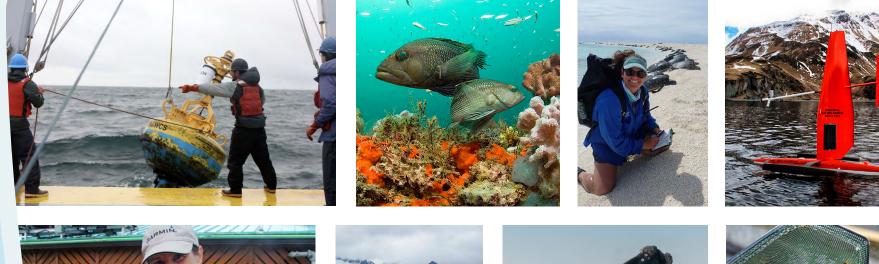
### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** and Inflation Reduction Act

Advancing Our Science and Management Mission















As we close 2024, I am proud to share highlights of NOAA Fisheries' progress in advancing our science and management mission under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. These funding opportunities have given us a critical boost in advancing our mission and promoting resilience in the face of climate change.

Climate change is not a distant threat—it is happening now, affecting our oceans and coastlines, and the communities that rely on healthy marine ecosystems. Fishermen and scientists are seeing shifting and expanding stocks, crashing populations, warming waters and other ecosystem changes. U.S. fisheries support 2.3 million jobs and have an economic impact of \$321 billion. Increasing our resilience against climate impacts is an investment in our economy.

NOAA Fisheries continues to serve the American public in our core mission areas:

- Adaptively manage fisheries for sustainability and economic competitiveness
- Safeguard protected species and propel their recovery
- Diversify our workforce, promote equity, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence

We are making significant progress in these priority areas with a boost of approximately \$1.08 billion of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding and \$1.27 billion of Inflation Reduction Act funding through fiscal year 2026. This unprecedented opportunity is making a real difference, allowing NOAA Fisheries and our partners to accelerate progress in several priority areas. While we advance our science and management mission, we're enhancing national and regional priorities and building a more resilient future for marine environments and the people who depend on them.

This translates into expanded habitat restoration and fish passage efforts, tribal hatcheries support, fisheries surveys, and other climate-ready fisheries efforts, such as the Climate, Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative to boost our science-based management capabilities. North Atlantic right whale, red snapper, and Pacific salmon—species facing unique pressures—are at the center of targeted actions to safeguard their populations using data and technological advancements that are transferable to other species. Through this broader conservation and management work, we are improving coastal economies and strengthening community well-being. As of October 2024, we have obligated \$600 million under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$1 billion under the Inflation Reduction Act for these high-impact projects that build coastal resilience, create jobs, and support stewardship through science-based management and conservation.

This funding is also propelling NOAA Fisheries into a new era of innovation and data modernization. We are deploying cuttingedge technologies that allow us to monitor oceans more effectively (and in areas we cannot normally go), enhance our data collection, make smarter decisions, and provide better support for fishing communities and ecosystems that depend on sustainable management of marine resources and healthy ocean habitat. We are also ensuring our workforce is up to speed on the newest technologies and data tools to ensure that we do the best we can for the public we serve. The progress we've made so far is encouraging, and I am excited about the transformative impact we are already beginning to see in our projects nationwide.



We are not doing this alone. Our partnerships with the regional fishery management councils, interstate commissions, states, tribes, academic institutions, science organizations, internal partners such as NOAA Research and NOAA Ocean Service, and other federal agencies are critical to our progress.

As we reflect on this moment, it is clear that we have a unique chance to create lasting positive change—and it will take all of us working together to make it happen. With your continued support, we can confront the realities of climate change, build solutions that endure, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come. Thank you for your time, your partnership, and your commitment to making a difference.

