

Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

Investing in Research and Technology

- **NOAA Climate Research:** \$182 million is included in the legislation, including \$6 million requested by Senator Murkowski specifically for Arctic research.
- **Environmental Processes in the Arctic:** Directs the National Centers for Environmental Prediction to develop capacity for seasonal to multiannual timescale predictions of environmental processes in the Arctic.
- **Tsunami Preparedness:** The bill provides a \$500,000 increase to NOAA's Tsunami Warning Program and directs NOAA to work with other federal and state agencies to monitor the tsunami risk at Barry Glacier and inform emergency planning efforts for nearby communities like Whittier.
- **National Data Buoy Center (NDBC):** Includes language to provide sufficient funds for at least 80% data availability for the NDBC, adequate funding for maintenance and service of tsunami monitoring buoys across the Pacific, and directs NOAA to include a schedule for restoring existing data buoy operability, and its strategy to minimize outages.
- **IOOS Regional Observations:** The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is funded at \$40.5 million, an increase of \$1.5 million above FY20, which will help support the work of the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS).
- **Hydrographic Survey Priorities & Contracts:** Provides \$32 million for hydrographic surveys as well as language directing NOAA to accelerate acquisition of survey data to complement its own internal data and expedite comprehensive charting, especially in backlogged regions like the Arctic. NOAA is also directed to utilize Arctic-capable contractors to speed up charting efforts.
- **National Weather Service (NWS):** Provides \$1.1 billion for the NWS, alongside report language highlighting continued concerns about staffing in Alaska.
- **Automated Surface Observations System (ASOS):** Includes report language directing NWS to ensure that rural and remote communities who disproportionately rely on ASOS for reliable air service are provided with additional resources to continue observing capabilities in the event of an outage.
- **USArray:** Includes an increase of \$2 million for the National Mesonet Program (Mesonet), a multi-faceted observational weather network, and directs Mesonet to

evaluate opportunities to adopt instruments in under-instrumented areas in order to facilitate adoption of USArray monitoring sites in Alaska by Mesonet.

- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):** Provides \$1 billion for NIST, as well as a \$1 million increase from FY20 for Forensic Science Research.
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):** \$23.3 billion is appropriated for NASA, an increase of approximately \$642 million over FY20. NASA Space Grant is funded at \$51 million and NASA EPSCoR is funded at \$26 million. These programs support research and education initiatives at the University of Alaska.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** The NSF is funded at \$8.5 billion. NSF EPSCoR is funded at no less than \$200 million, which will provide continued support for research efforts at the University of Alaska. Language is included directing the NSF, as it undertakes its broad interdisciplinary study of the Arctic, to consider the impact of the opening of the two transarctic sea routes and their proximity to deep U.S. ports.

Creating a Safer Alaska

- **Victims of Crime Act Fund Tribal Set-aside:** Senator Murkowski supported the strongest possible VOCA set-aside for Tribes and Native Communities who disproportionately face violence and often have extremely limited access to services. The bill includes a 5 percent set-aside of the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA), specifically for tribal use.
- **Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs:** Provides \$513,500,000 for grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women.
- **Human Trafficking and the FBI:** Includes report language Senator Murkowski championed, directing the FBI to continue to designate a lead agent in each field office as a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator. In addition, the FBI is urged to allocate additional resources to those field offices in States with the highest rates of modern slavery and human trafficking. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the FBI shall submit a report on those field offices' capacity to investigate all crimes of slavery and human trafficking in their jurisdiction. The report should further detail any additional resources that have been provided to those field offices for these efforts.
- **Research on Violence Against Indian Women:** Building on her efforts to address the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, Senator Murkowski helped secure \$1,000,000 and language directing the Department of Justice to improve coordination-- including training and technical assistance, data sharing, and other resources-- with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to better address violent crime in Indian country.

- **Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction:** The bill maintains \$4,000,000 to provide grants to tribal governments to help Tribes exercise “special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction” over non-Indian offenders who commit violence crimes in Indian country.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance/Tribal Assistance:** To improve justice among Tribal communities, the bill provides \$92,500,000, including \$46 million within the Office of Justice Program for Tribal Assistance; \$29.5 million for Tribal Resources within the COPS office and \$ 3 million for a Tribal Access Program; \$10 million for Tribal Youth; and \$4 million for the Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Program. Additionally, \$52.6 million is provided to Tribal Governments and Tribal Coalitions in OVW funding as part of set-asides determined by program statute.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, National Instant Criminal Background Check System Initiative (NICS):** \$85,000,000 is included in support of this program, of which no less than \$25,000,000 is for the NICS Acts Record Improvement Program.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program:** \$12,500,000 is included in support of this program to ensure that child victims of abuse and neglect receive the highest quality of services and care through best interests court-appointed advocacy.
- **Juvenile Justice, Tribal Youth Program:** \$10,000,000 is included to help the Office of Justice Programs to empower tribal governments to care for and respond to justice-involved youth and to help prevent juvenile delinquency.
- **Community Oriented Policing Services Program, COPS Hiring Program:** \$237,000,000 is included to increase the number of law enforcement officers and to improve training opportunities to support crime prevention efforts.
- **COPS Regional Information Sharing Services Program:** \$40,000,000 is included in support of this program which supports local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement.
- **National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Research on Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS).**- A new carve-out of \$2,000,000 is included for NIJ to support the research, testing, and evaluation of C-UAS in Department of Justice (DOJ) law enforcement operations. This agreement supports the DOJ’s efforts to address and mitigate the threats to public safety and national security caused by UAS. The agreement recommends this research, testing, and evaluation be conducted with Federal Aviation Administration-designated UAS Test Sites.
- **STOP School Violence Act (Byrne-JAG and COPS):** \$132,000,000 is included in support of this program. This program supports both student education and teacher/school-official training, to better identify and respond to signs of mental distress

