

FEDERAL BUDGET & ELECTION REPORT

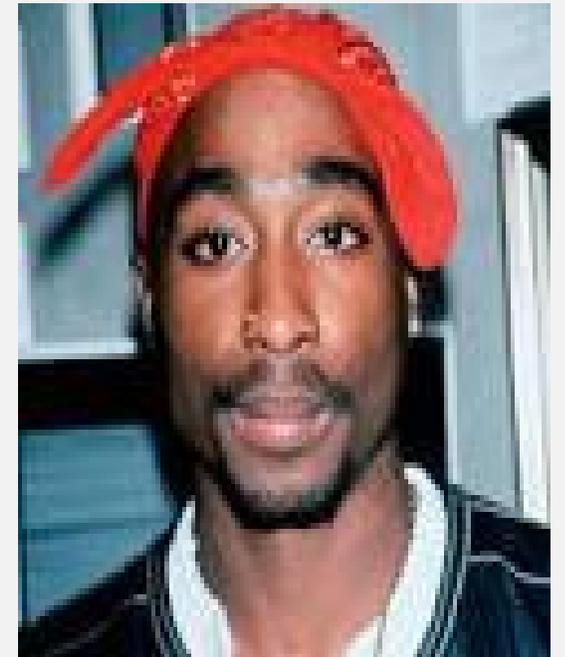
PSMFC Annual Meeting – 2025

Sebastian O'Kelly

Robertson, Monagle & Eastaugh

Federal Appropriations Trivia & Humor

What Major Events Occurred In 1996?



**And....1996 Was The Last Year ALL
Federal Appropriations Bills Were
Enacted On Time!**

2025 Big Picture Appropriations – Quite A Year!

Battle Over Power Of The Purse

- Long-Term CR – 1st One In 12 Years
- Paused Grants -- EO Compliance Review
- DOGE – Contract, Employee & Agency Terminations & Buyouts
- FY 2025 Spending Plans Not Submitted
- Litigation On Impoundment Authority
- Recissions Package Passage (Foreign Aid & Public Broadcasting Cuts) & Later Pocket Recission Of Additional Foreign Aid.
- Spending Apportionments Web Site Taken Down (But Restored By Court Order)



FY 2026 Approps End-Game??????

- House & Senate: 3 of 12 Approps Bills Passed.
- 3 Approps Bill Package With Short-term Continuing Resolution (CR). Leading To Remaining Bills Omnibus/Minibus In Q4
- Additional Short-Terms CRs To Q1 2026 Then Omnibus/Minibus
- Another Long-Term CR
- Government Shutdown



FY 2026 NMFS President's Budget Request

- 24 Percent Top-Line Cut Proposed
- Zero Funds Sought for IJFA, Habitat Conservation, BREP & PCSRF
- What do Obama, Trump I, Biden, and Trump II NMFS Budget Requests have in common?
- Significant Cuts To ESA Salmon & Salmon Management Accounts
- OSW Program Phase-Out
- Proposed Transfer Of NMFS/OPR to USFWS
- Plus Up (3.2 percent) Requested For Councils/Commissions

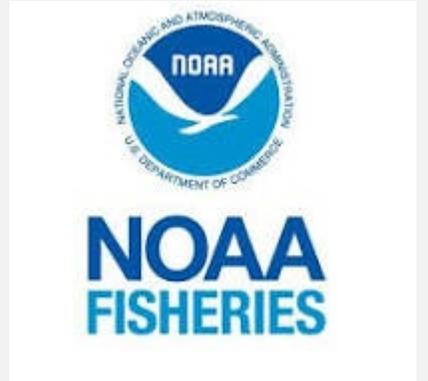
FY 2026 NMFS Approps – House

- Annual Marine Fisheries Funding Support Letter Led By Rep. Huffman (D-CA) + 47 Members
- Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Bill Subcommittee Mark Up July 15 But Not Yet Reported By the House Appropriations Committee. Most Funding Details Will Not Be Know Until Then.
- PCSRF Level Funded. CPF Tables Released



FY 2026 NMFS Approps – Senate

- Annual Funding Support Letter Led By Senator Wyden (D-OR) & 3 West Coast Senators.
- Decent “Top-Line” for NMFS (1.4 percent increase over enacted level).
- \$600,000/\$500,000 for video review of West Coast/Gulf of AK electronic monitoring data
- Offshore wind level funding
- \$28.5 million for Mitchell Act hatcheries (15 percent NMFS Administrative Cap)
- North Pacific Observers/Western Pacific Observers Level Funding
- Fisheries Surveys – 4 vessel surveys WC groundfish; at least 6 for AK trawl fisheries. \$10 million increase nationally
- \$3.125 million Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program
- Level Funding -- Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian sea turtles, and false killer whales
- Level Funding -- Pinniped Removals
- \$1.5 million European Green Crab mitigation
- \$200,000 cetacean desk in the Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service
- \$6 million to address the backlog of hatchery and genetic management plans
- \$1 million for a National Academy of Public Administration study on establishing a Federal fisheries disaster insurance program
- Punts On OPR Transfer “due to the extremely late submission of the NOAA congressional budget justification”
- PFAS Fish Sampling Study





