

#OceanClimateAction

TOOLKIT

Toolkit: President Trump's FY26 Budget Guts Ocean, Climate Programs, Threatens Our Health, Safety, and Economies Nationwide

*Prepared by Ocean Defense Initiative for community use – please customize to your needs.
These resources will be updated on an ongoing basis.*

[Link to President's FY26 Budget Request](#)

Background

President Trump's recently released "[skinny budget](#)" is largely consistent with previously [leaked documents](#) indicating the Administration's aim to defund key ocean and climate programs and, ultimately, eliminate NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) division.

While the skinny budget is not as specific as the leaked documents, which indicated a nearly 75% reduction in funding to OAR and [27% cut](#) to NOAA's overall budget, the skinny budget does include a \$1.311 billion cut to NOAA's Operations, Research and Grants and numerous attacks on climate, wildlife, and ocean related programs. Taken together, the leaked documents and published President's budget would effectively gut NOAA's research capabilities and eliminate key research programs that inform weather and storm forecasts, and monitor the health and safety of water supplies and coastal waterways. These proposed cuts come as the Administration has already targeted staff with [mass firings](#), planned [Reductions in Force](#) and [Schedule F](#) reclassifications, and cancelled contracts which have [left scientists without capacity](#) to conduct key research.

The President's budget recommends illegally moving the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Species, which implements the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, to the Interior Department's US Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services program and cuts the program's funding by \$37 million. Furthermore, it directs scientific and environmental agencies to redirect funding towards energy and critical mineral development. **Now is the time for ocean advocates and champions in Congress to defend NOAA's mission and the federal investments in ocean and climate science that keep us safe and informed.**

Please help stand up for NOAA and our federal agencies that help maintain a healthy ocean and liveable climate as the Trump Administration seeks to sow chaos for the millions of Americans who rely on federal data and services every day.

- Please join over 900 organizations and businesses [signing on to this letter](#) in defense of NOAA. Share and amplify the letter with this [toolkit](#).
- Add your statement to the [tracker here](#).

President's FY26 Budget Ocean, Climate Toplines

- **Reduces NOAA Operations, Research and Grants funding by \$1.311 billion**
 - Terminates “climate-dominated research, data, and grant programs”
 - Targets ocean organizations and Universities that receive funding related to climate or education
 - Moves the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources under the Interior Department’s US Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services program, and cuts that program’s funding by \$37 million
- **Reduces NOAA Procurement of Weather Satellites and Infrastructure by \$209 million**
 - Cancels contracts for instruments that collect climate data
- **Guts funding for ocean, climate, and environmental justice programs across agencies**
 - Cuts \$325 million from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an agency central to US scientific leadership, citing the agency’s role in climate science
 - Cuts \$564 million from the US Geological Survey, citing the agency’s research on climate change, directing the agency to focus on energy and critical minerals
 - Cuts \$170 million from US Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Grant Programs
 - Cuts \$1.161 billion from NASA’s Earth Science program’s climate monitoring satellites that provide information to natural resources managers, States and industry
 - Cuts \$3.479 billion from National Science Foundation’s General Research and Education program for climate, clean energy and other programs
 - Cancels Department of Energy funding for renewable energy, carbon removal, and climate science
 - Defunds Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice and Atmospheric Protection Programs

OAR Background:

According to [NOAA's website](#), OAR enables better forecasts, earlier warnings for natural disasters, and a greater understanding of the Earth. Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)—or “NOAA Research”—provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet.

