

# Nor'wester newsletter

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#### **ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

The Senate Appropriations Committee released the <u>summary</u> of their proposed FY2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill today. The top line numbers reported include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: \$8.934 billion
- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund: \$2.77 billion

We are awaiting publication of the bill text and tables to see how funding will be allocated among the Corps' various programs.

PNWA previously <u>reported</u> on the release of the House Appropriations Committee's proposed FY2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations <u>bill</u> and <u>summary</u> which funded the Corps at \$9.57 billion, including \$2.77 billion for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

## **COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS**

On July 13, the Senate Appropriations Committee <u>announced</u> approval of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies FY2024 Appropriations <u>bill</u>. This bill provides funding for NOAA Fisheries and proposes \$65 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund. Of particular note is bill language recognizing the significant backlog of NMFS consultation requests in our region and encouragement by the Committee for NMFS to continue collaborating with the Corps and others to improve coordination and efficiency of consultations within the permitting process and address the backlog "particularly in the Pacific Northwest."

To read the bill text, click <u>here</u>. To read the bill report, click <u>here</u>.

To read the summary of Congressionally Directed Spending, click <a href="here">here</a>.

The House Appropriations Committee also released their proposed FY2024 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on July 13th, with <a href="markup">markup</a> of the bill the following day. The proposed legislation includes \$65 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund. However, the bill would not

allow for FY2024 funding to be allocated toward climate change fisheries research.

To read the bill text, click <u>here</u>.

To read the bill summary, click <u>here</u>.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The FY2024 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2023 and with very few legislative work days before the August recess, it is unlikely Congress will be able to conference and pass all 12 appropriations bills by September 30, 2023. A continuing resolution (CR) would be needed to avoid a government shutdown.

PNWA continues to advocate for additional spending pots of discretionary funding for the Corps. We advocate for those funds to be allocated to our members' projects through the workplan process after appropriations have been completed. PNWA staff will continue to monitor the appropriations process and share information as it becomes available.

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