FY 2026 Approps – USFWS

- \$3.285 M (Senate) for Washington Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, \$1.285 million (House)
- \$6.132 M for Klamath River Habitat Restoration (Senate), \$4.875 million (House) under Habitat Conservation. Separate \$2.75 million (House) Klamath Basin Restoration in Hatchery Account and \$2.75 M in Habitat Assessment/Restoration, \$4.75 million (Senate) Hatchery Account plus \$10.75 million Klamath Basin Agreement.
- \$1.475 M (House) Washington State Mass Marking
- \$6 M for lower Snake River and Columbia River salmon/steelhead restoration plus report language (Senate)
- \$16 M (House) & \$15 M (Senate) – National Fish Passage Program
- \$2.2 M PST Mitigation (House). \$5 M (Senate – includes Yukon River Salmon Agreement -- \$1.56 M of total). \$1 M BIA (Senate), \$7.79 M BIA (House)
- \$643,000 Salmon Recovery (House)
- Continuation funding -- Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement and Long Live the Kings (Senate)
- 6PPD-quinone (tires) research report impact on aquatic species (Senate)

FY 2026 Appropriations

NMFS Funding Lines	FY 2024 Minibus	FY 2026 PBR	FY 2026 Senate CJS	FY 2026 House CJS
Regional Councils/Commissions	44,297,000	45,715,000	45,000,000	
IJFA	3,377,000	0	3,377,000	
Fisheries Data, Coll, Surv, Assess	205,851,000	205,712,000	217,601,000	
Fisheries Management Program & Services	147,250,000	111,000,000	138,000,000	
Salmon Management	65,250,000	55,000,000	70,750,000	
Pacific Coastal Salmon Rec Fund	65,000,000	0	65,000,000	
Habitat Conservation/Restor	56,184,000	0	57,684,000	
ESA Salmon (Pac & Atl)	83,000,000	47,000,000	83,750,000	
NMFS	1,113,797,000	848,754,000	1,129,250,000	

FY 2026 NOAA CPF/CDS PROJECTS – HOUSE

House (West Coast)

- HI Dept of Land & Natural Resources -- Maunalua Fishpond Watershed Restoration (\$1 M)
- HI Dept of Land & Natural Resources – Preventing Spread of Octocorals (\$1 M)
- Hawaii Pacific University -- Aquaculture Workforce Development (\$1 M)
- NORCAL Indian Development Council – OSW Tribal Engagement (\$1 M)
- Multnomah County -- Follow the Water Protecting Healthy Watershed (\$360 K)
- WA Dept of Ecology -- Evaluating Shoreline Restoration Vashon and Maury Island (\$281 K)
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife -- Columbia River Sea Lion Management (\$1 M)
- San Diego Assoc. of Governments -- Buena Vista Lagoon Enhancement Project (\$1 M)
- Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority -- Santa Monica Mountains Restoration (\$1 M)
- Point Blue Conservation Science -- Upgrading Farallon Island's Aging Water System (\$1 M)
- MD Dept of Natural Resources -- Invasive Species (Blue Catfish) Mitigation (\$1 M)



FY 2026 NOAA CPF/CDS PROJECTS – SENATE

Senate (West Coast)

- Maritime Blue -- Tracking Of SRKW (\$482 K)
- SeaDoc Society -- Integrated Solutions for KW Recovery (\$850 K)
- HI Dept of Land and Natural Resources – Invasives In Pearl Harbor (\$400 K)
- HI Dept of Land and Natural Resources – Kauai Coral Recovery (\$500 K)
- HI Dept of Land and Natural Resources – Wailoa Aquaculture Facility (\$775 K)
- HI Dept of Agriculture -- Restorative Aquaculture Study (\$500 K).
- University of Hawaii -- Pacific Islands Ocean & Fisheries Education Assessment (\$680 K)
- Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center – WESPAC Observer (\$1.5 M)
- University of Alaska -- Improving Salmon Counting with Drone Maritime Lidar (\$1.5 M)
- North Pacific Research Board -- North Bering Sea Ecosystem Research (\$2.5 M)
- Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute -- Genetic Analysis of Western Alaska Chum Salmon in the Pollock Fishery (\$3.5 M)
- Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation -- Alaska Seafood Modernization Initiative (\$2 M)
- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association -- Cooperating Agency Status and Consultation for Tribes and Tribal Organizations in Alaska (\$500 K)
- Alaska Ocean Observing System -- Deploying Imaging Flow Cytobots for the Detection of Harmful Algal Blooms in Coastal Alaska (\$165 K)