Working in partnership with other organizational units of NOAA, OAR enables better forecasts,

earlier warnings for natural disasters, and a greater understanding of the Earth. **OAR's role is to provide unbiased science to better manage the environment, nationally, and globally.**

OAR benefits our daily lives by:

- **Keeping food on our tables:** OAR programs monitor US seafood for safety and sustainability, ensuring our shellfish and seafood are safe to eat and affordable to purchase;
- **Supporting local businesses and economies:** OAR supports community-identified seafood, aquaculture, and blue economy priorities through Sea Grant programs in every Coastal and Great Lakes state;
- **Collecting data for weather forecasts:** OAR's Oceanographic research labs, cooperative institutes provide critically important monitoring on oceanographic and atmospheric conditions that inform weather, storm, hurricane, and drought predictions;
- **Ensuring safe waterways and water supplies:** OAR's Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations monitor waterways for toxic harmful algal blooms, ensuring water supplies in the Great Lakes are safe to drink and coastal waters are safe to swim in.

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Timeline of Events:

February 3, 2025: Trump [EO](#) directs a freeze and review of all IRA, BIL funds and agency programs or funding related to the "green new deal" or environmental justice.

February 4, 2025: [DOGE](#) staffers enter NOAA headquarters, reportedly access NOAA computer systems

February 4, 2025: Neil Jacobs [nominated](#) as NOAA Administrator

February 11, 2025: Trump releases [Executive Order](#) directing DOGE to dismantle federal workforce

February 11, 2025: NOAA [rally](#) outside Commerce dept; 12 Members of Congress speak in defense of NOAA

- February 18, 2025:** Howard Lutnick was confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce following a [51-45](#) vote in the Senate. Senators Sullivan, Moran, Peters, Booker did not vote; otherwise the vote occurred along party lines.
- February 27, 2025:** Judge says OPM has [no legal authority](#) to direct mass firings of federal employees and notes that firings are likely illegal.
Round of illegal firings [begins](#) at NOAA, impacting at least 650 employees across the country.
- March 1, 2025:** Trump Administration announces [cancellation](#) of Maine Sea Grant Program, following an unrelated disagreement between President Trump and Maine's Governor.
- March 3, 2025:** Rallies outside of [NOAA headquarters](#) and NOAA offices in [Boulder CO](#) draw hundreds of supporters to each location.
NOAA [terminates](#) at least four Federal Advisory Committees including the: Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space; Climate Services Advisory Committee; Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Advisory Committee; and Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee.
- March 4, 2025:** OPM [revises](#) a previous memo regarding firing of probationary employees, adding language clarifying this sentiment and requesting that agencies do not issue any agency-specific rules regarding mass firings until OPM has reviewed them. No guidance is provided regarding previously fired employees.
- March 5, 2025:** Maine's congressional delegation enters [negotiations](#) with the Commerce Department to continue Maine Sea Grant funding.
- March 13, 2025:** Federal judge orders the administration to [reinstate](#) 24,000 illegally fired probationary workers at 18 agencies, including NOAA. Employees must be reinstated, or placed on administrative leave, by March 17.
- March 17, 2025:** Terminated probationary employees at NOAA receive a letter notifying them they are no longer fired, but placed on paid [administrative leave](#).
- March 20, 2025:** Second NOAA rally held at NOAA headquarters, Rep. Raskin and additional speakers highlight value of NOAA's services
- April 2, 2025:** House Natural Resources Democrats hold an [Issues Forum](#) to discuss how Trump/Musk attacks on NOAA harm American communities and economies.
- April 4, 2025:** Following [reports](#) that Commerce Secretary Lutnick is personally reviewing all contracts > \$100k, the Administration planned to [cancel a contract](#) for NOAA Research websites and databases, a move that could be [illegal](#). The Administration ultimately extended the contract through July after facing significant pushback.
- April 5, 2025:** More than [1,200 "Hands off" rallies](#) occur across the US, opposing Trump/Musk attacks on federal services and the American public.
- April 7, 2025:** Trump Administration [halts maintenance](#) on NOAA weather satellites in wake of federal employee shortage after mass firings.

