

STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 4-5, 2015

17C. OTHER ITEMS – FEDERAL AGENCIES REPORT**Today's Item**Information Action

This is a standing agenda item to receive reports on any recent federal agency activities of interest not otherwise addressed under other agenda items.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI): Along with several other federal agencies, DOI announced additional sites, including two in California, for a program designed to prepare natural resources for climate change (Exhibit C1).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Conservation activities in the Sacramento area's Koobs Nature Preserve are being led by USFWS staff working as volunteers, with assistance from local businesses (Exhibit C2). The activities are improving habitat for native plants and animals, including pollinators.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): A nationally-led campaign by NOAA is underway to highlight eight endangered species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and found to be at critical risk of extinction; two of these eight species are found in California, winter-run Chinook salmon and central California coast coho salmon. The *Species in the Spotlight* initiative focused on coho salmon in July and winter-run Chinook salmon will be highlighted in September. Successes and challenges facing coho salmon stabilization and recovery are identified on the *Species in the Spotlight* campaign webpage at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2015/05/05_14_15species_in_the_spotlight.html. Some successes include (1) development of a NOAA/DFW interagency policy team called PACT (Priority Action Coho Team) tasked to implement extinction prevention priorities identified in the State and Federal recovery plans; (2) changes to State forest practices; (3) protections afforded coho salmon in fishing regulations, (4) focused restoration, and (5) ongoing monitoring. A 5-year plan for central California coast coho salmon is under development to coordinate both regional and national efforts to secure coho populations in California.

Other NOAA activities and announcements include:

1. Boundaries for the Cordell Bank and the Farallones national marine sanctuaries were expanded in June (Exhibit C3).
2. New members were appointed to the regional fishery councils (Exhibit C4).
3. A new report indicates that recreational fishing contributes significant economic benefits to California's national marine sanctuaries (Exhibit C5).
4. Over \$25 million in grants will be distributed for projects to improve fishing opportunities, observations, resiliency and sustainability (Exhibit C6).
5. A new study finds that bait and tackle retailers generate approximately \$2.3 billion for the U.S. economy (Exhibit C7).

STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 4-5, 2015

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

- C1. DOI news release: DOI, USDA, EPA, NOAA and USACE announce additional Resilient Lands and Water Initiative sites to prepare natural resources for climate change, dated June 24, 2015
- C2. USFWS field notes entry: Sacramento FWO: A Drop of Volunteerism Makes for Positive Ripples, dated July 14, 2015
- C3. NOAA news release: Cordell Bank, Farallones national marine sanctuaries expanded, dated June 9, 2015
- C4. NOAA news release: U.S. Commerce Department announces 2015 regional fishery council appointments, dated June 19, 2015
- C5. NOAA news release: New NOAA report shows significant economic benefits of recreational fishing in California's national marine sanctuaries, dated June 22, 2015
- C6. NOAA news release: NOAA announces more than \$25 million in grants to improve fishing opportunities, observations, resiliency and sustainability, dated June 25, 2015
- C7. NOAA news release: NOAA study finds bait and tackle retailers generate \$2.3 billion for U.S. economy, dated July 16, 2015

Motion/Direction (N/A)

DOI, USDA, EPA, NOAA and USACE announce additional Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative sites to prepare natural resources for climate change

Sites in northern and central California and Montana selected to showcase climate resilience approach

06/24/2015

[Contact Us](#)

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) today recognized three new collaborative landscape partnerships across the country where Federal agencies will focus efforts with partners to conserve and restore important lands and waters and make them more resilient to a changing climate. These include the California Headwaters, California's North-Central Coast and Russian River Watershed, and Crown of the Continent.

Building on existing collaborations, these *Resilient Lands and Waters* partnerships – located in California and Montana/British Columbia – will help build the resilience of valuable natural resources and the people, businesses and communities that depend on them in regions vulnerable to climate change and related challenges. They will also showcase the benefits of landscape-scale management approaches and help enhance the carbon storage capacity of these natural areas.

The selected lands and waters face a wide range of climate impacts and other ecological stressors related to climate change, including drought, wildfire, sea level rise, species migration and invasive species. At each location, Federal agencies will work closely with state, tribal, and local partners to prepare for and prevent these and other threats, and ensure that long-term conservation efforts take climate change into account.