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Janet Coit Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### **Overview**

The <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</u> is a transformational opportunity to make an impact against the climate crisis across the country through multiple funding opportunities. It provides nearly \$3 billion for NOAA to take action over 5 years in the areas of habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and weather forecasting infrastructure. Targeted investments will be scalable and responsive to societal needs for climate information and support and leverage partnerships. A significant portion of the funds will be issued through competitive grants to organizations to do on-the-ground work around the country.

The Inflation Reduction Act is a historic, federal government-wide investment that furthers NOAA's efforts to build a Climate-Ready Nation. It provides \$3.3 billion for NOAA to build on its commitment to help Americans – including tribes and vulnerable populations – prepare, adapt, and build resilience to weather and climate events; improve supercomputing capacity and research on weather, oceans, and climate; strengthen NOAA's hurricane hunter aircraft and fleet; and replace aging NOAA facilities.

### **NOAA Fisheries Funding Highlights**

NOAA Fisheries' spend plans through fiscal year 2026 include approximately **\$1.08 billion under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** and **\$1.27 billion under the Inflation Reduction Act**. As of October 1, 2024, we have obligated approximately \$600 million and \$1 billion, respectively.

<b>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</b> Funding Profile (\$ in Millions)	Total
Habitat Restoration	\$491.0
Fish Passage	\$400.0
Permitting / Consultations	\$20.0
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$172.0
Total NOAA Fisheries BIL Investments	\$1.083.0

#### **Inflation Reduction Act** Total Funding Profile (\$ in Millions) Data Acquisition and Management \$141.8 Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) \$40.0 **Regional Fishery Management Councils** \$20.0 **Red Snapper** \$20.0 North Atlantic Right Whales \$82.0 Pacific Salmon \$42.0 Hatcheries and Tribal Support \$300.0 Habitat Restoration \$313.0 Fish Passage \$171.0 Arctic Research \$2.9 Permitting Efficiency \$15.5 \$95.0 **Facilities Modernization** Administrative Overhead \$21.6 **Total NOAA Fisheries IRA Investments\*** \$1,269.3

\*Total includes an additional \$4.5 million for tribal support activities

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



## Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage BIL \$891 million | IRA \$484 million

Inflation Reduction Act investments are supplementing \$891 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law going towards four competitive funding opportunities run through NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation, including transformational habitat restoration, tribes and underserved communities habitat restoration, national fish passage, and tribal fish passage. Tribes are eligible to compete for all competitions. This continues our work to support fisheries and coastal communities across the country through largescale competitive funding opportunities and expert technical assistance.

### Pacific Sa BIL \$172

#### Pacific Salmon BIL \$172 million | IRA \$42 million

We will enhance efforts to conserve, restore, and protect Pacific salmon. A portion of the funds for Pacific salmon habitat restoration will be awarded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. We will also invest in transformative science and research that will meaningfully advance salmon recovery amid changing climate and environmental conditions. IRA funding will support the development of new and expanded salmon life cycle models, the use of new technologies to measure ocean conditions and marine predation, and the measurement of habitat restoration effectiveness. The data and tools resulting from our science and research activities will aid managers in making informed, robust, and impactful salmon management decisions.

### Permitting Efficiency / Consultations BIL \$20 million | IRA \$15.5 million

This investment will meet the increasing demand for consultations, authorizations, and permitting activities required under the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Funding will be used to initiate a rapid response team to address the surge in the consultation, authorization, and permitting workload across the country. This will improve efficiency and provide a much-needed increase in capacity to tackle these challenges effectively.

### North Atlantic Right Whale IRA \$82 million

With this funding, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address the North Atlantic right whale crisis and the primary threats to their survival: entanglements and vessel strikes. With \$82 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, we will invest in solutions to recover these whales. We will use new technologies and improved distribution models to reduce the risk of vessel strikes. We will increase the use of on-demand fishing gear, and improve the enforcement of existing federal regulations.

