

Summary of Recommended Revisions to NOAA Hydrographic Services Contracting Policy

- Reflects changes between 2006 NOAA policy and proposed 2009 NOAA policy.
- Changes name from NOAA Hydrographic Services Contracting Policy to NOAA Ocean and Coastal Mapping Contracting Policy.
- Includes “hydrographic services” as part of the broader term “ocean and coastal mapping services.”
- Recognizes that there are other laws and authorities that authorize NOAA to provide mapping services, in addition to the 1947 C&GS Act and the Hydrographic Services Act.
- Recognizes contracting for mapping services as being important to supplementing NOAA’s ocean and coastal mapping operational capacity.
- Acknowledges that NOAA will procure the acquisition of hydrographic data in accordance with Title IX of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (Brooks Act) when required by law or otherwise deemed appropriate.
- Identifies a representative number of mapping activities that may not be subject to contracting (previous policy described these activities as being considered inherently governmental in nature).
- Expands this list by adding the following mapping activity not subject to contracting: “services that can only be carried out aboard a NOAA ship or aircraft because the survey platform possesses unique operational capabilities not available in the private sector.”
- Promotes the leveraging of government mapping resources by making NOAA’s geospatial and hydrographic services contracts available to State and local government entities that have a need for the services provided by these contracts and can provide adequate funding.
- Deletes reference to NOAA’s annual hydrographic training and field procedures workshops owing to a recent decision to downsize these workshops and limit participation to Federal employees only.
- Incorporates numerous style, word usage and grammatical revisions throughout for the purpose of clarifying previously vague portions of the policy statement.