that might precipitate violent attacks on schools. This program also supports evidence-based efforts to improve school security and overall safety.

- **Executive Office of Immigration Review (EIOR):** \$734,000,000 is included to support this program. This funding supports our nation's ability to conduct immigration hearings, improve overall efficiency, and will assist in addressing the nation's growing immigration case backlog.

Sustaining Alaska's Fisheries

- **Pacific Salmon Treaty:** Funded at \$39.5 million, an increase of \$4 million from the 2020 enacted level. Includes language directing NOAA to provide a spending plan before any of the funds may be spent. NOAA is directed to reflect the recommendations of the Treaty Commissioners in its spending plan, and encouraged to minimize, to the extent practicable, any withholdings for administrative funds. This funding builds on the historic \$20 million increase in funding for the Pacific Salmon Treaty secured by Senator Murkowski in FY20.
- **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF):** Funding is maintained at \$65 million for the PCSRF, a program established in 2000 the help reverse declining steelhead and Pacific Salmon stocks in Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.
- **Fishery Surveys and Stock Assessments:** Increased funding of \$2.2 million is provided for fisheries surveys, data collection, and stock assessments, as well as report language directing NMFS to take necessary steps to ensure that historical levels of survey coverage—including six bottom trawl surveys in Alaska—are achieved without disruption in fiscal year 2021.
- **Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program:** Includes \$12 million for competitive grants to support the promotion and development of the U.S. fishing and seafood industry.
- **Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions:** Provides increased funding for Regional Fishery Management Councils, which oversee and ensure conservation and management of fisheries within their region.
- **Electronic Monitoring and Reporting:** Directs the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to prioritize Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting (EM/ER) implementation in FY20, and to expedite to the fullest extent practicable the transition to full EM/ER. Level funding of \$3.5 million is designated for collaborative partnerships.
- **National Marine Fisheries Service – Alaska Region:** Report language directs NMFS to proactively staff personnel in the regions they serve, supporting Senator Murkowski's long-term priority of bringing NOAA assets and personnel to Alaska.

- **Fisheries Finance Program:** Authorizes Individual Fishing Quota loans at \$24 million and general loans up to \$100 million.
- **North Pacific Observer Program:** Provides \$7.5 million, increased funding from FY20, for NOAA's efforts to monitor and report bycatch in Alaska's fisheries. The increase in funds is intended to offset costs borne by fishermen for in-person observers.

Keeping Alaska's Oceans and Shorelines Healthy

- **Ocean Mapping and Coastal Charting:** Provides \$2 million for the National Ocean Service to map the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as the Arctic and sub-Arctic shoreline and nearshore of Alaska, in fulfillment of the President's 2019 Memorandum on Ocean Mapping. In Alaska, NOAA shall work closely with the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee and the State to ensure that mapping efforts are coordinated and adhere to the priorities identified in the Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy.
- **Marine Mammal Commission:** The bill includes \$3.8 million to help maintain and restore the ocean's mammal populations and support subsistence and co-management in Alaska.
- **Unusual Mortality Events:** Report language requires NOAA to submit a report detailing how funds from the Unusual Mortality Event Fund have been used during marine mammal mortality events in the past decade, as well as an overview of support provided by Tribal partners and subsistence harvesters.
- **Fairweather Homeporting:** The bill includes \$43 million for NOAA construction, with priority for projects to accommodate NOAA vessels. These funds are authorized to be used for shoreside improvements to support homeporting the hydrographic survey vessel *Fairweather* in Ketchikan.
- **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs):** The bill provides a \$5.5 million increase for work on HABs across multiple programs, including IOOS and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Funds will support pilot projects to improve monitoring and detection of HABs.
- **National Estuarine Research Reserve System:** Provides \$28.5 million, a \$1 million increase from FY20, despite the President's budget calling for its elimination. Allows the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to continue advancing its important research and education missions, supporting the health of estuaries that provide essential ecosystems services along Alaska's coastlines.
- **National Sea Grant Program:** The bill provides \$75 million for the National Sea Grant Program, for outreach activities, education, and research that will support the growing coastal community utilization of key Sea Grant services within their numerous focus areas.

- **Marine Debris:** Provides \$9 million to the NOAA Marine Debris Program and includes language to prioritize projects in remote and rural communities that lack infrastructure to address marine debris.
- **Integrated Ocean Acidification:** Building on Senator Murkowski's previous efforts, \$15.5 million is included in the funding bill to help understand the growing impacts of ocean acidification on our ocean resources and coastal communities.

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