

**Buoyancy and bailing to keep
afloat over 30 years: a case study of
the South Slough National
Estuarine Research Reserve
(Charleston, OR, USA)**



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Symposium Theme #3: identification of creative financing methods and successful models of the long term economic sustainability of MPAs.

Talk Outline



Background

- A. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System
- B. South Slough NERR



Financial Analysis



Creative Financing Methods



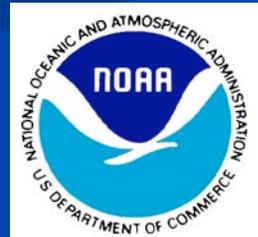
Conclusions



Recommendations

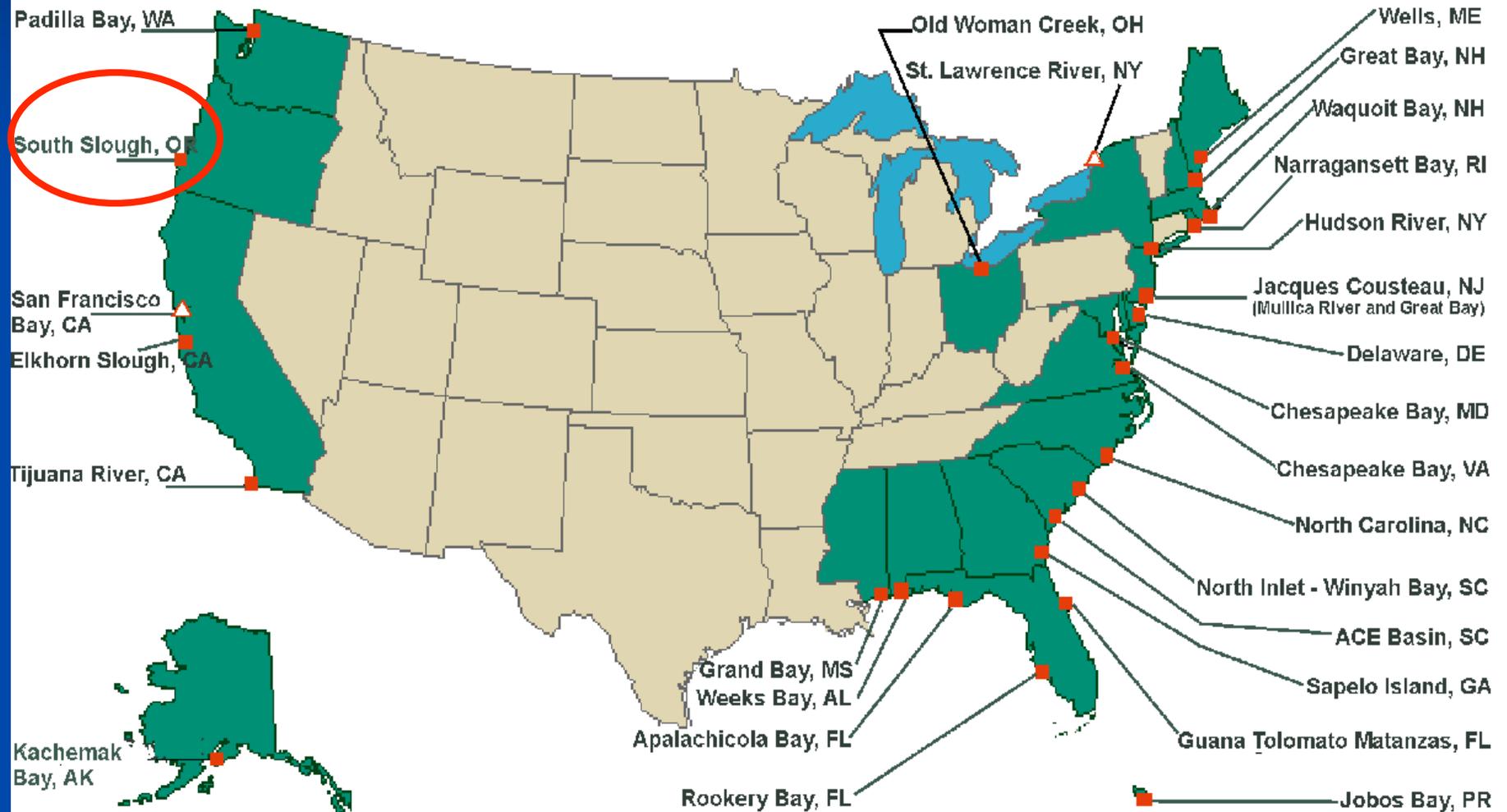
Background: What is the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)?