### Red Snapper IRA \$20 million

NOAA Fisheries will implement improvements to state and federal recreational fisheries surveys for red snapper and other reef fish in the Southeast. Our plans are focused on improving recreational catch and discard estimates from federal and state surveys, including improving data delivery to enable state recreational data to be processed more quickly for use in science and management. These improvements will increase certainty for red snapper and dozens of other species, benefiting millions of anglers in the world's largest recreational fishery.

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## Climate, Ecosystem, and Fisheries Initiative IRA \$40 million

CEFI is a transformational cross-NOAA effort to provide actionable advice needed for climate-ready resource management and community adaptation in each region. NOAA is developing a Decision Support System to provide robust forecasts and projections of future ocean ecosystems for use in climateinformed decision-making tools such as risk assessments and evaluations of best management and adaptation strategies. This system will provide consistent support for climate-ready decision-making by resource managers and affected businesses and communities.

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



## Data Acquisition and Management IRA \$141.8 million

We will invest in advanced technologies, modern data systems, and infrastructure that expand and modernize stock assessments to account for climate change. We will also use this funding for cooperative partnerships with the fishing industry, academia, and state partners. It will increase the number and types of observations we can make, which will move us toward the greater sampling required to manage the nation's large marine ecosystems. For example, uncrewed systems allow the expansion of survey coverage over large areas. Camera technology surveys combined with artificial intelligence and machine learning can improve data collection in physically challenging habitats.



## Hatcheries and Tribal Support IRA \$300 million

Funds will address deferred maintenance and repairs to hatcheries that produce Pacific salmon and steelhead in support of federally recognized tribes with federally reserved fishing rights. We have conducted multiple tribal engagement sessions and numerous individual tribal consultations on hatchery funding. We will allocate \$60 million for Mitchell-Act-funded hatcheries to address high-priority deferred maintenance in the Columbia River Basin for federally recognized tribes' fishing rights. Additionally, \$240 million will be allocated for non-Mitchell-Act hatcheries to cover deferred maintenance for tribes' fishing rights. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will administer the funding, and NOAA Fisheries and the BIA have conducted engagement opportunities with tribes to help determine the distribution of the funds.

### Regional Fishery Management Councils IRA \$20 million

The regional councils are critical partners in our fishery management process. We are using this funding to implement fishery management measures necessary to improve climate resiliency and responsiveness to climate impacts, and to develop and advance climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts including those in support of underserved communities.



### Arctic Research IRA \$2.9 million

As part of NOAA's Regional Climate Data Information IRA resources, NOAA Fisheries' Arctic research funding will support coordination and shared research and knowledge with academic, international, community, and Indigenous partners. This will also help us better understand changing climate condition effects on Arctic marine resources including fisheries, marine ecosystems, and subsistence-harvested marine mammals.



## Facilities Modernization IRA \$95 million

IRA funding is being provided to support the Montlake and Sandy Hook labs. The Montlake facility in Seattle is critical in maintaining continuity of our science missions in the Northwest (\$90 million). The Howard Laboratory at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, will receive \$5 million.



Provides support for the execution of our IRA investments, including administrative functions, leadership and management, human capital management, budget and finance, information technology, and acquisitions and grants management.



## Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW & INFLATION REDUCTION ACT** 



### **Overview**

For decades, NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation has long supported habitat restoration efforts across the country through large-scale competitive funding opportunities and expert technical assistance. With funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, we are continuing this work to support fisheries and communities through habitat restoration and coastal resilience efforts.

## **Funding Highlights**

With more than \$1.3 billion in combined funding under BIL and IRA, we are continuing our work to support fisheries and coastal communities across the country through large-scale competitive funding opportunities and expert technical assistance. This includes:

- Fish passage projects that restore access to healthy habitat for migratory fish. ٠
- Habitat restoration projects that support fisheries and protected resources while also strengthening the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities.
- Capacity building and on-the-ground restoration projects that advance the coastal habitat restoration priorities of tribes and underserved communities.

The Office of Habitat Conservation has run four funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. To date, we have funded 214 awards totaling \$985 million through two rounds of funding. Explore the awards through our interactive map.

