

1. Message from TOS President, Alan Mix

This is an update to a March 26, 2018 [newsletter item](#) on the US Administration's budget request for FY 2019. On 8 May the House Appropriations Subcommittee proposed FY 2019 appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and various other programs. See the [subcommittee statement](#) and the [full text of the bill](#). This current version of the House plan is substantially different from the Administration's request.

Proposed funding for NSF is \$8.2 billion, about 5% above the FY 2018 enacted level (the Administration proposed a 5% cut, and see proposed "clawback" of FY2018 funds below). Research and related activities are proposed at \$6.7 billion, a 5% increase relative to FY 2018 (the Administration requested a 3% cut). Important for ocean sciences, the House proposes funding for modernization of research vessels and for Antarctic facilities.

Proposed funding for the NOAA is \$5.2 billion, a 13% cut relative to FY 2018 (relative to the Administration's proposed cut of 23%). Funding priorities include the National Weather Service, harmful algal blooms, fisheries management, weather research, and ocean exploration. Climate research would be cut by ~40%, and coastal resilience grants would be eliminated. These targeted cuts are of obvious concern to ocean scientists.

Proposed funding for NASA is \$21.5 billion, a 3.9% increase relative to FY 2018. Increases will go to Deep Space Exploration Systems and NASA Science programs, including robotic and human exploration of the moon, planetary science, and commercial low-earth orbit development. It is currently unclear how the NASA Earth observing missions would fare, of concern to ocean scientists.

A new concern reflects the Administration's proposed rescission (aka, "clawback") of \$15.4 billion in FY2018 funds. If successful, this would withdraw some funds already allocated to the Department of Commerce (but not NOAA), Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others. Programs in the rescission package are effectively frozen for now, but if Congress doesn't confirm the cuts in 45 legislative days, the funding will be released.

As always, TOS members in the US are encouraged to write to their elected officials to express their personal opinions about these developments.

2. Jerlov Award Nomination Deadline: June 1, 2018

The Jerlov Award is presented in recognition of contributions made to the advancement of our knowledge of the nature and consequences of light in the ocean. The recipient of the 2018 award will be honored at a ceremony during the Ocean Optics XXIV Conference. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2018. To read the nomination guidelines and instructions, click [here](#).

3. Oceanography Student News

Each month, all TOS student members receive [Oceanography Student News](#) via email. Please feel free to download and forward issues to colleagues or print and post each month's issue on your department's bulletin board.

TOS is making great strides toward fulfilling its [mission](#) as we grow to represent more members of the oceanographic community worldwide. Please invite your colleagues to [join](#) by forwarding them [this link](#) to the membership page. If you would like to support TOS initiatives and programs, please consider [contributing](#) by following [this link](#).

Please contact Jenny Ramarui (jenny@tos.org), TOS Executive Director, with any questions about items in [this message or your membership](#).