These new Resilient Lands and Waters sites follow President Obama's [announcement](#) of the first set of Resilient Landscape [partnerships](#) (southwest Florida, Hawaii, Washington and the Great Lakes region) at the 2015 Earth Day event in the Everglades.

Efforts in all Resilient Lands and Waters regions are relying on an approach that addresses the needs of the entire landscape. Over the next 18 months, Federal, state, local, and tribal partners will work together in these landscapes to develop more explicit strategies and maps in their programs of work. Developing these strategies will benefit wildfire management, mitigation investments, restoration efforts, water and air quality, carbon storage, and the communities that depend upon natural systems for their own resilience. By tracking successes and sharing lessons learned, the initiative will encourage the development of similar resilience efforts in other areas across the country.

For example, in the California Headwaters, an area that contributes greatly to state's water supply, the partnership will build upon and unify existing collaborative efforts to identify areas for restoration that will help improve water quality and quantity, promote healthy forests, and reduce wildfire risk. In California's North-Central Coast and Russian River Watershed, partners will explore methods to improve flood risk reduction and water supply reliability, restore habitats, and inform coastal and ocean resource management efforts. In

Montana, extending into British Columbia, the Crown of the Continent partnership will focus on identifying critical areas for building habitat connectivity and ecosystem resilience to help ensure the long-term health and integrity of this landscape.

"From the Redwoods to the Rockies to the Great Lakes and the Everglades, climate change threatens many of our treasured landscapes, which impacts our natural and cultural heritage, public health and economic activity," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "The key to making these areas more resilient is collaboration through sound science and partnerships that take a landscape-level approach to preparing for and adapting to climate change.

"As several years of historic drought continue to plague the West Coast, there is an enormous opportunity and responsibility across federal, state and private lands to protect and improve the landscapes that generate our most critical water supplies," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. "Healthy forest and meadows play a key role in ensuring water quality, yield and reliability throughout the year. The partnerships announced today will help us add resiliency to natural resource systems to cope with changing climate patterns."

"Landscape-scale conservation can help protect communities from climate impacts like floods, drought, and fire by keeping watersheds healthy and making natural resources more resilient," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "EPA is proud to take part in the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative.

"Around the nation, our natural resources and the communities that depend on them are becoming more vulnerable to natural disasters and long-term environmental change," said Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., NOAA Administrator. "The lands and waters initiative will provide actionable information that resource managers and decision makers need to build more resilient landscapes, communities and economies."

"The Army Corps of Engineers is bringing our best scientific minds together to participate in this effort. We are working to ensure that critical watersheds are resilient to changing climate," said Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. "The Army Corps' participation in this effort along with our local, state and federal partners demonstrates our commitment to implement President Obama's Climate Action Plan in all of our missions."

The Resilient Lands and Waters initiative is a key part of the Administration's [Climate and Natural Resources Priority Agenda](#), a first of its kind, comprehensive commitment across the Federal Government to support resilience of America's vital natural resources. It also directly addresses Goal 1 of the [National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) to conserve habitat that supports healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate.

When President Obama launched his [Climate Action Plan](#) in 2013, he directed Federal agencies to identify and evaluate approaches to improve our natural defenses against extreme weather, protect biodiversity and conserve natural resources in the face of a changing climate. The Climate Action Plan also directs agencies to manage our public lands and natural systems to store more carbon.

[***Click here for more information on the three selected landscapes \(California Headwaters, California's North-Central Coast and Russian River Watershed, and Crown of the Continent\)***](#)

Field Notes Entry

SACRAMENTO FWO: A Drop of Volunteerism Makes for Positive Ripples

California-Nevada Offices , July 14, 2015

By Sarah Swenty

Pollinators, such as bees and butterfly species are struggling to survive in California and throughout the United States. These animals are critical to our nation's economy, food security, and environmental health. Last month, due to the concern for their on-going decline, **President Obama** signed the Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. The strategy calls on the American people to assist in the conservation of these important species.

Out ahead of the more recent efforts nationally, **John Cleckler**, Caltrans Liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sacramento Field Office, was excited to learn his daughter's Montessori School in urbanized Carmichael, California, was next door to the Koobs Nature Preserve. The preserve is held in an educational trust and serves as both an outdoor classroom and a Vietnam Memorial.