- April 8, 2025:** Sec. Lutnick cancels \$4M in NOAA funding for Princeton University's climate research program, casting doubt on climate impacts in their [press release and](#) alleging this research fosters "fear".
Trump signs EO attacking State led climate and environmental justice policies and laws: [Protecting American Energy from State Overreach](#).
- April 11, 2025:** Draft OMB FY26 Presidential Budget documents indicate Administration's intent to [eliminate NOAA's research functions](#), move [NMFS to Department of Interior](#), and cut NOAA's budget by [27%](#).
- April 16, 2025:** Secretary of Interior Burgum [halts work on NY's Empire Wind Project](#) and orders reviews on all Biden era offshore wind permits.
- April 17, 2025:** President Trump [signs a Proclamation](#) opening the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to commercial fishing, and [signs an Executive Order](#) calling for a review of all existing marine national monuments to assess opening them to commercial fishing.
- May 2, 2025:** President Trump releases a FY26 "skinny budget" with significant cuts to ocean and climate science and services.

Statements from Congress/Whistleblower Links:

[Committee Leaders Huffman, Lofgren, Dexter, and Amo Demand Information on NOAA Lease Terminations](#)

[Oregon Delegation Calls to Reverse NOAA Firings Endangering State's Safety and Economy](#)

[Committee Leaders Demand Commerce Secretary Lutnick Protect Employees From Musk's Mindless DOGE Firings](#)

[Ranking Members Huffman, Lofgren Sound the Alarm on Musk's Invasion at Key Science Agency](#)

[Ranking Members Huffman, Hoyle Request Administration Leaders Meet with House Democrats to Answer Questions about DOGE Chaos at NOAA](#)

[RI Delegation Demands Answers from Trump's Pick to Lead Commerce About DOGE Storming NOAA & Attempting to Downsize the Agency's Critical Capabilities](#)

[Raskin, Van Hollen, Maryland Congressional Democrats Demand Commerce Nominee Protect NOAA's "Independence, Integrity and Existence"](#)

****If you have experienced termination from your position with the Department of the Interior, U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin., or the Power Marketing Admin., please share your story with the House Natural Resources Committee Democratic staff. Submissions can remain anonymous. [Share your story here](#).**

****The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Democratic Staff, is surveying the impact of the Trump Administration's mass firings of federal employees from science agencies. If you were terminated from your position since January 20, 2025, please fill out this brief survey. While anonymous submissions will be helpful to the Committee's efforts, we encourage you to leave your contact information if you are open to having a confidential conversation with Committee staff. Please find our confidentiality policies at the following link – any information you share will be treated with these protections, regardless of your current employment status: <https://democrats-science.house.gov/contact/whistleblower>. **Submit your story [here](#).****

Media Coverage:

[Media Compilation](#) of coverage relevant to NOAA in local and national press from February 27 - April 15, 2025. Coverage is overwhelmingly in support of NOAA and the services the agency and staff provide to the American public.

Additional Resources:

[More than 1,900 scientists write letter in 'SOS' over Trump's attacks on science](#)

[Toolkit: Over 900 Businesses & Organizations Nationwide Voice Support for NOAA's Critical Services](#)

[Ocean Rapid Response: Trump Admin EO/PM Index](#)

CRS Report: [Presidential Reorganization Authority: History, Recent Initiatives, and Options for Congress](#)

One Pager: [Project 2025 Ocean Implications](#)

[NOAA in Your State & Territory](#) - information on NOAA assets in each state/territory (archived [here](#) in case of removal from website)

[NOAA Defense Messaging](#)

NOAA's Primary Mission and Services:

NOAA's Mission: Science. Service. Stewardship.

1. To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean and coasts.
2. To share that knowledge and information with others.
3. To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

Weather Forecasting and Warnings

- Operates the **National Weather Service (NWS)** to provide accurate weather forecasts, severe weather warnings, and emergency alerts, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding.

Climate Monitoring and Research

- Studies climate change and variability, provides long-term climate predictions, and supports global climate initiatives.

Ocean and Coastal Management

- Oversees sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, including fisheries management protected species, habitat and marine protected areas through the **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)** and **National Ocean Service (NOS)**.

