

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ Department of Commerce

NOAA's Recovery Act Accomplishments Enhances Portfolio

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) received \$261.6 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to invest in three major facility construction projects and six facility maintenance and repair projects:

- The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) replacement project will replace NOAA's current SWFSC in La Jolla, CA, which was partially vacated in the summer of 2008 due to continued bluff erosion.
- The Fairbanks Satellite Operations Facility (FSOF) project will replace the at-risk satellite operations facility located in Fairbanks, AK, with a new, pre-engineered temporary building that will support the remaining satellite missions at Fairbanks.
- The Pacific Regional Center (PRC) will consolidate NOAA programs and operations on the island of Oahu (Hawaii) into a single facility on federally-owned property at Ford Island, enabling NOAA to move out of buildings that have outlived their useful life and avoid costly leased space to accommodate its program growth.
- Six facility maintenance and repair projects will address the most critical facility repairs and

building systems repair and replacement in NOAA's owned buildings improving the safety and working environment of NOAA's employees including the following:

- Galveston Laboratory Hurricane Repair (Galveston, TX)
- Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (Princeton, NJ)
- Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (Norfolk, VA)
- Milford Biological Laboratory Restoration (Milford, CT)
- Panama City Laboratory Restoration (Panama City, FL)
- Southwest Fisheries Science Center Restoration (Pacific Grove, CA)

Two Recovery Act projects were completed in April 2009, the Panama City Laboratory restoration and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center restoration. The Panama City laboratory project made necessary repairs and improvements to the laboratory's gear storage building. The nearly 40-year old building was made more energy-efficient, secure, and compliant with current life/safety codes. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center project replaced aged heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at this over 55-year old facility, making these systems more energy efficient. >>>

Recovery Act Funds NOAA's \$1.3 Million Repair for Hurricane-damaged Galveston Laboratory

NOAA's Recovery Act-funded \$1.3 million contract will repair and replace parts of the NOAA Galveston laboratory that were damaged in Hurricane Ike in September 2008.

The project will build a new NOAA Marine Mammal Stranding Network Building to replace the structure that was completely destroyed by the hurricane.

"This project allows us to take another step towards full restoration of our Galveston facility so seriously damaged by Hurricane Ike," said William Broglie, NOAA's Chief Administrative Officer, who is responsible for NOAA's facility program. "This Recovery Act funded project will allow NOAA to continue its critical research and conservation efforts in the Gulf, including protection of threatened and endangered marine species."

The Galveston Laboratory is part of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center and provides scientific information on the management of commercial and recreational shellfish and finfish, conservation of coastal habitats, and protection of threatened and endangered marine species of the Gulf of Mexico.

The laboratory conducts research on sea turtles, including the highly endangered Kemp's Riley sea turtle, and is the only federal facility in the nation dedicated to the captive rearing of sea turtles. The NOAA

supported marine mammal stranding network not only rehabilitates marine mammals, but supports critical research at the laboratory.

NOAA and University of California Sign Ground Lease for New World-class Fisheries Science Center

NOAA and the University of California (UC) have signed a 55-year ground lease clearing the way for construction of a new federal laboratory and office center at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography campus in La Jolla.

"This is a key step as we prepare for construction of a world-class research facility where hundreds of federal and university scientists will investigate the entire ecosystem of fish and marine mammals off the California coast and beyond," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. "The new laboratory facility continues our long-standing educational and science partnership with Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego."

Known as NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, the 120,000-square foot facility, when completed in late 2011, will house up to 300 staff members in laboratory, office and support space.

"NOAA's new facility will enable continued expansion of collaborative

research among our scientists, and will foster interaction between Scripps Ph.D. students and NOAA experts," said Tony Haymet, Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

NOAA's new research facility will replace the existing Southwest Fisheries Science Center, which was partially vacated in the summer of 2008 due to continued bluff erosion.