Seeing invasive exotic trees and weeds taking over the four-acre site and crowding out native plants and animals, Cleckler began organizing volunteers to maintain and improve the site. Tasks have included reclaiming pathways and the removal of non-native plants. He was also able to partner with a local conservation company, Westervelt Environmental, to have the preserve digitally mapped; delivered downed invasive acacia trees to the Sacramento Zoo for their browse program; and secured large amounts of mulch donated by the Bailey Tree Company.



Thanks to the efforts of two helpful Service biologists and the local community, Koobs Preserve restoration site is now home to native pollinators and birds and provides urban school children and their parents a rare opportunity to connect with nature in an urban corridor. - Photo Credit: USFWS



Children who helped with the Koobs Preserve restoration efforts got to deliver the downed invasive acacia trees to the Sacramento Zoo for the giraffes and other animals to eat. - Photo Credit: USFWS



The Carmichael Kiwanis Club recognized Sacramento FWO's own John Cleckler (pictured here working on the new gardens) as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for his "extraordinary community service." - Photo Credit: USFWS



Leigh Bartoo, Bay Delta FWO Biologist identified and successfully secured grants to purchase hundreds of milkweed (pictured here) and other native flower species for the Koobs Preserve. - Photo Credit: USFWS

Service biologist, **Leigh Bartoo**, was also involved and secured grants to purchase hundreds of milkweed and other native flower species for the Koobs Preserve. Students from the Montessori School planted and help care for milkweed plants for monarchs, and other nectar sources such as gumplant, Phacelia, California poppies, and blue-eyed grass. Soon, these plants will provide a tasty meal for monarch butterfly caterpillars, and nectar and pollen for native pollinators. And the children are getting an invaluable hands-on opportunity in learning the role and value of pollinators and how to protect the environment.

Further enhancements of the Koobs Preserve are well underway. The site is now a home to native pollinators and birds, includes a welcome mat for monarch butterflies, provides urban school children a rare opportunity to connect with nature, and offers their parents a monthly opportunity to enjoy camaraderie.

The efforts to improve the Preserve caught the attention of the Carmichael Kiwanis Club, which recognized Cleckler as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for his "extraordinary community service."

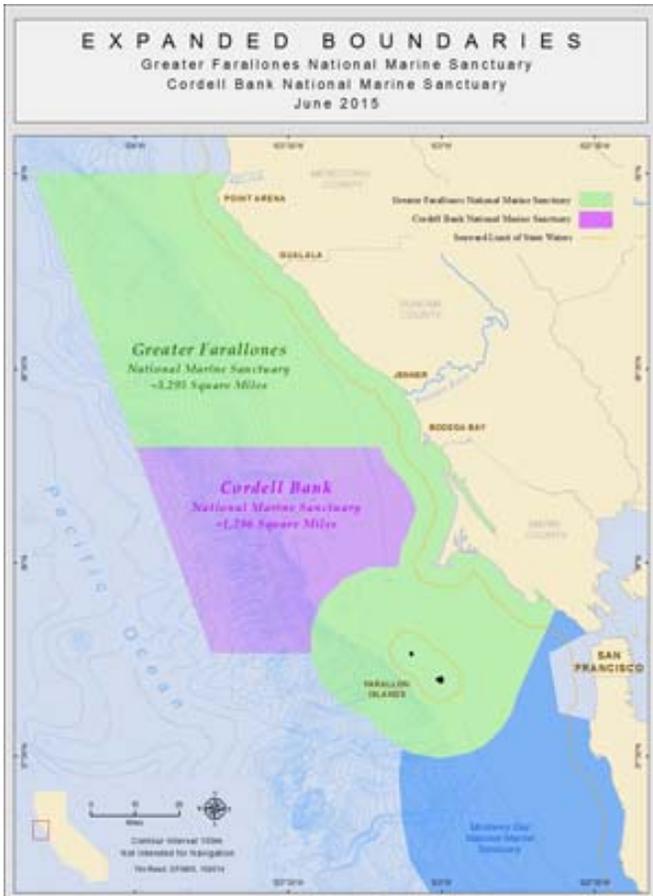
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Cordell Bank, Farallones national marine sanctuaries expanded

New name for expanded Farallones reflects new boundaries, opportunities

June 9, 2015



The expansion of [Cordell Bank](#) and [Gulf of the Farallones](#) national marine sanctuaries off northern California takes effect today, following a 45-day period of Congressional review. The expansion will help protect the region's marine and coastal habitats, biological resources and special ecological features.

As a result of the expansion, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary now will be known as Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The name change reflects the sanctuary's new geographical boundaries and expanded opportunities for stewardship, research and education.

