



September 12, 2017

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Ben Friedman  
Deputy Under Secretary for Operations  
Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

Rear Admiral Michael Silah  
Director  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the NOAA Corps

**FROM:** Mark H. Zabarsky  
Assistant Inspector General for Acquisition  
and Special Program Audits

**SUBJECT:** Research on NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
(OMAO) Fleet Recapitalization Plan

We are initiating research into NOAA's implementation of its Fleet Recapitalization Plan. We will be requesting certain documentation and interviewing senior NOAA officials and managers related to the research topic. We do not plan to issue a report from this effort, but intend to identify subsequent audit efforts, which we will announce separately.

We have scheduled an entrance conference for October 3, 2017, to discuss our research effort in more detail. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact me at (202) 482-3884 or Ken Stagner, Regional Inspector General for Audit, at (303) 312-7650. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this effort.

cc: Rear Admiral Anita Lopez, Deputy Director, NOAA Corps, and Deputy Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
Captain Todd Bridgeman, Director, Marine Operations, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
Troy Frost, Deputy Director, Marine Operations, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
Greg Raymond, Deputy Chief of Staff performing the duties of Chief of Staff, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
Mack Cato, Audit Liaison, NOAA  
Rhonda Lawrence, NOAA Audit Program Manager, NOAA