FY 2026 USFWS CPF/CDS PROJECTS

House – No DOI CPF Projects

Senate (West Coast)

- Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council -- Fish Passage Improvements (\$500 K)
- South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership -- Wild Fish Habitat Restoration (\$1.55 M)
- Oregon Zoo – Condor Recovery (\$2 M)
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance -- Expanding and Enforcing Responses to Mosquito-borne Diseases in Hawaii (\$3.1 M)
- Several Hawaii Projects Protecting Native Plants, Animals, Birds, Invertebrates, and Wetlands
- CRITFC -- Columbia River In-Lieu/Treaty Fishing Access Site Construction (\$5.25 M From BIA Account)



2025 West Coast Fisheries Disasters

FY 2025 Funding

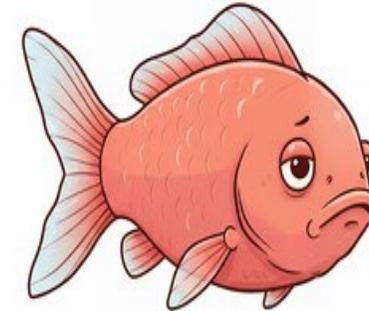
- \$300 Million -- American Relief Act (Dec-March 2025 CR)

2025 Governors Requests Under Secretarial Review

- Alaska Upper Cook Inlet East Side Setnet Salmon Fishery, 2024
- California Red Sea Urchin Fishery, 2023/2024
- Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People Klamath River Salmon, 2024
- Oregon Troll Salmon Fishery, 2024
- Makah Tribe Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries, 2021, 2020, 2019
- Makah Tribe Ocean Treaty Troll Fishery, 2020 & 2021
- Alaska Peninsula Sockeye and South Alaska Pink Salmon Fisheries, 2024
- Alaska Chignik Salmon Fishery, 2024
- Alaska Kodiak Pink Salmon Fishery, 2024
- Alaska Lower Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Fishery, 2024
- Alaska Prince William Sound Pink and Chum Salmon Fisheries, 2024
- Yurok Klamath River Fall Chinook Salmon Commercial Fishery, 2024
- West Coast Pacific Albacore Troll/Hook and Line Fishery, 2023

2025 Secretarial Declarations

- All Pending, Plus 7 Others Submitted In 2024





Juvenile



Adult



Aquatic Invasive Species FY 2026 Funding

FY 2026 House Appropriations (NOAA Funding Pending)

- \$48,605,000 - USFWS AIS (includes Asian Carp)
- \$16,668,000 – USFWS Invasive Species Strike Teams
- \$6,000,000 -- Lake Tahoe AIS
- \$3,500,000 -- Zebra/Quagga Mussel
- \$5,000,000 – USFWS Alpine Lakes AIS Pilot Program
- \$4,400,000 -- NISA State Plans (includes Asian Carp)
- European Green Crab USFWS rapid response support no specified funding. Support for USGS research.
- \$17,000,000 – ACOE Watercraft AIS Inspection (includes monitoring)
- Golden Mussel – USFWS Planning Requirement due in 6 months. Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta detection.

FY 2026 Senate Appropriations (ACOE Pending)

- \$52,143,000 -- USFWS AIS (includes Asian Carp)
- \$17,925,000 -- USFWS Invasive Species Strike Teams
- \$5,038,000 – USFWS Lake Tahoe AIS
- \$3,500,000 – USFWS Zebra Non-Intrusive Mussel Control. 90 day report on Columbia River Basin work including coordination with Army Corps watercraft inspection.
- \$1,500,000 – NOAA European Green Crab control. Direction to coordinate with USFWS and BIA.
- \$300,000 – USFWS European Green Crab control at Refuges
- \$800,000 – USGS European Green Crab research
- \$2,000,000 – BIA European Green Crab control – Puget Sound
- \$6,500,000 -- NPS Zebra/Quagga Control



Juvenile



Adult



AIS Continued (New Bills)

H.R.3717 - Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025 - Rep. Harder (D-CA)

H.R.4219 - National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025. Rep. Case (D-HI)

H.R.1514 - Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Act of 2025 – Rep Ezell (R-MS) (Sen Wicker (R-MS, S. 1078)

H.R.4294 - MAWS Act of 2025 - Rep. Elfreth (D-MD)