"We are very excited about the expansion of our sanctuary, and the opportunity, through our name change, to be more inclusive, and to bring greater public awareness to the fact that these waters represent an extraordinary marine ecosystem, one of the richest on our planet," said Maria Brown, Farallones superintendent. "Our new name will be one that encourages partnerships in science, education, technology, management and community beyond our previous geographic and demographic area."

(Credit: NOAA)

"This expansion represents the culmination of a multi-year effort to protect an important part of the ocean," said John Armor, acting director of [NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#). "We look forward to working with our partners in these sanctuaries' communities."



Pacific white-sided dolphins are one of the most abundant marine mammal species found in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. (Credit: NOAA)

The expansion of the two national marine sanctuaries, which both more than doubled, was [approved](#) in March. [Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#), located 42 miles north of San Francisco, expanded from 529 square miles to 1,286 square miles. [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#) grew from 1,282 square miles to 3,295 square miles of ocean and coastal waters.

The expansion was based on years of public comment and research by

NOAA and its scientific partners that identified the nutrient-rich upwelling

zone originating off Point Arena and flowing south into the original sanctuaries as one of the most productive in North America.

During a review of both sanctuaries' management plans, NOAA received comments from the public in 2001 expressing interest in expanding the boundaries north and west. In response, the revised management plans published in 2008 included a public process to consider possible expansion and ensure that sanctuary boundaries were inclusive of the surrounding area's natural resources and ecological qualities.

From December 2012 through June 2014, NOAA conducted a public engagement process to allow the public to weigh in on the proposed expansion. The agency received more than 1,300 comments, most in support of the proposed expansion.



Bowling Ball Beach is one of the spectacular spots along California's Mendocino Coast that will be protected within the expanded Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. (Credit: NOAA)

The newly named Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1981, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1989, both contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education. The sanctuaries also promote stewardship, conduct scientific and applied research initiatives,

and develop and support programs to strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region.

A celebration of the expansion of both sanctuaries is planned for Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gualala Arts Center, 46501 Gualala Road in Gualala, California. The free, public event will feature activities, entertainment and refreshments.

For information on the expansion of both sanctuaries, go to http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/expansion_cbgf.html. For photos and video of both expansion areas, go to <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/california-expansion/>

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

June 22, 2015

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New NOAA report shows significant economic benefits of recreational fishing in California's national marine sanctuaries

Anglers spent approximately \$156 million on saltwater recreational fishing in California's four national marine sanctuaries on average, which generated more than \$200 million in annual economic output and supported nearly 1,400 jobs, according to a new NOAA report released today. The peer-reviewed report cited data ranging from 2010-2012, the most recent years for which this data is available, from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Mason Nunn visiting from Colorado gets a little help from his dad on a big fish while fishing in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Credit: Sanctuary Classic

The findings highlight the positive effects and economic value of recreational fishing in the four California sanctuaries--Channel Islands, Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay--which are managed to ensure the health of our most valued ocean places. Approximately 13.4 percent of all saltwater recreational fishing in California from 2010 to 2012 took place in national marine sanctuaries, the report states. During the study period, the Greater Farallones sanctuary was called the Gulf of the Farallones; it was renamed earlier this month.

"This report underscores the value of national marine sanctuaries as focal points for recreation and local economic development," said Bob Leeworthy, chief economist for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. "It also highlights the important role sanctuaries play in protecting the health and integrity of critical marine ecosystems, including places cherished by recreational saltwater anglers."

The Economic Impact of the Recreational Fisheries on Local County Economies in California National Marine Sanctuaries, 2010, 2011 and 2012, was produced by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Among the findings:

- Based on a three-year average from 2010 to 2012, the total economic impact from recreational fishing in California national marine sanctuaries--the so-called "ripple effect"--totaled \$213.1 million.

- Communities served by a national marine sanctuary, on average, saw an additional \$74.4 million in income to business owners and employees as a result of recreational fishing in the sanctuary.
- Of the places anglers fish, national marine sanctuaries accounted for 13.4 percent of the total person-days of recreational fishing in California each year on average.
- Land-based shore fishing in the sanctuaries accounted for an average of 9.9 percent of shore fishing person-days in California; charter and passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) in the sanctuaries accounted for 22.3 percent of all CPFV person-days in California; and private/rental boat fishing in the sanctuaries accounted for 25.8 percent of all private/rental boat person-days in California.
- Anglers spent \$79.7 million on trip-related expenses, with fuel one of the largest expenditures for anglers. Non-residents had higher trip-related expenditures for auto rental and lodging. Anglers spent an additional \$75.9 million on durable goods purchases, with the highest expenditures for rods and reels, tackle and boat storage.