Satellite and Data Services

- Operates a fleet of environmental satellites that monitor weather, climate, and environmental changes globally through the **National Environmental Satellite, Data,**

and Information Service (NESDIS).

Marine and Weather Research

- Conducts advanced research into atmospheric and oceanic systems through the **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**.

Navigation and Charting

- Provides nautical charts, tide and current predictions, and geospatial data to support safe maritime navigation.

Environmental Monitoring

- Monitors natural hazards like droughts, wildfires, and harmful algal blooms, and works to mitigate their impacts.

Educational Resources

- Offers public outreach, educational materials, and training on weather, climate, and marine science topics.

NOAA Background:

- NOAA was established in 1970 by President Richard Nixon.
- Its mission is to understand and predict changes in the climate, weather, ocean and coasts.
- NOAA conducts scientific research and provides services like weather forecasting, climate monitoring, marine resource management, and distributes grants to business owners and local communities.
- NOAA's work provides considerable returns on investment with relatively low cost to US taxpayers by supporting industries like energy, agriculture, fishing, tourism and transportation.
- At a time when the US is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather and climate-related disasters, dismantling or defunding NOAA is one of the worst decisions an Administration could make.
- Every day communities across the US rely on NOAA services and data to get accurate weather forecasts, tide charts, and storm alerts.
- A multitude of industries would collapse without NOAA's water quality alerts, weather and tide forecasts, fisheries and marine resource management, climate models, and bathymetric maps.
- Industries including energy, agriculture, fishing, tourism and transportation rely on NOAA services and data to inform their operations.
- Rather than taking away the tools and resources NOAA provides to help Americans prepare for and survive climate related disasters and extreme weather, the government has the opportunity to modernize these systems and invest in US research and innovation.
- Without sustained investment in NOAA's research and innovation programs, the US will fall behind similar agencies in Europe and lose out on the significant return on

investment NOAA services provide to industries like energy, agriculture, fishing, tourism and transportation.

- In 2024 NOAA's annual budget was [\\$6.6 billion](#), less than 0.1% of the [\\$6.75 trillion](#) federal budget. At the same time, in 2024 alone the US experienced [27 extreme weather or climate disasters](#), costing taxpayers [\\$182 billion](#) in losses. NOAA's research and investments in climate prediction and resilience help reduce the loss of life and property from these disasters, providing a significant return on investment to our country.
- **Public Support for NOAA:** As a congressional firewall forms to oppose attacks on NOAA's life saving services, communities across the country are also uniting in defense of NOAA. Rallies in [Maryland](#), [Colorado](#), and [Alaska](#) have drawn thousands of supporters. At the same time over [900 businesses and organizations sent a letter](#) to Congress urging lawmakers to protect NOAA's data and services and over [1,900 Members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) sent out an "SOS" call for US science, urging policymakers to defend the integrity of US science, including NOAA's weather and environmental monitoring operations.

Messaging on key themes and threats to the ocean and federal agencies from Project 2025, DOGE, and campaign statements:

- Rolling back ocean protections jeopardizes the health, safety, and economic security of American communities.
- The Trump Administration's dangerous, Project 2025-aligned policies threaten our ocean and coasts.
- Four in ten Americans live near the coasts, where they contribute to [\\$10 trillion](#) in GDP from the goods and services they provide each year.
 - Attempts to roll back environmental protections or investments in climate action will harm coastal communities and increase costs to Americans.
 - A report by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis shows the marine economy accounted for [\\$476.2 billion](#), or 1.8 percent, of current-dollar U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.
 - In 2023 alone, climate inaction cost Americans at least [\\$92.9 billion](#).
 - In 2024, climate-related natural disasters and extreme weather events cost Americans over [\\$182 BILLION](#).
- Communities rely on accurate and reliable weather forecasts and water quality alerts to keep people safe. Eliminating the agencies responsible for providing this information and firing career employees and scientists will make it harder for people to stay informed.
 - Eliminating ocean science and climate research across government agencies ignores the immediate threats posed by climate change.
 - Climate change is fuelling sea level rise and more frequent and intense extreme weather events which threaten human health, infrastructure, and critical services like transportation.
- Environmental laws and protections provide an important check on government power, allowing communities to challenge decisions that pose significant risk to their lives, livelihoods, or local environment.