### **Transformational Habitat Restoration**

Funding supports transformational projects that will restore habitat for our nation's fisheries, recover endangered species, and strengthen the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities. Broad eligibility supports projects to restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

#### Tribes and Underserved Communities Habitat Restoration

Funding supports projects to advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities. This may include capacity-building activities, resilience planning, habitat science, feasibility studies, and stakeholder engagement.

#### **Fish Passage**

Funding supports projects that reopen migratory pathways and restore access to habitat for fish through removal of dams and in-stream barriers, helping to recover endangered fish and support our nation's fisheries. Broad eligibility supports a range of projects in coastal ecosystems and the Great Lakes.

#### **Tribal Fish Passage**

Funding supports tribes in implementing a broad range of fish passage work aligned with tribal priorities and building tribal organizational capacity. Funding is available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and tribal organizations.

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NOAA Fisheries will enhance efforts to conserve, restore, and protect Pacific salmon throughout their West Coast habitats. Funds for Pacific salmon will be awarded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and cooperative institutes at several universities.

Funding will support high-priority science and research activities including the development of integrated salmon life-cycle models, analysis of habitat restoration effectiveness, and measurement of ocean ecosystem conditions and rates of marine predation. Funding will also support evaluation of previous salmon reintroduction actions and future habitat restoration strategies to improve salmon management decisions at watershed and population scales.

### **Funding Highlights**

A total of \$42 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding will be invested into Pacific salmon:

- \$27 million will be used to develop and conduct research across the Northwest and Southwest fisheries science centers. Our salmon science strategy identifies themes that are most important to support salmon recovery, directly support management actions, and that we are uniquely positioned to address
- \$15 million will be used in grant funding to substantially increase the scope and scale of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Funds will support state and tribal recipients conducting habitat restoration and climate resiliency projects that will result in measurable and lasting benefits to salmon and steelhead populations

To complement the projects funded by the <u>Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund</u>, an additional \$172 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be used in grant funding through fiscal year 2026.

### **Key Metrics**

- Acres of salmon habitat restored
- Stream miles made accessible through restoration
- High-priority science and research in life cycle modeling, ocean ecology, habitat threats, and restoration effectiveness.

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## **Permitting Efficiency / Consultations** BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW & INFLATION REDUCTION ACT



### **Overview**

This investment is helping us to meet the increasing demand for consultations, authorizations, and permitting activities required under the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Funding is being used to increase efficiencies and support temporary capacity via an essential fish habitat rapid response team and an ESA Relief Brigade, teams of trained consultation biologists to address the surge in consultation, authorization, and permitting workloads across the country.

### **Funding Highlights**

An additional \$15.5 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding was added to \$20 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for efficient permitting activities.

- \$2.6 million is being invested annually for the ESA consultation and MMPA authorization and permitting activities
- \$1.3 million is being invested annually toward MSA Essential Fish Habitat consultation and permitting activities
- Additional funding is also being used to support training, the development of tracking systems, and the purchase of equipment and services to support the collection of data needed to streamline and inform consultations and authorizations

For the ESA and EFH consultations, funding is supporting our capacity at the regional level as well as in headquarters to ensure we have the ability to shift support where it is most urgently needed.

For MMPA, the funding is supporting our capacity in headquarters to complete authorizations within agreed-upon timelines. We will continue to evaluate the upcoming needs so that we are ready for any necessary shifts in capacity.

- Updated permitting and consultation databases
- Maintained timelines for ESA, MMPA, and EFH consultation and permitting

## Hatcheries and Tribal Support



### **Overview**

Tribal initiatives include funding to support hatcheries across the West Coast and Alaska. Funding will address deferred maintenance and repairs to hatcheries that produce Pacific salmon and steelhead in support of federally recognized tribes. As part of this effort, NOAA Fisheries has conducted multiple tribal engagement sessions on hatchery funding.