The complete California recreational fishing economic impacts study, along with earlier national marine sanctuary socioeconomic reports, can be found at sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/pdfs/california_rec_sanctuaries.pdf.

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U.S. Commerce Department announces 2015 regional fishery council appointments

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FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:
June 19, 2015

The U.S. Commerce Department today announced the appointment of 30 new and returning members to the eight regional fishery management councils that partner with NOAA Fisheries to manage ocean fish stocks. The new and reappointed council members begin their three-year terms on August 11.

The councils were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to prepare fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their regions. NOAA Fisheries works closely with the councils as plans are developed, and then reviews, approves and implements the fishery management plans. Council members represent diverse groups, including commercial and recreational fishing industries, environmental organizations and academia. They are vital to fulfilling the act's requirements to end overfishing, rebuild fish stocks and manage them sustainably.

"U.S. fisheries are among the most sustainable in the world, and NOAA Fisheries is grateful for the efforts these individuals devote to our nation's fisheries management and to the resiliency of our oceans. We look forward to working with both new and returning council members," said Eileen Sobeck, assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries. "Each council faces unique challenges, and their partnerships with us at NOAA Fisheries are integral to the sustainability of the fisheries in their respective regions, as well as to the communities that rely on those fisheries."

Each year, the Secretary of Commerce appoints approximately one-third of the total 72 appointed members to the eight regional councils. The Secretary selects members from nominations submitted by the governors of fishing states, territories and tribal governments.

Council members are appointed to both obligatory (state-specific) and at-large (regional) seats. Council members serve a three-year term and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. *Asterisks preceding a member's name indicate a reappointment.*

New England Council

The New England Council includes members from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and one at-large seat.

Obligatory seats:

*Matthew G. McKenzie (Connecticut)

*Terry A. Alexander (Maine)

*John F. Quinn (Massachusetts)

Eric E. Reid (Rhode Island)

At-large seat:

*Vincent M. Balzano (Maine)

Mid-Atlantic Council

The Mid-Atlantic Council includes members from the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats for New Jersey and Virginia and two at-large seats.

Obligatory seats:

Adam C. Nowalsky (New Jersey)

Peter L. deFur (Virginia)

At-large seats:

Sara E. Winslow (North Carolina)

*Anthony D. Dilernia (New York)

South Atlantic Council

The South Atlantic Council includes members from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats from Florida and Georgia and two at-large seats.

Obligatory seats:

*Benjamin C. Hartig, III (Florida)

*Edward "Zack" Bowen (Georgia)

At-large seats:

*Charles M. Phillips (Georgia)

*Anna B. Beckwith (North Carolina)

Caribbean Council

The Caribbean Council includes members from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The appointees for 2015 will fill an obligatory seat for the U.S. Virgin Islands and one at-large seat.

Obligatory seat:

*Carlos F. Farchette (U.S. Virgin Islands)

At-large seat:

Carlos J. Velazquez (Puerto Rico)

Gulf Council

The Gulf Council includes members from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and two at-large seats.

Obligatory seats:

*Johnny R. Greene, Jr. (Alabama)

*Juan M. Sanchez (Florida)

*Campo E. Matens (Louisiana)

At-large seats:

Edward W. Swindell, Jr. (Louisiana)

Dale A. Diaz (Mississippi)

Pacific Council

The Pacific Council includes members from California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The Pacific Council also includes one Tribal seat. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats for California, Oregon and the Tribal seat. Two at-large seats will also be filled.

Obligatory seats:

*David M. Crabbe (California)

*Dorothy M. Lowman (Oregon)

Joseph Y. Oatman (Tribal)

At-large seats:

*William “Buzz” Brizendine, II (California)

Philip M. Anderson (Washington)

North Pacific Council

The North Pacific Council includes members from Alaska and Washington. The appointees for 2015 will fill two obligatory seats for Alaska and an obligatory seat for Washington.

Obligatory seats:

*Howard “Dan” Hull (Alaska)

Andrew D. Mezirow (Alaska)

*Craig A. Cross (Washington)

Western Pacific Council

The Western Pacific Council includes members from American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The appointees for 2015 will fill obligatory seats for Guam and Hawaii.