- Authorized under the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
- Partnership between coastal states and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Estuarine reserves support research, stewardship, and education
- Advancing knowledge on estuarine ecology and environmental status and trends



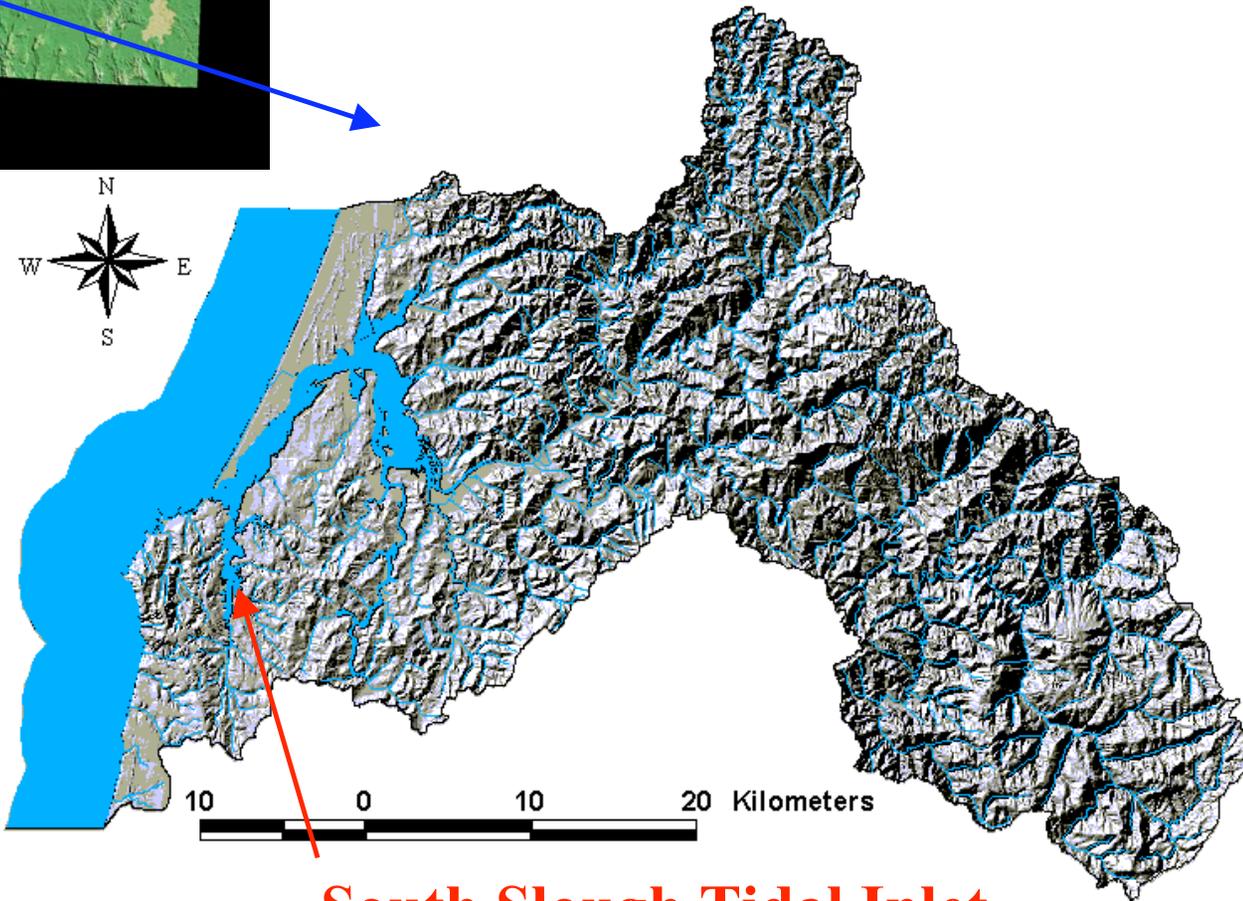
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVES

Mission: to promote stewardship of the nation's estuaries through science and education using a system of protected areas



OREGON

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve



South Slough Tidal Inlet

South Slough Habitats:

- marshes - mudflats
- forests - creeks
- seagrass beds

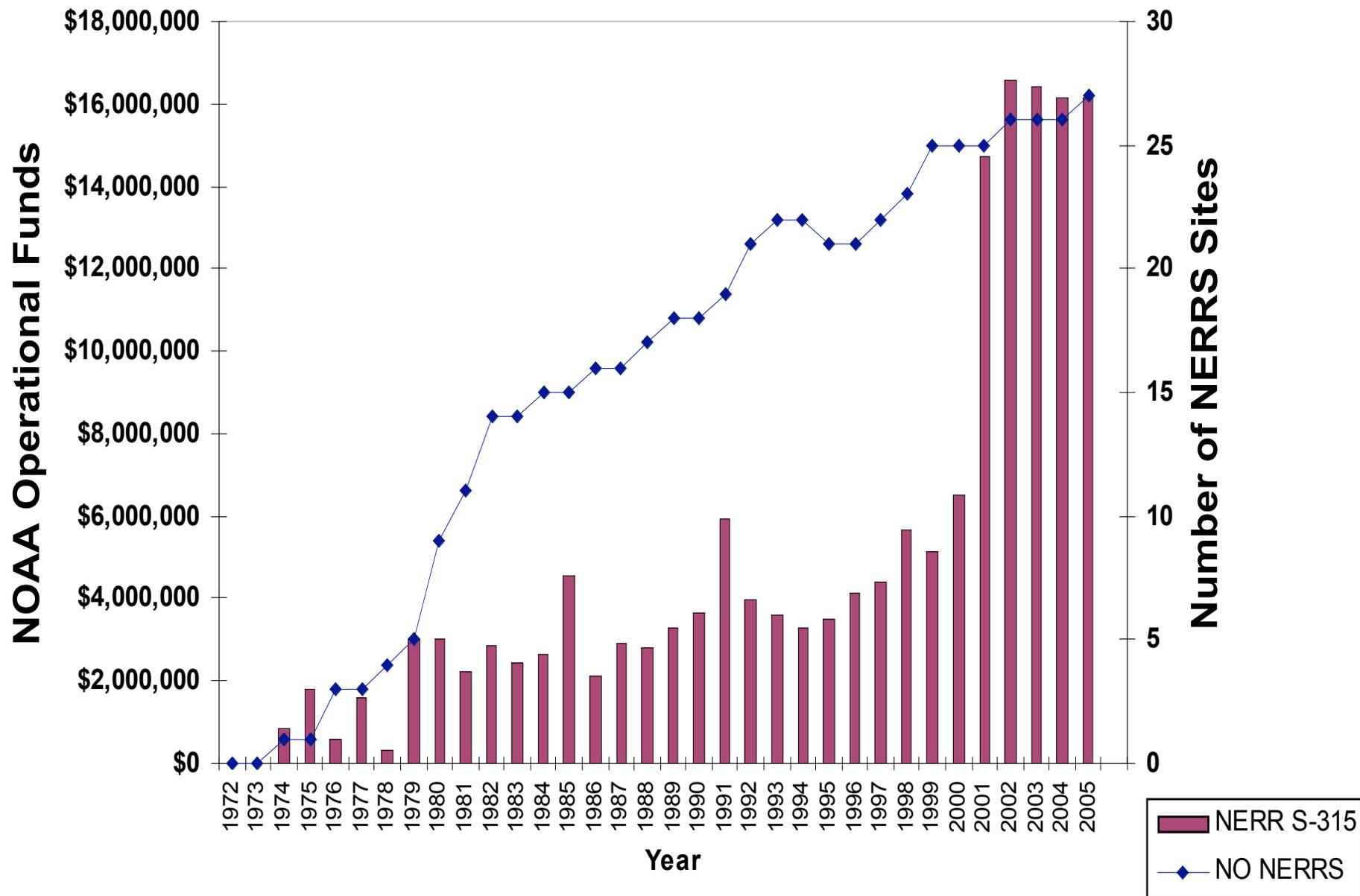


South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