- These laws don't just protect vulnerable wildlife and habitats, they give legal standing to the communities most impacted by permitting decisions and government actions.
- Everyone deserves access to benefits from a healthy ocean, but long standing inequities, historic under investment, and disproportionate climate impacts experienced by ocean justice communities result in inequitable access to ocean benefits.
 - Families with children, communities of color, and low income communities have [less access](#) to nature, experiencing fewer benefits from coastal wetlands and marshes that improve water quality and provide a buffer against storm surge and sea level rise.
 - Proposals to eliminate justice-related programs and priorities will make it harder for communities and businesses to access funding that improves economic outcomes, reduces pollution, and increases access to our public waters.
- Stalling the renewable energy transition while expanding offshore drilling leaves communities to bear the burden of climate change and pollution while fossil fuel corporations profit.
 - Every step of the fossil fuel life cycle, from extraction to processing, transport and combustion produces toxic air pollution and climate warming greenhouse gasses that harm communities.
 - Low income communities and communities of color are [disproportionately harmed](#) by fossil fuel pollution and climate impacts through exposure to significant health hazards and degraded environments.
 - Even communities far away from oil and gas infrastructure experience harm from continued offshore drilling as sea level rise, marine heatwaves, and extreme weather threatens the families and businesses who live and work in vulnerable areas.
 - Without significant action to curb fossil fuel emissions and transition to renewable energy, the US could lose [36%](#) of its sandy coastline in just 30 years

NOAA Recommendations from Project 2025

Author: Thomas F. Gilman

Contributors: James Rockas, Nazak Nikakhtar, Louis Heinzer, Robert Burkett, Iain Murray, Michael Gonzalez, David Legates, and Kristen Eichamer

- **Proposal to Break Up NOAA:** Project 2025 suggests breaking up NOAA due to its large operational budget and personnel count, proposing that its functions could be provided more efficiently by the private sector.
- **Focus on Commercial Operations for NWS:** Advocates for the National Weather Service (NWS) to prioritize data-gathering services and fully commercialize its forecasting operations, citing private companies' "more reliable forecasts".
- **Utilization of Commercial Partnerships:** Proposes prioritizing commercial partnerships for weather technologies to ensure cost-efficiency and high-quality research and weather data.

- **Review and Transfer of Functions:** Suggests reviewing the work of specific NOAA components such as the National Hurricane Center and National Environmental Satellite Service, and transferring survey functions to other agencies for increased efficiency.
- **Streamlining and Harmonization of Goals:** Calls for streamlining goals between agencies like the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and “harmonizing” conflicting laws like the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.
- **Opposition to Executive Orders:** Opposes the 30x30 Executive Order and the America the Beautiful Initiative, arguing against the closure of ocean areas to commercial activities, including fishing.
- **Modification of Regulations:** Proposes modifications to regulations implementing bedrock environmental laws like the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, with the stated goal to reduce their impact on commercial fisheries and subsistence activities.
- **Downsizing and Reassignment of Assets:** Suggests downsizing the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and reassigning assets from the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.
- **Use of Innovation Prizes and Competitions:** Advocates for the use of small innovation prizes and competitions to encourage high-quality research and innovation within NOAA, potentially redirecting critically needed research funding.
- **Alignment of Appointees with Administration Aims:** Emphasizes the importance of appointees aligning with the administration's aims to “prevent obstructionism”.

