

April 25, 2024

We are writing in response to the NOAA Congressional Justification of the Fiscal Year 2025 President's Budget. As partners, collaborators, and users of the data provided by the Regional Associations of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), we are very concerned by the \$10 million proposed as the fiscal year 2025 budget for IOOS Regional Observations (NOS-31 through NOS-34). This represents a reduction of more than 76% from fiscal years 2023 and 2024 enacted levels, and less than any funding level for the program since its inception in the 2008 federal budget. Funding at this level would cripple the system that we rely on for business and day-to-day decisions.

The NOAA announcement of its fiscal year 2025 budget promotes investment in observational infrastructure, climate resilience, and expanded data and services. IOOS is a program that delivers on all of those criteria, providing near real-time, actionable data and information to users who live and work along our nation's coasts and Great Lakes. The 11 federally-certified Regional Associations provide actionable, near real-time data, as well as tools and forecasts, that are tailored to the needs of local and regional users while also supporting and enhancing national models, forecasts, and information products. IOOS supports safe and efficient maritime transportation and commerce, U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue operations, offshore energy development and operations, resource management and protection, environmental prediction (e.g., marine heat waves, harmful algal blooms, ocean acidification), improved understanding and notification of hazards (e.g., hurricanes and flooding), and more.

A NOAA budget that deprioritizes extramural partnerships during times of fiscal austerity ignores constituent priorities, which are best addressed by strong regional programs that regularly engage with us to understand and deliver information that meet our needs. The impact of the funding reduction proposed in the Fiscal Year 2025 President's Budget will be the loss of the long-term data and real-time services that the IOOS Regional Associations provide. This will adversely affect us and numerous other individuals nationwide who rely on similar services.

We urge you to disregard the president's budget request as it relates to IOOS Regional Observations. Funding to the system should be at the bipartisan authorized appropriation level of \$56 million to keep pace with inflation and ensure there are no disruptions to the services that users rely on. At a minimum, the IOOS Regional Observations must be funded at the fiscal year 2024 enacted level of \$42.5 million.

Thank you,  
The undersigned 655 IOOS supporters

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- Charles Treinen, Commercial Fishing, 99517
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- Anthony Carter , Guam fisheries , 96929
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- John Aflague, N/A, 96929
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- Daniel Kwiecinski, N/A, 60201
- Matthew Flink, Lake Michigan Evanston Boat Ramp Member, 60201
- Gabe Vehovsky, Trollers Unlimited, 60201
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- Therese Sauvageau, N/A, 1915
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- Mark Wallerstein , N/A, 3820
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- Kalle Matso, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, 3824
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- Elizabeth Harvey, University of New Hampshire, 3824
- Erik Chapman, NH Sea Grant and University of New Hampshire, 3833
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- Tony MacDonald, Director, Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute, 7712
- Douglas A. Gaffney, AtkinsRealis, 8034
- Steve Evert, Stockton University, 8205
- Sonya Legg, Center for Ocean Leadership at UCAR, 8550

## New Mexico

- Alex Sinclair, coastal management analyses, 87123

## New York

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- Laura McGrath, Parent of Moss Landing student , 10023
- Peter Linderoth, Save the Sound, 10538
- Adele Irwin, Private citizen; former NOAA employee, 11101
- Jacqueline McSweeney, Stony Brook University , 11794
- Anthony Hoogs, Kitware, Inc., 12065
- Michael Twiss, Clarkson University, 13699
- Laurence Van Deusen, Dunkirk Yacht Club, 14085
- Jerome King, NASA, 14435
- Madeline Richard, Taxpayer

## Northern Mariana Islands

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- Nathan Van Ee, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife. , 96950
- Kristina Anderson, Concerned citizen, 96950
- Alex Sablan , N/A, 96950
- Robbie Greene, Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, 96950
- James Scott Eck, Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc., 96950
- Tyler Willsey, Saipan Fishing Club, 96950
- Glenn F Policare, Weather Ready Nation Ambassador for NWS, 96950

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- Natalie Nelson, North Carolina State University, 27695
- Kerry Caslow, In-Situ, 28147
- Rachel O'Connor, Unaffiliated, 28304
- Ken Halanych, University of North Carolina Wilmington, 28412
- Jay Styron, Carolina Mariculture Co., 28520

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- Donald Arcuri, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Ohio Public Advisor at Large, 44074
- Thomas Rayburn, Board Chair, Great Lakes Observing System, 44120
- Michael Daugherty , Cleveland Metroparks Zoo , 44144
- Susan Engle , Private citizen, 44145
- John Hanson, Buckeye Sustainability and Environmental Consulting, 44202
- Lynda Nossaman, Great Lakes Observing System; Lake Erie Foundation, 44212
- Dan Pfeiffer, individual, 44606
- Jacob Cianci-Gaskill , Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve , 44839
- Captain Jim Mitchell, Erie Angler LLC, 44875
- Laura Johnson, Heidelberg University, 44883

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- James Kelley, Trent University
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- Mary Rose Gradoville, N/A, 97212
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- Catherine Corbett, Chief Scientist, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, 97232
- Elaine Harvey, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, 97232
- Joi Danielson, Vital Ocean, 97239
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- Andrew Barnard, Oregon State University, 97331
- Peter Ruggiero, Oregon State University, 97331
- Laura Anderson, Oregon Ocean Science Trust, 97365
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- Christine Moffitt, President, Friends of South Slough Reserve, Inc., 97420
- Adam DeMarzo, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 97420
- Alice Yeates, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 97420
- Jennifer Schmitt, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 97420
- Sabra Comet, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 97420
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- Shan Schooler, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 97420
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- Katrina Scotto di Carlo, Employed by Oregon Department of State Lands but am acting as an individual

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- Sharon Patris, Coral Reef Research Foundation, 96940
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- Joseph Aitaro, Office of Climate Change, Office of the President, Republic of Palau, 96940
- Christopher Kitalong, Palau Community College, 96940

## Pennsylvania

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## Puerto Rico

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- Carlos M Anselmi-Molina, NOAA/National Weather Service/Weather Forecast Office, San Juan, 979

## Rhode Island

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- Michelle Beck , University of Rhode Island, 2840
- Stacey Snow, Personal, 2864
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- Andrew J Davies, University of Rhode Island, 2881
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- Hubert Brumant, N/A, 802
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- Scott Hartshorn, Red Hook Family Medicine, 802
- Matthew Berry, St. Thomas USVI Harbor Pilot and commercial fisherman , 802
- Dan Mele, University of the Virgin Islands, 802
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- Thomas Curtin, Adaptive Systems Institute, 22205
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- Judah Goldberg, Rockland Scientific International, 98116
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- Dr. Alex Parker, Astraeus Ocean Systems, 98226
- Megan Dethier, Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington, 98250
- Jude Apple, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve/Dept of Ecology, 98275
- Tommy Moore, Private citizen, 98305
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- Emily Buckner, Pacific Northwest Crab Research Group , 98368
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