This facility will expand NOAA's ability to develop and apply advanced technologies for surveys of fisheries resources and their associated ecosystems and to foster collaborations on fisheries management issues. The building will also house state-of-the-art laboratories for biotechnology, photogrammetry and life history, and necropsy; experimental aquaria; and extensive collections of California Current ichthyoplankton and tissue samples for marine mammal and marine turtle genetics.

The new SWFSC laboratory will be a focal point for surveys and assessments of Pacific trans-boundary species, the development and application of ecosystem-based approaches to management, research on the impacts of environmental variability and climate change on marine ecosystems, and fisheries and conservation socio-economics.

NOAA is pursuing certification of the building under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. Based on the design work, the La Jolla Laboratory Consolidation Project recently received a top award from the American Institute of Architects, a rare honor for an unbuilt project at the time. >>>

Aging Marine Fisheries Laboratory in Connecticut to be Repaired under Recovery Act

The NOAA Recovery Act-funded \$1,447,000 award contract will repair and modernize its Marine Fisheries Laboratory in Milford, CT.

The project will improve energy efficiency at the laboratory, replace aged elevator and roof systems, and improve life/safety issues in the laboratory. The facilities at the Milford laboratory include a 4,800 square foot structure, dating back to 1940, and a 28,000 square foot laboratory-office building that was completed in 1966. The two buildings house 30 laboratories and offices.

“The Milford Laboratory supports NOAA’s ecosystem-based research mission in the northeast, and provides valuable research and science-based information to help sustain the commercial and recreational fishing and shellfish industries,” said William Broglie, NOAA’s Chief Administrative Officer. “This ARRA-funded project makes long-needed enhancements to the laboratory’s aging infrastructure; improves the efficiency of the lab’s heating, ventilation and cooling systems; and positively impacts both our employees and the local economy.”

The Milford Laboratory is located on the shore of Long Island Sound and is part of NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Present research done at the facility emphasizes marine aquaculture for both commercial use and stock enhancement, including studies of

fish and shellfish diseases, feeding and growth of marine species, and the functions of nearshore ecosystems. A well-integrated aquaculture program includes studies of the culture of fish and shellfish to develop methods suitable for commercial use as well as for stock enhancement and restoration. Nearshore habitats are being studied to determine what characteristics make a habitat suitable for a particular species.

NOAA Awards Asbestos Abatement Contract for New Jersey Climate Research Facility

NOAA’s \$2,077,544 award under the Recovery Act will complete asbestos removal services at its Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ.

The project will complete the asbestos abatement work begun at GFDL in 2007. The 68,000 square foot facility originally constructed in 1968 houses more than 160 employees and associates.

“We are pleased to be able to move forward with the final phase of this multi-year effort to promote a safer working environment for our employees,” said Bill Broglie, NOAA’s Chief Administrative Officer and Head of NOAA’s safety program. “The employees at GFDL play a major role in supporting the Nation’s climate research and services programs.”

GFDL, a laboratory within NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, develops and uses mathematical models and computer simulations to help scientists

understand and predict the behavior of the atmosphere, the oceans, and climate. During its 53-year history, GFDL has set the agenda for much of the world’s research on the modeling of global climate change and has played a significant role in the World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments, and the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

GFDL scientists focus on model-building relevant for society, such as hurricane research, prediction, and seasonal forecasting, and understanding global and regional climate change.

Recovery Act Funds Repair and Energy Efficiency Investment in Marine Research Laboratory in Florida

Under the Recovery Act, NOAA’s \$85,927 award contract will fund repair and energy efficiency investments at its Panama City Laboratory in Panama City, FL.

The project will make necessary repairs or improvements at the laboratory’s gear storage building. The nearly 40-year old building will be made more energy-efficient, secure, and compliant with current life/safety codes. The Laboratory, constructed in 1970, is located on 11 acres of land on St. Andrew Bay and consists of a main laboratory/office building, a boat basin with two docks, boat ramp and boat house, aquaculture buildings, and the gear storage building.

“The research being done at the Panama City Laboratory >>>

>>> supports NOAA's ecosystem-based management of marine fisheries resources and provides valuable research and scientific information to help sustain the nation's seafood industry and environment" said William Broglie, NOAA's Chief Administrative Officer. "This project is one of a number of facility repair efforts supported with ARRA funding that will improve the working conditions for our employees and researchers, and sustain NOAA's mission and the local economy."