Social Media Resources

Socials to Amplify/Share

Comedian Vinny Thomas on DOGE at NOAA:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGmLW5IS2IC/?igsh=MWc2bGJ3bm1iOG1oa0==>

Pattiegonia on NOAA and agency firings:

https://www.tiktok.com/@pattiegonia/video/7478331483166461230?_r=1&_t=ZT-8uRJ8DoqiXW

[The Lincoln Project \(@ProjectLincoln\) on X](#)

Articles to Amplify/Share

CNN - [Trump's budget plan eviscerates weather and climate research, and it could be enacted immediately](#)

Science - [Trump seeks to end climate research at premier U.S. climate agency](#)

E&E - [White House outlines plan to gut NOAA, smother climate research](#)

NYT - [White House Plan Calls for NOAA Research Programs to Be Dismantled](#)

Accounts to Tag

@realDonaldTrump

@POTUS

@NOAA

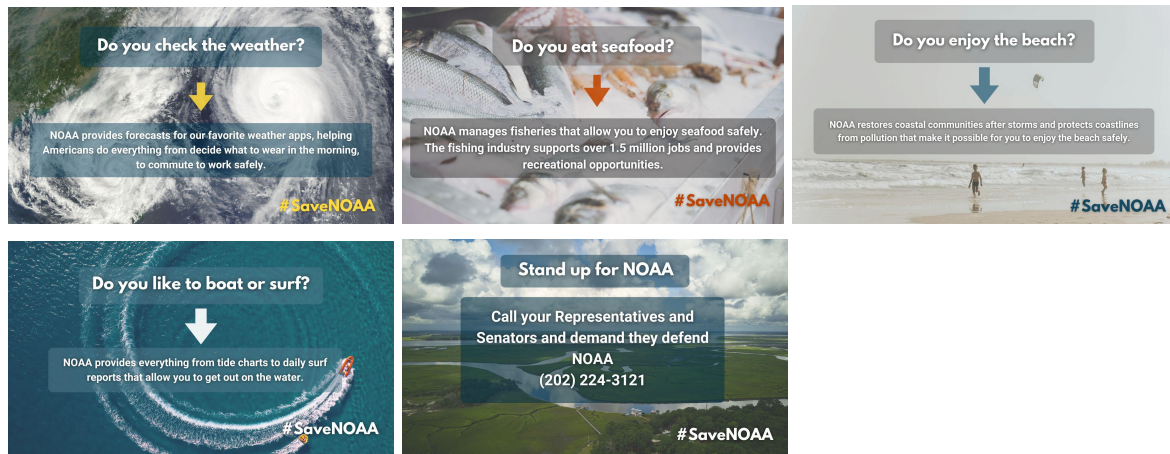
@RepZoeLofgren

@RepHuffman

@SenatorCantwell

@SenatorHeinrich

Graphics

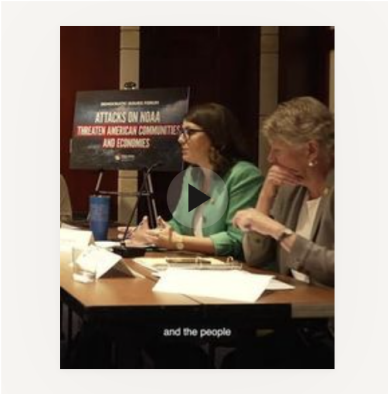


Download graphics [here](#)

