

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - NOAA Funding

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Stimulus Bill) will provide NOAA with approximately \$150M-\$170M for restoration projects.
- A solicitation will be announced in the Federal Register, probably mid- to late this week. Details and types of eligible activities will be listed in the Federal Register Notice. Proposals will be due approximately 30 days after publication in the Federal Register (likely late March).
- The selection process will be competitive, and consider factors such as # jobs created, whether the projects are ready to go, and the ecological impact.
- Final decisions on project eligibility have not been released, but we have been told they will be "traditional" kinds of restoration, such as wetlands, corals, dam removal, levee setbacks, etc. There was some talk about marine debris, but we don't know if that is in the mix.
- Selection of projects is anticipated in late April, about 30 days after proposals are received.
- Key Take home messages:
 - *Get ready--be ready to act quickly when the notice hits the streets.*
 - *NOAA will be looking for large (\$1M – \$10M) and “ready to go” projects.*