



January 23, 2018

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret.  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere and  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Rear Admiral Michael Silah  
Director  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the NOAA Corps  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**FROM:** David Smith  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

**SUBJECT:** Audit of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
(OMAO) Ship Fleet Acquisition Planning

We are initiating an audit to assess NOAA's acquisition of new ships. Our objective is to determine whether NOAA performed effective acquisition planning for its construction of new ships. We will also review NOAA's management of funds associated with this acquisition.

Please note that this is separate from a research effort we announced in September 2017. OIG is closing the "Research on NOAA's OMAO Fleet Recapitalization Plan," which we announced on September 12, 2017.

We have scheduled an entrance conference for February 1, 2018, at which time we will discuss our objectives in further detail. If you have any questions regarding this audit, please contact me at (202) 482-7886 or Ken Stagner, Audit Director, Denver Regional Office, at (303) 312-7650.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this audit.

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