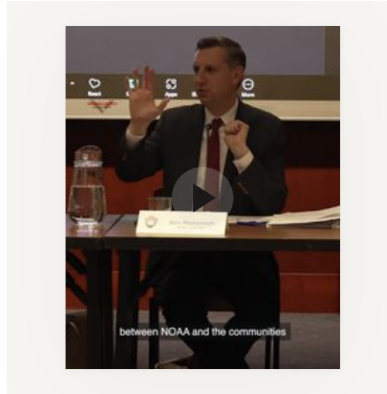
Video



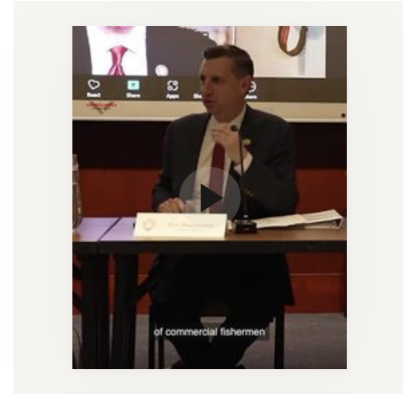
Clip of Senator Schatz asking Lutnick if he will dismantle NOAA, Lutnick responds "no"
[Download video here](#)



Rep. Elfrey & RAdm White Q&A
MP4 • 1:23



Rep. Magaziner ...nce Gaudin Q&A
MP4 • 0:55



Rep. Magaziner...h Schumann Q&A
MP4 • 1:47

Q&A clips from House Natural Resources Committee Issue Forum highlighting impacts of NOAA cuts to American communities and economies. Download videos [here](#).

Sample Social

Post 1

Illegal firings @NOAA and threats to dismantle our premier ocean & science agency jeopardize Americans' health, safety, and economies.

Every member of Congress, across every party, must hold this Admin accountable against advancing the reckless proposals in Project 2025.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/11/climate/trump-noaa-budget-cuts/index.html>

Post 3

Illegal firings @NOAA and threats to dismantle our premier ocean & science agency jeopardize Americans' health, safety, and economies.

Every member of Congress, across every party, must join @SenBrianSchatz in holding this Admin accountable against advancing the reckless proposals in Project 2025.

[Download and attach video here](#)

Post 3

Every day, communities across the US and industries including tourism, transportation, energy, agriculture, fishing, insurance, and finance rely on @NOAA services and data to get accurate weather forecasts, tide charts, storm alerts & more.

We MUST stand up against the reckless attack that imperils our health, safety, and economies.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/trump-seeks-end-climate-research-premier-u-s-climate-agency>

Post 4

@NOAA is in jeopardy. So are our economy, weather forecasts and safety.

The agency's services make life better in all fifty states. No matter how far you live from the ocean, @NOAA is working for you.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/11/climate/trump-noaa-budget-cuts/index.html>

Post 5

Thank you @RepHuffman & @RepZoeLofgren for standing up for @NOAA and the critical services it provides as DOGE attempts to gut and dismantle the agency.

We need our champions in Congress to defend against this reckless attack that jeopardizes Americans' health, safety, and economies.

<https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/media/press-releases/ranking-members-huffman-lofgren-sound-the-alarm-on-musks-invasion-at-key-science-agency>

Post 6

Thank you @SenatorCantwell & @SenDanSullivan for standing up for @NOAA and the critical services it provides as DOGE attempts to gut and dismantle the agency.

We need our champions in Congress to defend against this reckless attack that jeopardizes Americans' health, safety, and economies.

Post 7

.@NOAA is essential to the American economy—the energy, agriculture, fishing, tourism, and transportation sectors all depend on it.

But the Trump Administration wants to privatize NOAA—or worse, dismantle it. We need #OceanClimateAction advocates to push back NOW.

Post 8

@NOAA delivers remarkable value to American taxpayers. Dismantling it is an incredibly dangerous decision.

<https://www.noaa.gov/budget-finance-performance/value-to-society>

Post 9

 URGENT!  @DOGE is pushing a dangerous plan to gut @NOAA.

NOAA protects marine life, monitors climate change, and safeguards coastal communities. Without it, our oceans and future are at risk.

Congress has the power to stop this attack, but only if we demand action. 🌊✊

Post 10

🌊 Our oceans are facing a new threat: @DOGE and @POTUS are attacking @NOAA, the organization that stands between marine devastation and environmental safety. NOAA monitors ocean health, protects endangered species, and prepares communities for rising sea levels. Losing it would be catastrophic.

But we can fight back. Congress must hear from ocean advocates 🌍