



## Message From the Under Secretary

**March 13, 2014**

Last week I was honored to be confirmed as NOAA Administrator by the U.S. Senate. I'm excited to take the helm of this diverse, unique and profoundly important agency. Throughout my career, I've strived to be a champion for our planet — a motivation I know many of you share. I look forward to sharing my priorities for the agency soon and to working with you all to provide the programs and services our country has come to rely upon.

My confirmation comes as the President unveils his budget for fiscal year 2015 — a budget that better positions NOAA for the future. The demand for NOAA's programs and services is higher than ever before, and this budget request reflects that fact. As one of the most valuable service agencies in the U.S. government, we provide the foresight and information people need to live well and safely on our dynamic planet. This information, or *environmental intelligence*, is at the core of our mission.

**NOAA's FY15 budget request** of approximately \$5.5 billion aims to enhance public safety, economic opportunity, and community resiliency, while also making smart investments to better position NOAA for the future. It continues efforts to strengthen our oceanic and coastal programs, our internal and extramural programs, and our long-range and short-term research investments. We focus our investments in three areas:

- 1) **Investing in mission critical infrastructure:** NOAA is the only federal agency responsible for providing timely and accurate weather, water, ocean, climate and marine ecosystem forecasts and assessments.
- 2) **Strengthening scientific and programmatic innovation:** Developing the latest technological advancements and promoting an understanding of our planet are essential to keep NOAA products and services viable and invaluable to the public.
- 3) **Providing services to enhance community resilience:** NOAA's environmental intelligence is vital to preparing communities for the changing conditions on this planet we call home.

A summary of NOAA's FY15 budget request, the Budget Blue Book, can be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'K' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D.  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere