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## Global Change, Coastal Zone Plans Eyed

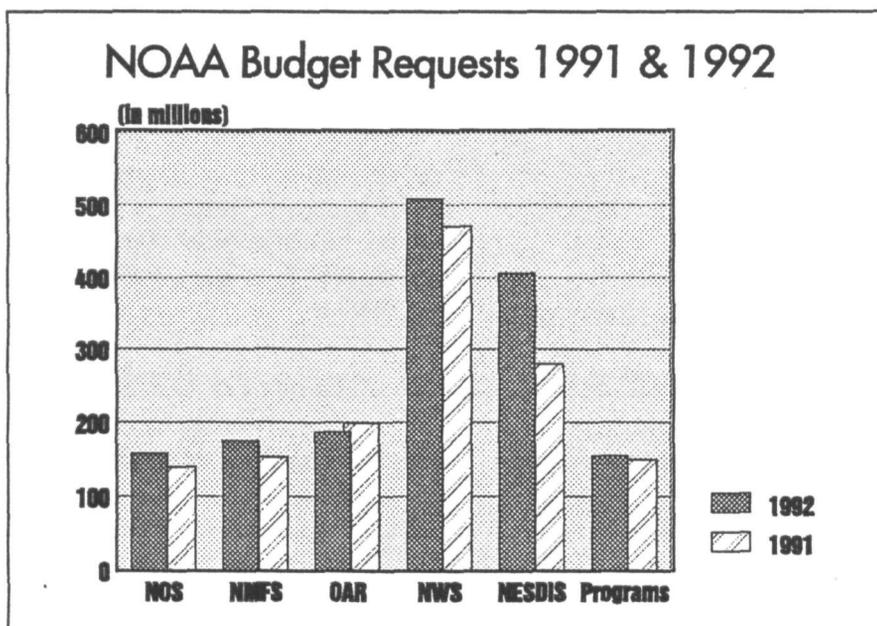
# NOAA Requests 12% Budget Hike for FY '92

NOAA has requested a budget increase of 12 percent over last fiscal year's request, a good deal of it slated for the weather service modernization program and satellite acquisition.

The \$1,590,276,000 request is up \$198 million over the FY '91 request of \$1,391,964,000. Proposed funding includes a \$78 million request for NOAA's participation in the national global climate change program, an increase of \$31 million over 1991. The interagency program continues to be a major NOAA initiative.

### **Modernization Targeted**

Major increases include \$132.5 million for the National Weather Service, principally for equipment required for its 10-year modernization program; and \$132.7 million for NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information



NOAA's FY 1992 budget request is 12 percent higher than last year's, and includes increased spending for seafood inspection, satellite acquisition, and modernization of the National Weather Service, among other programs.

Service, largely for satellite acquisition.

The budget asks for funds for two new or enhanced programs. As part of a new

initiative called Coastal America, NOAA is asking for \$5 million as its share of an

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## Troops, Spill Get Agency Aid

# NOAA Looms Large in Desert Storm

Two members of the U.S. interagency team sent to Saudi Arabia to help stay the Persian Gulf oilspill come from NOAA's Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Program.

The NOAA advisors, part of a team dispatched by President Bush, will assist Saudi Arabian officials in aerial reconnais-

sance, oilspill movement predictions, and ecological assessments of the damage done by the spill. Additionally, at least 20 other HAZMAT and NOAA National Weather Service personnel were pressed into stateside duty to support the cleanup efforts.

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## **Coming Events**

- **National Weather Service Field Managers Meeting**, presenting the modernization plan to field managers, in Boulder, Colo., Feb. 11-15.
- **Society of American Military Engineers conference**, talk by NOAA Deputy Administrator Gray Castle, at Bolling Air Force Base Officers' Club, Feb. 20.

## Seafood Inspection, Coastal Zone Effort Highlight Request

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interagency effort designed to enhance coordination and increase service across a wide variety of coastal zone programs. Other federal organizations participating include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. Also, a vigorous drive toward more comprehensive management of the vast amounts of data generated by NOAA is planned, with a request for \$14 million.

Other proposed allocations

include:

- ✓ \$8 million for a comprehensive mandatory seafood inspection program to in coordination with the Food and Drug Administration. This would be augmented by an additional \$1.5 million, which would be contributed by industry through the assessment of a registration fee on processing vessels;
- ✓ \$8 million for a marine fish program to enhance the accuracy of fishery statistics, on which catch quotas are based;

- ✓ \$4.5 million to continue NOAA's damage assessment activity in the Exxon Valdez oilspill;
- ✓ \$1.5 million to continue the work of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP), an inter-agency program which was reauthorized in the Clean Air Act. Scheduled efforts include the construction of a sophisticated numerical model for better understanding of acid rain, and cost-benefit investigation. ●

## NOAA Sends Oil Spill Experts to Help in Gulf Cleanup

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NOAA's HAZMAT team is a vital element in the nation's defense against oil and chemical spills. Supporting the Coast Guard with monitoring, assessment and prediction, the HAZMAT team, a quick-reaction squad, has mobilized its forces in every major spill for well over a decade. From the Argo Merchant off Cape Cod to the Amoco Cadiz off France to the Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, NOAA's HAZMAT teams have been in action.

NOAA has supported Operation Desert Shield, now Desert Storm, in other ways as well:

- ✓ NOAA's charting facilities have been used by the Defense Mapping Agency to produce detailed maps of the Persian Gulf area for troops;
- ✓ NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, and Data Information Service has made satellite pictures of the area available to the major media outlets, including the

Associated Press and ABC News (subject to Pentagon clearance);

- ✓ NWS has provided historic

weather statistics for the theater of war, including average monthly temperature, rainfall and humidity. ●

### PC Program Aids Emergency Planners

Five hundred emergency management officials across the United States and from a number of other nations who use NOAA's Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Program attended a CAMEO Conference in Washington recently.

The CAMEO program was designed by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help emergency planners and first responders safely handle chemical accidents. The program runs on both Apple Macintosh and IBM-compatible computers.

CAMEO includes chemical nomenclature and response information for over 3,000 commonly transported chemicals; a mapping capability; and databases that address the emergency planning provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

CAMEO has proven so useful to communities throughout the world that it has been translated into a number of foreign languages, most notably into French. It is now operational in over 200 cities and towns across France.

The conferees were welcomed to the meeting by NOAA Administrator Dr. John A. Knauss. ●

## **NOAA, Army Corps to Pair on Fish Restoration**

NOAA will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a federal program to create and restore coastal fish habitats systematically.

NOAA Administrator Dr. John A. Knauss and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Dr. G. Edward Dickey signed the agreement last week in Washington. Implementation of the program will begin this year.

### **'A Team Effort'**

"This program will be a team effort that combines NOAA's technical fisheries expertise with the Corps' water resources planning and construction capabilities for a critically important cause," said Dr. Knauss. "The importance of learning how to restore areas degraded by development and

create new habitats is crucial to the preservation of our limited marine resources."

Expanded coastal development projects which have destroyed natural seabeds, coupled with a constantly increased fishing effort, have intensified the need to develop new methods for habitat creation and restoration.

The agreement resulted from a pilot study by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Corps from 1986 to 1988. Tests included creating artificial reefs in California, developing a nursery for blue crabs and shallow-water fish in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay, replanting three sites atop existing disposal areas with sea grasses to stabilize sediments and restore

habitats for shrimp, flounder and other fish and their food sources in North Carolina, and salt marsh creation in Texas.

### **Plants and Kelp Develop**

Early results indicated that mature plant and kelp production developed in the artificial reefs, along with new fish populations. Also, new oyster production and a substantial increase in seabed vegetation occurred in Maryland, and a stable saltmarsh was created in Texas.

These results also indicated that an expanded program has the potential to increase the overall habitat available for the Nation's marine fish and shellfish while improving scientific knowledge on the effectiveness of various habitat restoration techniques. ●

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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