### **Funding Highlights**

NOAA Fisheries is providing more than \$300 million for fish hatcheries that support tribal priorities.

- \$60 million is being invested in high-priority deferred repair and maintenance of <u>hatcheries</u> funded by the Mitchell Act. This funding will support Pacific Coast salmon and steelhead fisheries and tribal treaty rights in the Columbia River Basin within the *United States v. Oregon* forum.
- <u>\$240 million is being invested in tribal hatcheries</u> producing Pacific salmon and steelhead, as well as hatcheries that support tribal treaty fishing rights. The funding will focus on deferred maintenance, repairs, and modernization of hatchery infrastructure. NOAA Fisheries has transferred the funds to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and BIA will administer the funding. NOAA Fisheries and BIA have conducted engagement and consultation with tribes to help determine the distribution of the funds.

NOAA Fisheries has also dedicated \$4.5 million to supporting our administration and regulatory requirements for this funding.

- Number of hatchery deferred maintenance, health, and safety projects implemented
- Number of tribes that received funds

## Data Acquisition & Management



Data is at the forefront of all we do to answer mission questions. NOAA Fisheries will use Inflation Reduction Act funds to augment, clearly define, and modernize our data streams, allowing us to meet current mission goals with more efficiency and integrity, while developing the data tools and practices needed for future climate-ready management decisions.

Funds for <u>essential data acquisition</u> are being used to modernize and transform our advanced technology and social science capabilities through targeted strategic initiatives, while also mitigating the recent loss of at-sea survey capability and increasing the efficiency of traditional platform data acquisition. This work will transform our data acquisition enterprise by making a distributed fleet of data acquisition platforms and tools operational.

Funds for data modernization will be used to transform fisherydependent data into an agile data system in partnership with coastal states and interstate marine fisheries commissions, building the groundwork that will be used in future phases of enterprise application. While this approach is focused on fisherydependent data, it will reduce the burden of managing data, streamline workflows, and maintain the uniqueness and autonomy of each of our science centers and regional offices. This investment empowers us to evolve our data and information culture, increase our data expertise, and implement technical solutions that enable enterprise collaboration to better inform and support the public.

### **Funding Highlights**

NOAA Fisheries is providing \$107.5 million for essential data acquisition efforts, including:

- \$49.7 million in targeted traditional platform investments, such as purchasing a research vessel and integrating existing surveys, to improve survey efficiency and mitigate loss of survey days-at-sea
- \$50.2 million to establish strategic initiatives that will lead nationally coordinated regional application efforts in seven advanced technology and social science fields

NOAA Fisheries is providing \$34.3 million for data modernization efforts:

- \$17.5 million to implement cloud-based solutions, enact clear standards and accountability metrics, and fully enable open science to elevate the stature of our data and ensure that data are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable
- \$8.3 million to modernize and develop systems to address increased data demands for protected species management
- \$8.5 million to modernize and integrate the federal permit systems to provide improved customer service

- Number of advanced technologies with increased operational capability
- Number of successfully completed at-sea missions and successful days at sea

## North Atlantic RightWhale



### **Overview**

The Inflation Reduction Act funding, coupled with supplemental funds appropriated in FY 2023, provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address the North Atlantic right whale crisis with new technologies and new approaches.

For example, we are providing direct support for the application of technologies such as passive acoustic monitoring. We are investing in the development and, ultimately, implementation of new technologies to enable vessels to detect and avoid right whales and other large whales. This will reduce one of the primary threats to this species. We are continuing to develop and evaluate new technologies, such as satellite observations, to transform North Atlantic right whale monitoring and to improve understanding of the whales' distribution and habitat use. This funding leverages other funding received, supports the development of innovative fishing gear, and supports dynamic management. We continue to partner and coordinate within NOAA and with our federal, state, industry, and other partners.

