



## National Association of Marine Laboratories

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Chairman Cartwright, Ranking Member Moran, and Ranking Member Aderholt:

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), I am writing to support the final FY 2023 appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as well as for specific programs (identified below) at those agencies. NAML also respectfully requests that every effort be made to avoid reductions to the top line of these agencies during conference negotiations, as they are essential to the health, security, and future of our nation and to the research and education ongoing at our member laboratories.

NAML is a network of place-based marine and Great Lakes laboratories across the nation with a mission to promote excellence in research, education, and public outreach in the marine sciences. NAML also seeks to provide a forum for the resolution of challenges common to nonprofit marine laboratories in the United States and to inform the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources. The Association is committed to establishing an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in every aspect of NAML's research, education, and outreach enterprise.

As you finalize FY 2023 appropriations, NAML requests that you fund, at the highest levels possible, programs that grow our nation's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) capabilities and diversify our talent portfolio by enabling opportunities for expanding outreach to, and supporting the inclusion of, underserved and underrepresented communities. These include, but are not limited to, NOAA's work to accelerate their Diversity and Inclusion Plan,

NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), and NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project. Additionally, NAML reiterates its top priorities by agency below.

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

With a mission to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts; to share that knowledge and information; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, NOAA plays a key role in our nation's security, stability, and prosperity. NAML labs—operating on the frontline of a constantly changing environment—understand more than most about how much our nation depends on healthy marine and freshwater resources; how weather and climate hazards challenge the resilience of coastal communities by damaging critical infrastructure, disrupting food and water supplies, and causing social instability, unemployment, and governance challenges; and the important role of research and education enterprises in providing the knowledge and training for decision-makers in our coastal communities.

For these reasons, **NAML respectfully requests funding NOAA at no less than the \$6.8 billion provided by the House bill** (a 15% increase over FY 2022). Additionally, within NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) Account, we request:

- No less than the \$701 million to the National Ocean Service provided in the Senate bill (a 10% increase over FY 2022). Also from the Senate report, this includes
  - No less than the \$46.0 million for the Integrated Ocean Observation System Regional Observations (a 12% increase over FY 2022)
  - No less than the \$30.0 million for Competitive Research (a 40% increase over FY 2022)
  - No less than the \$308.7 million for Ocean and Coastal Management and Services (an 8% increase over FY 2022). This includes
    - No less than the \$34.5 million for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (a 16% increase over FY 2022)
    - No less than the \$70 million for the National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas (a 15% increase over FY 2022)
- Within funding for the National Marine Fisheries Service, we request, from the Senate report:
  - No less than \$5.0 million for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program (a 25% increase over FY 2022)
  - No less than \$22.0 million for Aquaculture (a 22% increase over FY 2022)
- No less than the \$699.1 million for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research included in the House report (a 17% increase over FY 2022). This includes
  - No less than \$90 million for the National Sea Grant College Program and \$15 million for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research, as included in the Senate report (18% and 11% increases over FY 2022, respectively)
  - No less than the \$47.5 million included in the House report for Ocean Exploration and Research (a 7% increase over FY 2022)
  - No less than the \$7 million for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program included in the Senate report (a 250% increase over FY 2022)
  - No less than \$56 million for Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring, as included in the Senate report (a 14% increase over FY 2022)
- No less than the \$40.4 million for the Office of Education included in the House report (a 20% increase over FY 2022). Also from this House report, this includes

- No less than \$9.3 million included for Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Regional Programs (a 12% increase over FY 2022)
- No less than \$22.5 million for the Jose E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (a 13% increase over FY 2022)
- No less than \$8.6 million for the Office of Education Program Base (a 56% increase over FY 2022)

## National Science Foundation

With a mission to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense, NSF also plays a key role in our nation's security, stability, and prosperity and provides global leadership in advancing research and education.

**NAML respectfully requests Congress fund NSF at no less than \$11.89 billion, which is the amount authorized in the recently enacted *CHIPS and Science Act* (P.L. 117-67).**

Congress should increase appropriations to this new authorized level, given the urgent need to increase our nation's competitiveness at the heart of the authorization in the *CHIPS and Science Act*. The House and Senate appropriations bills included \$9.6 billion and \$10.3 billion, respectively, for NSF.

With this increase, NAML urges funding at the following amounts for specific accounts:

- Research and Related Activities, which was authorized to receive \$9.1 billion in the *CHIPS and Science Act*, along with the recognition of the research and infrastructure needs of field stations and marine laboratories as authorized in the *CHIPS and Science Act*.
- STEM Education, which would receive \$1.95 billion as authorized in the *CHIPS and Science Act*.

## National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA's Earth-facing missions, which help us understand our planet on both a large- and a small-scale, are of particular interest to NAML.

**NAML respectfully requests funding for Science and Earth Science at no less than the \$8.0 billion and \$2.35 billion included in the Senate report (a 6% and a 14% increase over FY 2022, respectively).**

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this input to the conference committee's upcoming deliberation and for your steadfast support of this Nation's research and education enterprise.

Sincerely,



Dr. David B. Carlon, President  
National Association of Marine Laboratories