal Management Grants is funded at \$80 million – a 7% increase from FY18. The Ocean Fund (Title IX) is funded at \$30 million – flat funded from FY18.
 - ❖ **National Marine Fisheries Service**
 - *Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments*: Funded at \$170.9 million – a 4% increase in funding compared to FY18.
 - *Enforcement*: Funded at \$69.7 million – a 15% increase in funding compared to FY18.
 - ❖ **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**
 - *Integrated Ocean Acidification*: Funded at \$11 million – flat funded from FY18.
 - *Climate Research*: Funded at \$160 million – 62% higher than the House proposed budget and a 1% increase compared to FY18.
 - ❖ **The Marine Mammal Commission** Funded at \$4.2 million.

For a full summary of funding levels, please see the attached spreadsheet, or review the actual [bill](#) and [committee report](#).

- **There are some cuts to NOAA programs.** Overall funding for NOAA will actually be down \$426 million from FY18 levels, although much of that decrease is due to decreased funding needs for

the satellite program, which has long been planned.

- **Several Senate Appropriators explicitly called out the importance of NOAA programs for their states and constituents.** Sea Grant was oft-mentioned.
 - ❖ **Sen. Leahy (D-VT)**, Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, expressed his support for grants that help confront threats to our oceans and Great Lakes through support for National Sea Grant.
 - ❖ **Sen. Shaheen (D-NH)**, Ranking Member of Appropriations' CJS Subcommittee, was happy that the NOAA funding cuts proposed by the administration were rejected, and specifically mentioned coastal community grants, Sea Grant, National Estuary Research Reserves, climate change fishery studies, and \$2 million for a NOAA science study on New England ground fish.
 - ❖ **Sen. Collins (R-ME)** expressed support for Sea Grant as well as some fishery provisions – likely some of the same ones as fellow New Englander, Ranking Member Shaheen.
 - ❖ **Sen. Murkowski (R-AK)** was also supportive of NOAA funding for fishery data, research, and monitoring generally.
 - ❖ **Sen. Coons (D-DE)** addressed NOAA programs he was in support of due to the risk Delaware faces from rising sea levels, such as the marine debris program, navigation services, and Sea Grant.
 - ❖ **Sen. Baldwin (D-WI)** lauded efforts to address algal blooms as well as increases for a Great Lakes research fleet.
- **Other agencies & programs you may care about.** The Senate, as we mentioned, also looked at funding for [the Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and other related agencies](#). Overall, at a total of \$32.6 billion for all encompassed agencies, the Interior-Environment package is a whopping \$7.6 billion higher than the Administration's proposal. We can't cover everything, but please let us know if there are other things you think we should be covering.
 - ❖ **Environmental Protection Agency** sees funding equal to FY18, a little over \$8 billion. The House has proposed cutting EPA's FY18 funding by \$100 million for FY19, with deep cuts to regulatory programs.
 - *EPA BEACH Grants*: \$9.5 million
 - *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*: \$300 million
 - *Chesapeake Bay Program*: \$73 million.
 - *Puget Sound Program*: \$28 million.
 - ❖ **Department of the Interior**
 - *National Park Service*: The Senate's proposal would increase NPS funding to \$3.2 billion, with the increase going to take care of a maintenance backlog.
 - *Land and Water Conservation Fund*: LWCF, described by Sen. Murkowski as a "priority for many members," sees funding equal to FY18, at \$425 million. The House proposed \$275 million. Both chambers reject huge cuts proposed by the administration.
- **In other fish news.** Do you live near the Great Lakes? Next week, on Wednesday the 20th at 2pm Eastern / 1pm Central, Ocean Conservancy will host a Great Lakes-focused webinar on Magnuson-Stevens fisheries management. [Join us!](#)