### **Funding Highlights**

Of the \$82 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding for the <u>North Atlantic right whale</u>, \$77 million is being used to support the following components:

- Monitoring and modeling, including the use of advanced technologies such as expanded passive acoustic monitoring, uncrewed systems, satellite tagging, high-resolution satellite imagery, and artificial intelligence
- Vessel strike risk reduction, including supporting technological development and innovation to detect and avoid whales as well as testing and implementation of new technologies
- Accelerated development and implementation of ropeless/on-demand fishing gear

The remaining \$5 million is being used for enforcement technology to bolster compliance with federal regulations for right whales, fisheries management regulatory activities, and enabling dynamic management to support monitoring, such as exempted fishing permits.

- Number of technologies and models developed, identified, evaluated, and/or implemented
- East Coast passive acoustic network maintenance and expansion
- Number of compliance operations

## Climate, Ecosystems, & Fisheries Initiative

### \$40 Million

### **Overview**

\$40 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding has launched development of the <u>Climate, Ecosystems, and</u> <u>Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)</u> Decision Support System to provide decision-makers with the ocean projections, risk assessments, and advice they need for climateready marine resource management and community adaptation. The System is transforming the agency's existing science enterprise into an operational provider of robust climate-informed advice in each region.

The System is being developed in all six marine regions and the Great Lakes, including production of forecasts and projections of ocean and Great Lake conditions and establishment of regional decision support teams to provide advice for climate-ready fisheries, protected species, and affected sectors and communities.

### **Core Components**

Funding is building out the four core components of the operational system:

- Robust ocean forecasts and projections: Establish a nationwide climate-ocean modeling system to deliver customized ocean hindcasts, forecasts, and projections to regional Decision Support Teams for use in developing climate-informed advice
- Access to ocean model data: Establish a CEFI Data Portal and Information Hub to provide centralized data management to curate model output and provide easy access to ocean projections required for developing climate-informed advice for decision-makers, from fisheries to coastal communities and other ocean uses (e.g., wind energy and aquaculture)
- Climate-informed advice: Establish initial Decision Support Teams in all seven regions
- Climate-ready decision-making: Work with regional decision-makers to develop, test, and improve climate-informed advice for effective resource management and community adaptation

### **Funding Highlights**

- \$16 million to NOAA Research to establish 1) a nationwide ocean modeling system to provide customized regional hindcasts, forecasts, predictions, and projections of ocean conditions and 2) the CEFI Data Portal and Information Hub for effective information management and delivery
- \$20 million to NOAA Fisheries to establish initial Decision Support Teams and operational production of climate-informed advice at each fisheries science center
- \$4 million to NOAA Ocean Service for specialized Decision Support Team members and pilot applications

- Number of regions where high-resolution ocean modeling outlooks are available for analysis, visualization, and download from the CEFI Data Portal
- Number of high-resolution hindcasts, seasonal forecasts, decadal predictions, or multi-decadal projections of future ocean conditions
- Number of Decision Support Teams developing products and services for climate-informed decision making, such as marine heat wave early warnings, projections of future species distributions, risk assessments and strategy evaluations.

# Regional Fishery Management Councils



### **Overview**

Inflation Reduction Act funding will support the <u>regional fishery management councils</u> in implementation of management actions to respond to current climate challenges. In partnership with the councils, we will implement dynamic fishery management measures that are more timely in response to climate impacts and that increase fishing community resiliency to fishery changes caused by anticipated climate impacts.

### **Funding Highlights**

U.S. fisheries vary widely from region to region, and the fishing communities engaged in those fisheries are also diverse. Therefore, the management actions that are necessary to increase climate resilience will be similarly varied. Through initiatives focused on climate planning, supporting underserved communities, reducing bycatch, improving regulatory efficiency, and implementing management actions, NOAA Fisheries will work with the Councils to:

- Operationalize recommendations from climate scenario planning efforts
- Operationalize fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, integrated ecosystem assessments, etc.)
- Develop and implement management changes that address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries, including those that are important to underserved communities
- Develop and implement measures that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts
- Develop and advance climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts including those in support of underserved communities

