



FISCAL YEAR 2020 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Earlier this summer, the U.S. House of Representatives passed most of the FY 2020 appropriations bills, including each that fund Chesapeake Bay restoration programs across the federal government. A detailed summary is below. To provide context, the Chesapeake Bay Commission FY 2020 request is referenced in the bracketed text, along with the current FY 2019 levels.

The House of Representatives had “deemed” budget levels to complete its work, but a new law was required to eliminate the budget sequester of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Before adjourning for the August recess, the Congress took this step when it passed, and the President subsequently signed, a budget agreement setting a topline cap for non-defense discretionary spending at \$621.5B, which is \$24.5B more than FY 2019 levels and \$9.5B less than the topline deemed by the House earlier this year.

The budget agreement sets the stage for the Senate to move its version of the appropriations bills in September. Although it is unclear whether the Senate will pass each of the bills, the Energy and Water bill has been mentioned among the first bills to be taken up in September. The Senate and House must then conference the appropriations bills subject to the new budget cap established in July and send them to the President in a form that he will agree to sign.

House Interior Bill

Geographic Programs – Chesapeake Bay: \$85M [Request: \$90M; Current levels: \$73M]

Bill Language:

Chesapeake Bay—The Committee recommends \$85,000,000 for the Chesapeake Bay program, an increase of \$12,000,000 above the enacted level and \$70,700,000 above the budget request. From within the amount provided, \$9,000,000 is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$9,000,000 is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural lands, and \$6,000,000 is for state-based implementation in the most effective basins.*

** Each of these grant programs is currently stipulated at \$6 million, so this represents a \$6,000,000 increase for nutrient and sediment removal and small watershed grants.*

EPA Non-Point Source Grants (Section 319) – \$175,915,000 [Request: level funding; Current levels: an increase of \$5M over FY 2019 levels]

EPA Pollution Control Grants (Section 106) – \$240,806 [Request: level funding; received an increase of \$10M over FY 2019 levels]

EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund -- \$1.81B [Request: level funding with anticipated bump in infrastructure package; Current levels: received an increase of \$416M]

Bill language:

Clean Water State Revolving Fund—The Committee recommends \$1,810,000,000 for the Clean Water SRF, requires at least 10 percent of funds to be used for green infrastructure or energy efficiency projects, reserves \$2,000,000 for technical assistance and training grants, and requires that 10 percent of grant funds be used for additional subsidization.

USGS Ecosystem Science and Monitoring -- \$14.85M [Request: level funding; Current levels: received an increase of \$2M over FY 2019 enacted levels]

Bill language:

Ecosystems—The Committee recommends \$168,023,000 for Ecosystems programs as depicted in the fiscal year 2019 budget structure, an increase of \$11,141,000 above the enacted level. The recommendation provides \$16,456,000 for Status and Trends which includes a general reduction of \$1,917,000; \$45,469,000 for Wildlife; and \$38,570,000 for Environments which includes an increase of \$2,000,000 for Chesapeake Bay research.

NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails Program – [Request: \$3M; Current levels: received \$2.27M, which is an increase of \$250K over FY 2019 enacted levels]

Bill language:

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails—The Committee recommends \$2,270,000 for Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails, an increase of \$250,000 above the enacted level and \$2,270,000 above the budget request.

USFWS Cooperative Landscape Conservation -- \$12.5M [Request: equal to FY 2019 levels; Current funding: as requested]

USFWS Habitat Conservation – Coastal Program -- \$13,743,000 [Request: level funding; Current levels: received an increase of \$1,689,000 over FY 2019 enacted levels]

USDA Forest Stewardship -- \$25M [Request: level funding at \$20.5M; Current funding: as requested]

Bill language:

Forest Stewardship Program—The Committee recommends \$25,000,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program, which is a programmatic increase of \$6,395,000 above the enacted level and \$7,143,000 above the budget request.

DOI Land and Water Conservation Fund -- \$538,950,000 [Request: level funding; Current funding: received an increase of \$88,952,000 over FY 2019 enacted levels]

House Energy & Water Bill

USACE, Section 510 Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program – Section 510 did not receive a specific funding line reference due to earmark rules.

The Environmental Restoration and Compliance funding line goes from \$50M to \$150M. There were two language references, which are listed below. The second reference, while it says oysters, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has told Appropriations Committee staff that Section 510 would be eligible for this \$5M. They changed it from our previous language at the last minute because USACE changed course and told the committee that there was only one body of water – the Chesapeake Bay – that had

a comprehensive plan and thus reference comprehensive plans in directing the funding would constitute an earmark.

Bill language:

“Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resources and Restoration Plan—The Committee is supportive of the Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resources and Restoration Plan.”

“Of the additional funding provided in this account for environmental restoration or compliance, the Corps shall allocate not less than \$5,000,000 for projects that restore and rehabilitate native oyster reefs.”

USACE Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery – Chesapeake Oyster Recovery did not receive a specific funding line reference due to earmark rules.

See language above and below. Both oyster reef construction and Section 510 projects in the Chesapeake are eligible for the \$5M set aside and the overall pot.

Bill language:

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, Maryland and Virginia—The Committee is supportive of the Corps’ work on the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery program and urges the Corps to include funding in future budget submissions for these efforts.

USACE Poplar Island -- \$17.3M* [Request: \$8.1M]

**Report includes a notation saying that this line contains funds requested in other accounts. Poplar Island has been moved to environmental restoration business line.*

USACE Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206) -- \$12M [Request: equal to FY 2019 level; Current funding: as requested]

Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Section 14) -- \$8M [Request: equal to FY 2019; Current funding: as requested]

House Commerce, Justice, Science Bill

Habitat Conservation and Restoration -- \$61,625K [Request: \$61,384K; Current funding: FY 2019 enacted level was \$56,384K]

Regional Councils and Fisheries Commission -- \$41,500K [Request: level funding; Current funding: FY 2019 enacted level was \$40,175K]

Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) -- \$9M [Request: level funding; Current funding: FY 2019 enacted level was \$7.5M]

National Sea Grant College Program (includes Marine Aquaculture Program) -- \$85M [Request: \$93.5M; Current funding: FY 2019 enacted level was \$80M]

House Agriculture Bill

NRCS Conservation Operations -- \$829,628K [Request: \$875M; Current funding: FY 2019 enacted level was \$819,492K]