



Supporting American Seafood: The Case for Strong NOAA Funding in FY26

A message from – and for – U.S. commercial fishing and seafood businesses

We urge Congress to fully fund core NOAA programs that are essential to American fisheries so that we may achieve the objectives of the President's Executive Order and ensure a thriving U.S. seafood industry.

Problem & Solution



The American seafood industry is in crisis.

For decades, industrious U.S. fishing businesses and productive ocean waters made the United States a global seafood superpower. U.S. fishermen and processors deliver over 10 billion healthy, sustainable meals to American families each year and support 1.2 million jobs in coastal communities across the country. Yet today, our ability to keep delivering that value is at risk. **The industry is facing growing economic pressure—from soaring costs and infrastructure decline to unfair foreign competition.**

The Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness provides a huge boost to the U.S. seafood industry, and lays out a clear vision to strengthen domestic seafood production, improve trade fairness, and modernize seafood supply chains.

But we cannot implement the Executive Order without the foundational services provided by NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A well-functioning and adequately funded NOAA is the backbone of successful seafood production in the U.S.



What We're Asking For in FY26:

Congress must ensure that NOAA and NMFS have the funding they need to carry out their essential duties:

✓ **Fishery stock assessments and surveys** that support science-based harvest levels and long-term sustainability.

✓ **Responsive fishery management & permitting** that keeps seafood businesses operating efficiently.

✓ **Observer and monitoring programs** that promote accountability and maintain public trust in U.S. seafood.

✓ **Staff capacity** to carry out the agency's core responsibilities—ranging from data analysis to regulatory support and stakeholder engagement.

✓ **Weather & ocean forecasting services** that protect lives and support safe and efficient commercial fishing operations across all regions.