



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUL 22 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Assistant Administrators  
Deputy Assistant Administrators  
Staff Office Directors

FROM:

Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
For Oceans and Atmosphere

SUBJECT:

NOAA Annual Guidance Memorandum for FY 2016

This memorandum provides guidance and fiscal assumptions for prioritizing NOAA execution, budgets, and plans in FY 2016. It also directs the development of specific analyses and plans needed to inform planning and budgeting choices. This guidance can be shared with staff as appropriate, but is intended for internal NOAA use only.

Last year, I presented my overarching priorities for NOAA, which complement and support the Department of Commerce's Strategic Plan. We have made tremendous strides in accomplishing our goals to build resilient communities, evolve the National Weather Service, invest in observational infrastructure, and create an organization of excellence. Those priorities remain our focus, but there's still work to be done.

In close collaboration among my leadership team—Dr. Holly Bamford in fulfilling the duties of the Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management (ASCM), VADM Manson Brown as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction (ASEOP), and Dr. Richard Spinrad as Chief Scientist (CS)—and NOAA's Assistant Administrators and others as needed, we continue to identify specific tactics that support these priorities. The Assistant Secretaries and the Chief Scientist will issue supporting materials as necessary that will guide implementation as well as future planning. This model will ensure cross-NOAA collaboration and coordination on these priorities.

As you develop your Line Office (LO) and Staff Office (SO) execution, budgeting, and planning documents, you are directed to develop and implement strategies and direct resources (whether existing or new) to advance these priorities, within the fiscal guidance provided below. Offices should continue to demonstrate to leadership the changes they are making to support the suite of priorities, including any impacts the changes will have on their other operations.

This is a transitional year for NOAA's performance management system (planning, budgeting, execution, evaluation). The SEE Optimization Team delivered recommendations to DUS/O VADM Devany in June, and his decision memo for the revised SEE process will be released shortly, including additional guidance for developing planning and budget documents for the FY 2016 SEE cycle (including FY 2018 proposals). As you go forward with those plans, continue to conduct your operational mission work and align your execution, budgeting, and planning activities with these priorities.



## Priorities remain the same

NOAA Priority: Provide information and services to make communities more resilient.

- *Line Office-led Priorities:*

- Advance earth system and ecosystem models and ecological forecasting (lead: OAR).
- Implement Next Gen stock assessments for species within NOAA's jurisdiction through advancements in monitoring and data collection (lead: NMFS).
- Make measurable progress on recovering protected species (lead: NMFS).
- Increase operational services that promote coastal resiliency (lead: NOS).

NOAA Priority: Evolve the Weather Service.

- *Line Office-led Priorities:*

- Create a National Weather Service that provides nationally consistent products and enables and encourages changes and innovation (lead: NWS).
- Achieve a Weather Ready Nation by holding ourselves accountable for the accuracy of our forecasts, as well as how people react to that information (lead: NWS).

NOAA Priority: Invest in observational infrastructure.

- *Line Office-led Priorities:*

- Launch JPSS and GOES-R on time and on schedule (lead: NESDIS).
- Develop a space-based observing enterprise that is flexible, responsive to evolving technologies, and economically sustainable (lead: NESDIS).
- Increase utilization and readiness of the NOAA Fleet to 100% within 3 years (lead: OMAO).
- Recapitalize the NOAA fleet (lead: OMAO).

NOAA Priority: Achieve organizational excellence.

- *Line Office-led Priorities:*

- Under the direction of the Chief Scientist, strengthen alignment of research and development activities to effectively and efficiently support NOAA's operational missions, including accelerating research advances to application (lead: OAR).

## Fiscal Assumptions:

For execution, planning, and budgeting in FY 2016, use the following fiscal assumptions:

- For FY 2016, assume the FY 2016 President's top line budget level amounts for both ORF and PAC
- For FY 2017- FY 2020 assume zero percent growth in the FY 2016 President's top line ORF amount and assume the PAC budget profiles in the FY 2016 President's Budget

Cc:

DUS-O

AS-CM

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