The Panama City Laboratory is part of the National Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) and research done at the facility supports the SEFSC mission of stewardship of the Nation's living marine resources for the benefit of the Nation. The Laboratory performs research relevant to the formulation of rational plans to manage the marine fishery resources of the U.S. South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

The current research program encompasses a spectrum of projects including basic fishery biology, ecology, routine monitoring and data collection, and habitat mapping with fisheries of primary interest being reef fishes, mackerels, and sharks and rays. Habitat research addresses coral and rocky reefs, seagrasses, and shallow continental shelf waters.

Upgrades Key to Sustaining Pacific Grove Laboratory in California

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Pacific Grove, key to understanding effects of climate

variability on ocean ecosystems, will see repair and energy efficiency improvements under the Recovery Act.

The project will replace aged heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at this over 55-year old facility. The Recovery Act contract will enable NOAA to make these systems more energy efficient.

"The Southwest Fisheries Science Center laboratory facility in Pacific Grove is one of a number of aging laboratory facilities that require investments to repair, modernize and sustain the facility and the critical missions being supported at the facility. The NOAA research and science conducted at the Pacific Grove facility provides valuable science-based information to help sustain Pacific fisheries stocks," said William Broglie, NOAA's Chief Administrative Officer. "This ARRA-funded project will allow NOAA to more efficiently fulfill this mission, and its valuable contribution to the commercial and recreational fishing industries."

The Pacific Grove site houses the Environmental Research Division (ERD), a research unit of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The group was formed in 1969 to develop databases and to conduct research on fishery-related effects of natural environmental variability over a broad range of scientific, management, and operational concerns of the government and the fishing industry of the U.S. In addition to its research mission, ERD distributes environmental index products and time series databases to cooperating researchers. ERD is also the west coast regional site for the NOAA CoastWatch program,

which provides rapid dissemination of satellite observation data to governmental, academic, commercial, and public users.

NOAA Awards Marine Operations Center-Atlantic Repair Contract under Recovery Act

The Marine Operations Center-Atlantic (MOC-A) in Norfolk, VA, will be repaired and modernized through a NOAA contract for \$1,783,830 to Norfolk, VA-based Arriba Corporation.

The project will address needed repairs, safety improvements, and energy-efficiency enhancements at this over 45-year old facility. The contract award will replace aged heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and control components, and install energy-efficient windows and doors.

The contractor will also make improvements in the building's electrical systems, and replace the facility's aging roof system. The 36,800 square foot facility houses 88 employees; is the homeport of the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson, a vessel that surveys the oceans and harbors along the Gulf of Mexico and East Coast of the U.S.; and supports NOAA fleet operations in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

"This ARRA-funded project enables us to make long-needed repairs and improvements at the Marine Operations Center-Atlantic facility. As NOAA's only owned marine operations center (the other center, which supports Pacific fleet operations, is a leased >>>

>>> facility), it is essential that we continue to make necessary investments to sustain MOC-A operations” said William Broglie, NOAA’s chief administrative officer. “This award allows us to improve efficiencies and operations at the facility, as well as having a positive impact on the local economy with the award to a Norfolk-based company.”

MOC-A is an important NOAA asset that serves as a centralized operations and administration center providing administration, engineering, logistics, operational

support and maintenance for NOAA ships in the Atlantic and Gulf. MOC-A’s location in Norfolk offers natural deepwater berthing, a very well-protected harbor, and ice-free port conditions; all within a short (three-hour) transit to the sea.

The NOAA fleet of vessels and aircraft is operated, managed and maintained by the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which includes civilians and officers of the NOAA Corps. The NOAA Corps is one of the nation’s seven uniformed services.

Its commissioned officers have degrees in engineering, science or mathematics and provide NOAA with an important blend of technical, operational and leadership skills at sea, in the air and in program offices throughout the nation. ¶

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