NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research FY 2026 Presidential Budget

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) would be **eliminated as a line office**. Several specific programs would be transferred to other NOAA line offices, but most of OAR would be eliminated.

Details on OAR Eliminations

If the Administration's proposed FY26 budget is adopted, below are examples of the programs in NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research that would be cut (this is not a comprehensive list):

Research Laboratories – all of NOAA's research laboratories would be eliminated, including:

- Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in Miami, FL
- Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) in College Park, MD, Idaho Falls, ID, and Oak Ridge, TN, as well as a nation-wide network of soil moisture sensors
- Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL) in Boulder, CO
- Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, NJ
- Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) in Boulder, CO, Utqiaġvik, AK, Mauna Loa, HI, Hilo, HI, Big Island, HI, American Samoa, and the South Pole
- Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, WA
- Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) in Boulder, CO
- Global Systems Laboratory (GSL) in Boulder, CO
- National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman, OK
- Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) in Ann Arbor, MI, and Muskegon, MI

FLASH (NSSL) – the Flooded Locations & Simulated Hydrographs Project works to improve the accuracy, timing, and specificity of flash flood warnings by using NSSL's Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) project high-resolution rainfall data.

Warn-on-Forecast (NSSL) – this project works to increase lead times for tornado, severe thunderstorm, and flash flood warnings. By using rapid data assimilation of radar and satellite information in real time, the Warn-on-Forecast System (WoFS) can significantly increase lead time for weather warnings.

- In March 2025, WoFS provided Carter County, Missouri with tornado warnings two hours before the event. This offered the community significantly more time to prepare relative to normal tornado warning lead times of 13 to 19 minutes.

VORTEX-SE / VORTEX-USA – a field research initiative aimed at understanding how, when, and why tornadoes form, particularly within supercell thunderstorms. By deploying mobile radars, weather balloons, and other instruments, VORTEX helps improve tornado prediction and warning systems. The VORTEX-SE program also incorporates social science to study how communities receive and respond to warnings.

HYSPLYT (ARL) – atmospheric transport and dispersion model used by forecasters for predicting the transport and dispersion of airborne hazardous materials (radioactive material, airborne chemicals, smoke from wildfires, volcanic ash, acid rain).

Hurricane Research Division (AOML) – development of the next generation models, instruments, observations, and data assimilation to improve hurricane predictions and forecasts.

Atmospheric Rivers Research (PSL) – improved monitoring and prediction of atmospheric river events, which can disrupt travel, induce mud slides, and cause catastrophic damage to life and property.

Harmful Algal Blooms & Hypoxia (GLERL) – data used to inform forecasts of water quality and drinking water managers to reduce risks associated with recreational exposure, consumption, and treatment of Great Lakes water.

Tsunami Research (PMEL) – improved models and measurement technology for increased speed and accuracy of operational forecasts and warnings, improving predictions of tsunami impacts on coastal communities and infrastructure.

National Integrated Heat Health Information System (CPO) – a premier source of heat and health information aimed at reducing the health, economic, and infrastructure impacts of extreme heat.

Hazard Services (GSL) – a suite of software tools rolling out from OAR to NWS now that consolidates multiple tools into one platform to support hazard communication and effectively update and issue weather warnings. It supports hazard visualization and impact-based decision support services (IDSS).

- Hazard Services was used in March 2025 tornado outbreak and allowed NWS forecasters to more efficiently issue and adjust alerts.

Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) – regional CAP teams address local needs and provide community support related to regional climate and extreme weather hazards.

National Sea Grant College Program – a partnership program between NOAA and universities that supports the use and conservation of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources through research, extension, and education. Sea Grant Programs have supported 22,251 jobs and restored or protected over 15 million acres of habitat.

Sea Grant Aquaculture Research – a program that supports safe and sustainable aquaculture programs in marine and Great Lakes communities through research and direct education and support of the aquaculture industry.

National Oceanographic Partnership Program – helps establish cross-sector partnerships to advance ocean science research and education. This allows for collaboration to address research priorities that are too big for a single Federal agency or cross multiple agency missions.

'Omics Research (AOML, GLERL, PMEL) – research employing advanced tools to analyze DNA, RNA, proteins, and metabolites to support fisheries management, aquaculture development, seafood traceability, combat invasive organisms, and biodiversity monitoring.

OAR Transfers

The following are the only Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research programs proposed to be retained and transferred to National Ocean Service (1-3) or National Weather Service (4-8):

1. Ocean Exploration and Research
2. Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring
3. Integrated Ocean Acidification
4. U.S. Weather Research Program (includes EPIC, fire weather, extreme precipitation, and drought research)
5. Tornado Severe Storm Research / Phased Array Radar
6. Joint Technology Transfer Initiative
7. Research Supercomputing
8. High Performance Computing Initiatives