



November 06, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Ranking Member Murray,

American seafood and fishing industries depend on well-managed fisheries and thriving working waterfronts. The importance of NOAA's role in the safety and success of the fishing and seafood industries is indisputable. From recreational and small-boat commercial fishermen to seafood purveyors and chefs, people depend on science-based management of our fisheries and oceans to ensure they can keep their businesses and local economies going and deliver healthy, domestic seafood to the tables of millions of Americans. U.S. fisheries generate approximately 2.3 million jobs and more than \$470 billion to our economy. We need the fisheries experts and resources at NOAA to do the hard work of keeping our oceans healthy and our fisheries productive so coastal communities and working waterfronts continue to thrive and seafood lovers across the nation can enjoy the ocean's bounty.

Yet given this, the House Appropriations Committee chose to decrease the agency's funding at a time when we as a nation need to invest in our American seafood economy. Underfunding NOAA ultimately undercuts hard-working fishermen and seafood suppliers, plus the millions of people wanting American-caught seafood on their dinner plates. This is why we appreciate the Senate's work on NOAA funding and would like to see nothing less than the Senate's \$6.14 billion funding level prevail in any conference agreement in any final FY26 spending package.

The Marine Fish Conservation Network is a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations, regional and national conservation groups, aquaria, sustainable seafood suppliers, and marine science organizations dedicated to sustaining abundant fish populations, healthy marine ecosystems, and thriving working waterfront communities through defending and strengthening U.S. ocean conservation policy and science-based fisheries management.

Our mission is to conserve and revitalize wild ocean fisheries for the economic betterment, cultural enrichment, and health benefit of people and communities nationwide. We are dedicated to ensuring that abundant, productive, and resilient U.S. ocean fisheries will provide jobs, economic security, and sustainable domestic seafood now and for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance or provide additional information.

Sincerely,
G. J. Thomas Sadler, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer