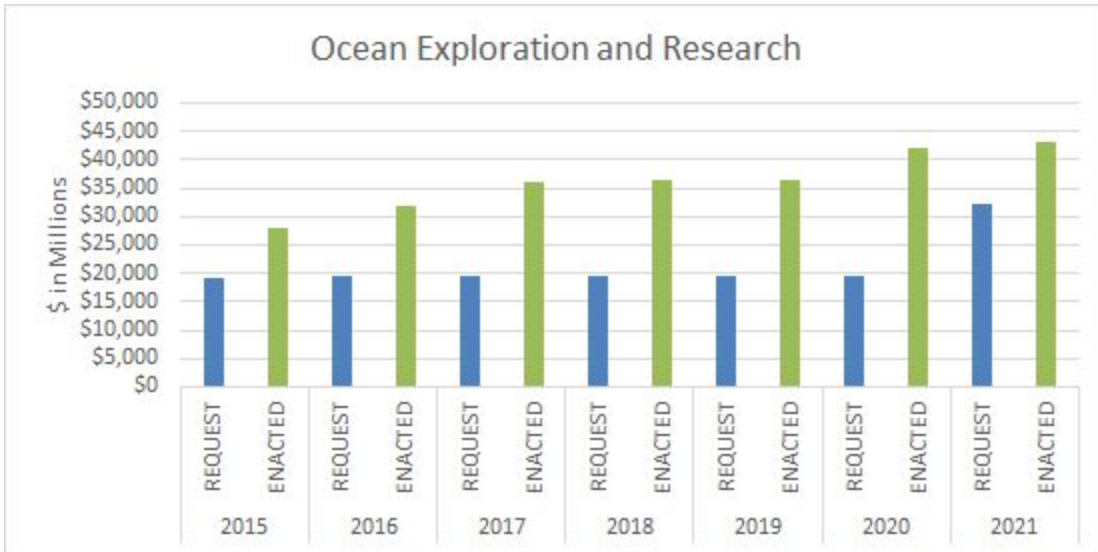


Ocean Exploration and Research Appropriations FY15-Present



Ocean Exploration Totals (\$ in Millions)		
	Request	Enacted
2015	\$19,220	\$28,000
2016	\$19,344	\$32,000
2017	\$19,568	\$36,000
2018	\$19,439	\$36,500
2019	\$19,561	\$36,500
2020	\$19,638	\$42,000
2021	\$32,096	\$43,000

Relevant Appropriations Language from Bills and Reports

Notes:

- Dollar amounts noted in the language may have changed before the final appropriation in that year. Use the table above for final appropriated amounts (Enacted).
- Where language differs, the Conference report language takes precedence. OAR tries to follow all report language unless it differs from the Conference report.

FY 2021

Requested: \$32,096,000

Enacted: \$43,000,000

Conference Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The agreement provides \$43,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research. Within the funding provided, OAR is directed to accelerate efforts to map and characterize America's Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Outer Continental Shelf, including by maximizing the amount of funding provided for the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute and supporting competitive awards for deep ocean acoustic research. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee rejects the requested decrease in funding for Ocean Exploration and Research and instead provides \$42,742,000 and encourages NOAA to map and characterize the Nation's Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Continental Shelf.

Senate Report Language (Unofficial)

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee provides \$44,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research, an increase of \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level. Within the funding provided, OAR is directed to accelerate efforts to map and characterize America's Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Outer Continental Shelf, including by maximizing the amount of funding provided for the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute and supporting competitive awards for deep ocean acoustic research. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

FY 2020

Requested: \$19,638,000

Enacted: \$42,000,000

Conference Report Language

None included. Defer to the direction in the House and Senate reports.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee rejects the requested decrease in funding for Ocean Exploration and Research and instead provides \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 amount. The Committee encourages NOAA to use not less than \$7,000,000 to fund non-profit organizations operating ocean-going ships of exploration using tele-presence technology, and applied exploration, to map critically important areas within America’s Exclusive Economic Zone, our territory islands, as well as sites of submerged human history, particularly in the Pacific.

Senate Report Language

The Committee directs OAR to maximize the amount of appropriated funding provided to the new Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

FY 2019

Requested: \$19,561,000

Enacted: \$36,500,000

Conference Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research - The agreement adopts House and Senate report language regarding ocean exploration and research. The agreement supports the use of existing tele-presence technology, and applied exploration, to map critically important mineral deposits within America's exclusive economic zone and sites of submerged human history, particularly in the Pacific.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee recommends \$48,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research. The Committee encourages NOAA to use not less than \$7,000,000 to partner with non-government organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies including the National Science Foundation, to fund ocean-going ships of exploration and support associated science through peer-reviewed processes for ocean exploration in unknown regions. The Committee supports using existing tele-presence technology, and applied exploration, to map critically important mineral deposits within America’s EEZ and sites of submerged human history, particularly in the Western Pacific. The Committee expects NOAA

to expand exploration workshops. The Committee encourages NOAA to use a portion of the additional funds above the enacted level to leverage partnerships with universities to increase capacity for deep-water Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) as a means to sustain utility of AUV assets. The Committee also encourages NOAA to work with the Department of Defense, especially the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, to leverage assets and facilities to support deep-water AUV program development.

Senate Report Language

Ocean Exploration.— The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to academic institutions that have partnered with OAR’s Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles [AUV], to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology. Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOAA to leverage partnerships with universities to increase capacity for deepwater AUVs as a means to sustain utility of AUV assets. The Committee also encourages NOAA to work with the Department of Defense, especially the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, to leverage assets and facilities to support deepwater AUV program development.

FY 2018

Requested: \$19,439,000

Enacted: \$36,500,000

Conference Report Language

None included. Defer to the direction in the House and Senate reports.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee recommends \$36,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research, of which the Committee encourages NOAA to use \$4,000,000 to partner with non-government organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies including the National Science Foundation, to fund ocean-going ships of exploration and support associated science through peer-reviewed processes for ocean exploration in unknown regions.

Senate Report Language

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to academic institutions that have partnered with OAR's Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles [AUV], to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology. Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOAA to leverage partnerships with universities to increase capacity for deepwater AUVs as a means to sustain utility of AUV assets. The Committee also encourages NOAA to work with the Department of Defense, especially the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, to leverage assets and facilities to support deepwater AUV program development.

FY 2017

Requested: \$19,568,000

Enacted: \$36,000,000

Conference Report Language

None included. Defer to the direction in the House and Senate reports.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee recommends \$36,000,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research. NOAA’s ocean exploration program should continue to conduct fundamental exploration and surveys of the world’s oceans with a primary focus on America’s Exclusive Economic Zones of the Continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Pacific Territories. The Committee encourages NOAA to continue ocean exploration in which open source data are collected in real-time through tele-presence technology. The Committee encourages NOAA to emphasize areas for exploration that may be of interest to NOAA laboratories, including deep water regions of marine protected areas. The Committee encourages NOAA to partner with non-government organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies including the National Science Foundation, in these activities and, to the extent appropriate, share costs with these partners. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report required in fiscal year 2016 on this topic. Supporting the mapping and cataloguing of mineral wealth.

—The Committee directs NOAA to continue and expand its important work of mapping the Extended Continental Shelf, which provides significant assistance in the assessment, identification, analysis and cataloguing of mineral wealth and rare earth elements, done by the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Senate Report Language

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to institutions that have partnered with OAR’s Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are

collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

Furthermore, NOAA's ocean exploration program should continue fundamental exploration and surveys with primary focus on America's Exclusive Economic Zones of the Continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Pacific Territories. The Committee encourages NOAA to emphasize areas for exploration that may be of interest to NOAA laboratories including unique deep water regions, and to consider collaborating with international partners when practicable.

FY 2016

Requested: \$19,344,000

Enacted: \$32,000,000

Conference Report Language

None included. Defer to the direction in the House and Senate reports.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee recommends \$32,000,000 for ocean exploration and research activities. NOAA's ocean exploration program should continue to conduct fundamental exploration and surveys of the world's oceans with a primary focus on America's Exclusive Economic Zones of the Continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Pacific Territories. The Committee encourages NOAA to continue ocean exploration in which open source data are collected in real-time through tele-presence technology. The Committee encourages NOAA to emphasize areas for exploration that may be of interest to NOAA laboratories, including deep water regions of marine protected areas. The Committee encourages NOAA to partner with non-government organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies including the National Science Foundation, in these activities and, to the extent appropriate, share costs with these partners. NOAA shall provide the Committee a comprehensive plan for coordination with other government agencies, including an analysis of potential cost-sharing opportunities, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Supporting the mapping and cataloguing of mineral wealth including rare earth elements.—The Committee directs NOAA to continue and, as appropriate, expand its important work of mapping the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS), which provides significant assistance in the assessment, identification, analysis and cataloguing of mineral wealth, including rare earth elements, done by the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Senate Report Language

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to institutions that have partnered

with OAR's Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology. Another primary focus should be the continued exploration of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zones. As in the past, the program shall use ships and other ocean-going assets operated by academic and non-governmental institutions, provided that any data acquired are open-sourced.

FY 2015

Requested: \$19,220,000

Enacted: \$28,000,000

Conference Report Language

None included. Defer to the direction in the House and Senate reports.

House Report Language

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee recommends \$28,000,000 for ocean exploration and research activities. NOAA's ocean exploration program should continue to conduct fundamental exploration and surveys of the world's oceans with a primary focus on America's Exclusive Economic Zones of the Continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories. The Committee encourages NOAA to partner with non-governmental organizations and academic institutions in these activities.

Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP).—The recommendation does not include funds requested for the ORAP as legislation authorizing the transfer of this panel from the Department of Defense to NOAA has not been enacted.

Senate Report Language

Ocean Exploration.—The bill provides \$26,220,000 for the Ocean Exploration Program. NOAA is encouraged to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community in real-time through telepresence technology. Within funds provided, NOAA is encouraged to award competitive grants to institutions that have partnered with OAR in the past, including those with ocean going assets, to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep sea research. Another primary focus should be the continued exploration of the United States Exclusive Economic Zones. As in the past, the program shall use ships operated by non-governmental organizations and academic institutions provided that any data acquired are open-sourced. In addition, the Committee rejects the budget request to eliminate Ocean Exploration's education program.