



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of Inspector General**

Washington, D.C. 20230

August 21, 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Scott B. Quehl  
Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

**FROM:** Ann C. Eilers *Ann C Eilers*  
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

**SUBJECT:** Review of Commerce and NOAA Actions Taken to Correct  
Deficiencies Leading to Budget Reprogramming Requests

In response to a June 7, 2012, request from the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies to review materials and findings from a May 11, 2012, internal inquiry report prepared by the Department of Commerce, we are initiating a review of Departmental actions taken to address identified weaknesses. The May 11 report highlighted the mismanagement of budgetary resources that resulted in National Weather Service (NWS) budget shortfalls. Acting Secretary Blank and Under Secretary Lubchenco issued separate decision memoranda on May 24, 2012, with specific actions for correcting the conditions leading to the report's findings.

Our objective will be to determine the adequacy of actions taken by the Department and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in addressing issues arising from the fiscal year 2012 reprogramming requests.

We will contact the audit liaisons to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-4328 or Andrew Katsaros, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at (202) 482-7859. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

cc: Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator  
Dr. David Titley, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA  
Lisa Casias, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management  
Joanne Buenzli Crane, Acting Chief Financial Officer, NOAA  
Jon Alexander, Director, Finance Office, NOAA  
Gary Reisner, Acting Chief Financial Officer, NWS  
Mack Cato, NOAA Audit Liaison  
MaryAnn Mausser, Office of Program Evaluation and Risk Management