H.R.2977 - MRRRI Act – Rep. McCollum (D-MN)

H.R.487 - Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act – Rep. Case (D-HI)

H.R.3024 - Stamp Out Invasive Species Act – Rep. Stefanik (R-NY)



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

FY 2026 House Appropriations

- USDA/NIFA -- Antimicrobial Research Report Language
- USGS -- \$4.75 M Mycrocystin Toxin Research; \$7.49 M Health Effects Research
- EPA -- \$6 M EPA Research Toxins Exposure Effects; \$15 M Great Lakes HABs Reduction Projects
- Army Corps of Engineers -- \$15 M Research, Control, Demonstration & Modeling

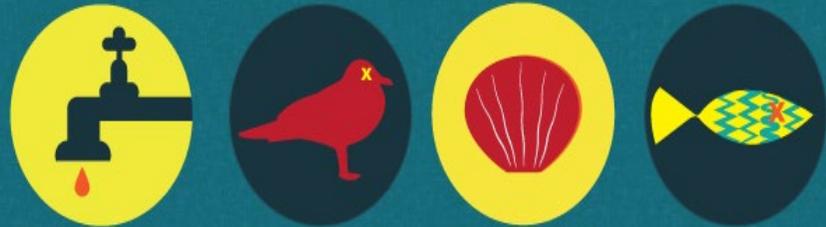
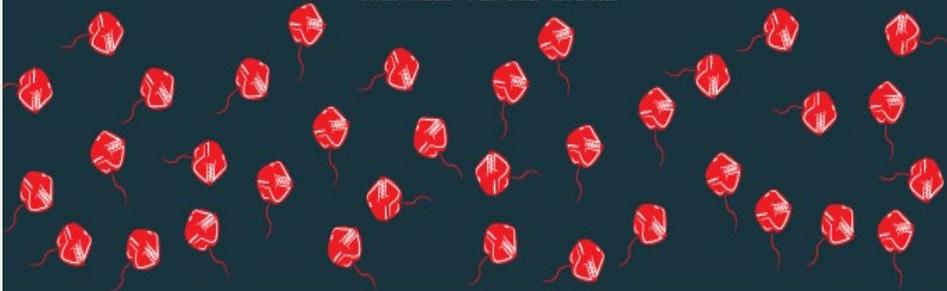
FY 2026 Senate Appropriations

- USGS -- \$4.75 M Research
- NOAA/NOS -- \$14 M HABs Detection, Monitoring, Intervention & Mitigation
- EPA -- \$2.3 M Everglades/Florida Bay/Okeechobee Monitoring
- EPA -- Research Grant Report Language



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Harmful algal blooms, or HABS, occur when colonies of microscopic algae grow out of control. These blooms are a growing problem in every U.S. coastal and Great Lakes state. While we can't prevent these blooms, we can be better prepared. NOAA leads many research efforts to help coastal communities counter the environmental and health effects associated with these "red tide" events.

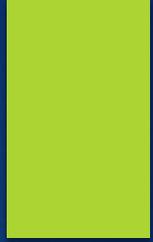


Sometimes, microscopic algal species in waterways around the nation grow out of control. Some of these algal blooms can contaminate water and shellfish, kill animals, and make humans sick.

HABs Continued (New Bills)

- S.93/HR 644 - Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2025 -- Sen. Sullivan (R-AK)/Rep Bonamici (D-OR). Senate Bill Reported From Committee.
- H.R.1786 - Harmful Algal Bloom Disaster Relief Act – Rep Donalds (R-FL)
- H.R.2408 - Protecting Local Communities from Harmful Algal Blooms Act – Rep. Buchanan (R-FL)
- Title VI of H.R.3816 - Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2025 – Rep. Lucas (R-OK) (Note: includes text of HR 644)

2025 Election Analysis



Two Key Gubernatorial Races This Fall To Set The Stage For 2026 Mid-Terms



2021 NJ & VA Gubernatorial Results

- VA – Newcomer Glen Youngkin (R-VA) Upset Win
- NJ – Incumbent Phil Murphy (D-NJ) Only 3 Point Win
- One Year Later – Republicans Gain Control Of The House, 3 Years Later Take Presidency.

2025 NJ & VA Races

- Democrats Favored In “Medium Blue” States But Improved Trump Vote In 2024
- Big Win By Dems Will Be Early Indicator Of Potential Dem Gains In 2026, But Losses Or Very Narrow Wins Will Show Trump & Republican Resiliency
- Congressional Redistricting – TX, UT, CA. Then MS, OH, MD, IN, FL, IL, NY – Is It All That It Is Cracked Up To Be In Terms Of Party Advantage?