Obligatory seats:

*Michael P. Duenas (Guam)

*Michael K. Goto (Hawaii)

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NOAA announces more than \$25 million in grants to improve fishing opportunities, observations, resiliency and sustainability

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FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:
June 25, 2015

Funds to benefit U.S. fisheries, fishermen and coastal communities

NOAA is announcing more than \$25 million in recommended funding for 88 projects under the 2014-2015 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program. This is the most significant amount of funding ever granted by NOAA under this decades-old program.

"NOAA is committed to helping communities become more resilient environmentally as well as economically," said NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D. "These awards will create jobs, increase economic opportunities for fishing communities, improve the kinds of data and observations we collect about the health of our nation's fisheries and oceans, and make sound investments in mitigating future risk."

This year's recommended projects fall into four broad categories:

- Maximizing fishing opportunities and jobs,
- Improving key fisheries observations,
- Increasing the quality and quantity of domestic seafood, and
- Improving fishery information from U.S. territories.

"With projects in every region of the country and in U.S. territories, these grants underscore that communities have different goals and needs across the country and they all have something significant to bring to the table as far as their approach to research and project development," said Eileen Sobeck, assistant NOAA administrator for fisheries. "The grants we are recommending touch every aspect of marine research including socioeconomics, fishing gear and bycatch, aquaculture, fisheries management and the effects of climate."

Established in 1954, the Saltonstall-Kennedy grants program is designed to address the needs of fishing communities, optimize economic benefits by building and maintaining sustainable fisheries, and increase other opportunities to keep working waterfronts viable.

As in past years, the competition for funding was robust. The agency received 279 applications from state and local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and academia, totaling more than \$76 million in requests. Proposals underwent extensive and rigorous technical review, both within the agency and by an external constituent panel, before final agency review, resulting in the list of recommended projects.

"These grants once again underscore NOAA Fisheries' commitment to addressing the needs of our fishing communities," said Sobeck.

At this point in the selection process, the application approval and funds obligation is not final. Divisions of NOAA and the Department of Commerce, NOAA's parent agency, must still give final approval for the projects, and successful applicants will receive funding in the near future.

For more information on research priorities, visit

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mb/financial_services/skhome.htm, and the grants.gov weblink at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=Saltonstall-Kennedy>.

NOAA study finds bait and tackle retailers generate \$2.3 billion for U.S. economy

July 16, 2015



Colorful lures on small fishing vessel. (Credit: NOAA)

Independent marine recreational bait and tackle retail stores provide a big boost to the U.S. economy, a [NOAA study](#) has found.

According to the study, the first economic survey of its kind, in 2013, the most recent year for which data is available, these retailers contribute approximately \$2.3 billion across the broader U.S. economy, including \$796 million in income. In addition, the industry supports nearly 16,000 jobs across the nation. NOAA Fisheries released these figures today at the 2015 International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades in Orlando, Florida.

“This study clearly shows the strong contribution of the bait and tackle industry to the economic health of our coastal communities and to the broader U.S. economy,” said Doug Lipton, NOAA Fisheries senior scientist for economics. “And it gives us a good baseline for measuring the economic impacts of these businesses as we move forward.”

Because the study focused only on independent businesses and not large retail chain stores, it captured only a portion of the entire U.S. bait and tackle industry’s contribution to the economy. However, the businesses surveyed generated an estimated \$854 million in total sales of saltwater fishing bait and tackle. For those businesses specializing only in bait and tackle, the average retailer sold about \$426,000 in saltwater bait, tackle and related equipment in 2013.

“Even though this study only captured a slice of an even bigger pie, this first-time economic assessment of the industry will help managers and regulators better understand the effect that changing conditions have on recreational fisheries and coastal communities,” Lipton said. “These data will also help quantify the effects of future natural disasters such as storms, hurricanes, or tsunamis.”

NOAA Fisheries surveyed 3,500 independent, primarily small, businesses for this study. Of the 944 responders, 35 percent classified themselves as bait and tackle stores that exclusively sell bait, tackle, and recreational fishing equipment. The remaining 65 percent of responding stores included sporting goods retailers, marinas, general retailers, convenience stores and hardware stores.

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<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/071515-noaa-study-finds-bait-and-tackle-retailers-generate-2-billion-for-us-economy.html>