- Number of climate-informed fishery management plan amendments or management measures implemented
- Number of fisheries management climate planning efforts or recommended actions from planning efforts completed
- Number of engagement efforts with underserved communities on climate resilient fisheries





NOAA Fisheries will implement improvements to state and federal angler surveys for red snapper and other reef fish in the Southeast. We will also implement improvements to scientific surveys for estimating and quantifying red snapper abundance. The plans for red snapper are focused on improving recreational catch, effort, and discard estimates from federal and state surveys, improving state-federal data exchange, and harnessing the power of artificial intelligence to provide more timely scientific advice from video and acoustic surveys.

For example, we will improve data delivery to enable state recreational data to be processed more quickly for use in science and management. We will also use video and other techniques to quantify angler effort for comparison with the Marine Resource Information Program. These improvements will reduce data uncertainty for red snapper and other reef fish species, benefiting millions of anglers in the world's largest recreational fishery.

### **Funding Highlights**

Approximately \$20 million will be invested into red snapper:

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to manage and process data on red snapper (~\$8 million), awarded in stages/increments through a multiyear grant
- Funds will be directed toward improving estimates of recreational fishing effort and discards of Gulf reef fish through partnerships with the Gulf states (~\$10 million) using multiple sampling methods and advanced technology
- Partnership with a Cooperative Institute will advance video and acoustic surveys to improve abundance estimates of red snapper and other reef fish (\$2 million)

- Quantification of effective optical gear across depths, latitude, and environmental gradients
- Improvements in the accessibility and compatibility of state fishery-dependent survey data managed through the Gulf Fisheries Information Network
- Independent estimates of private boat and for-hire fishing effort and released catches in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery that use remote technology and alternative survey approaches to allow comparisons between state and federal estimates





Arctic research funding will support coordination and shared research and knowledge with academic, international, community, and Indigenous partners. This will also help us better understand the effects of changing climate conditions on Arctic marine resources including fisheries, marine ecosystems, and subsistence-harvested marine mammals

### **Funding Highlights**

Arctic research funding will support:

- Development of research and knowledge needs with academic, international, and Indigenous partners
- Coordination of data on shifting abundance and distribution of subsistence-harvested marine mammals relative to ocean conditions
- Support and coordination of existing knowledge networks in Arctic communities to support NOAA Fisheries environmental justice strategy
- Platforms for co-developing local and Indigenous knowledge on-ramps for better understanding how changing climate conditions affect living marine resources

- Number of socio-economic studies conducted to better inform Arctic policy decisions
- Number of salmon assessment contributions that support management.





We will invest \$95 million into the rehabilitation and restoration of key facilities that are critical to our operations. This funding will invest in the Northwest Fisheries Science Center Seattle (Montlake) facility, which is critical to maintain continuity of our science missions in the Northwest. It will also replace a major seawater system at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Sandy Hook Lab.

#### Northwest Fisheries Science Center - Montlake (\$74 million)

This facility is critical for maintaining continuity of our fisheries science missions in the Northwest and in direct support of the marine habitat, marine fisheries, and marine mammal programs and assessments affecting coastal communities and associated coastal resilience. Funds will be provided to the General Services Administration to outfit and furnish space.

### Northwest Fisheries Science Center - New Construction (\$16 million)

Funding will go toward design and construction, providing critical space for programs that are currently in hazardous and substandard space onsite and that are currently unhoused from the recently demolished Mukilteo lab.

### Northeast Fisheries Science Center - Sandy Hook Lab (\$5 million)

NOAA's Howard/Sandy Hook Laboratory conducts research in ecology, leading to a better understanding of both coastal and estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on nearshore marine populations and their habitats. Major systems at the Howard Laboratory are original to facility construction and are at the end of the lifecycle and in need of replacement. IRA funding will support the redesign and replacement of the existing seawater system that is vital to NOAA's science mission.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. Richard W. Spinrad

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Janet Coit

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