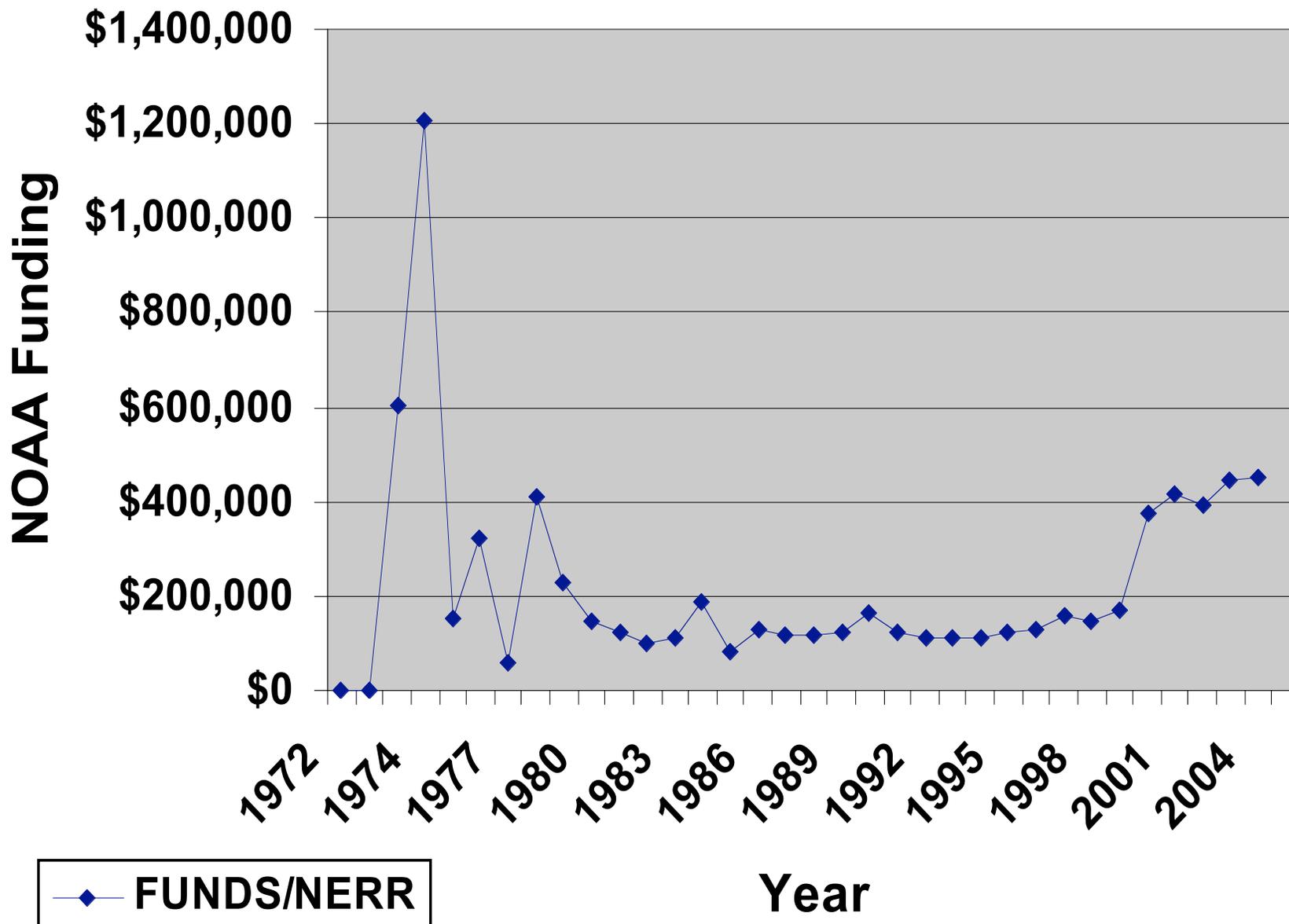
- First designated estuarine MPA in the U.S. - 1974
- Founding member of NERR network
- 4th oldest designated MPA in U.S. (31 years)
- 18.2 square kilometers



Programmatic and Financial Growth of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (1972-2004)



Funding Levels Per Reserve Over Time (1972-2004)

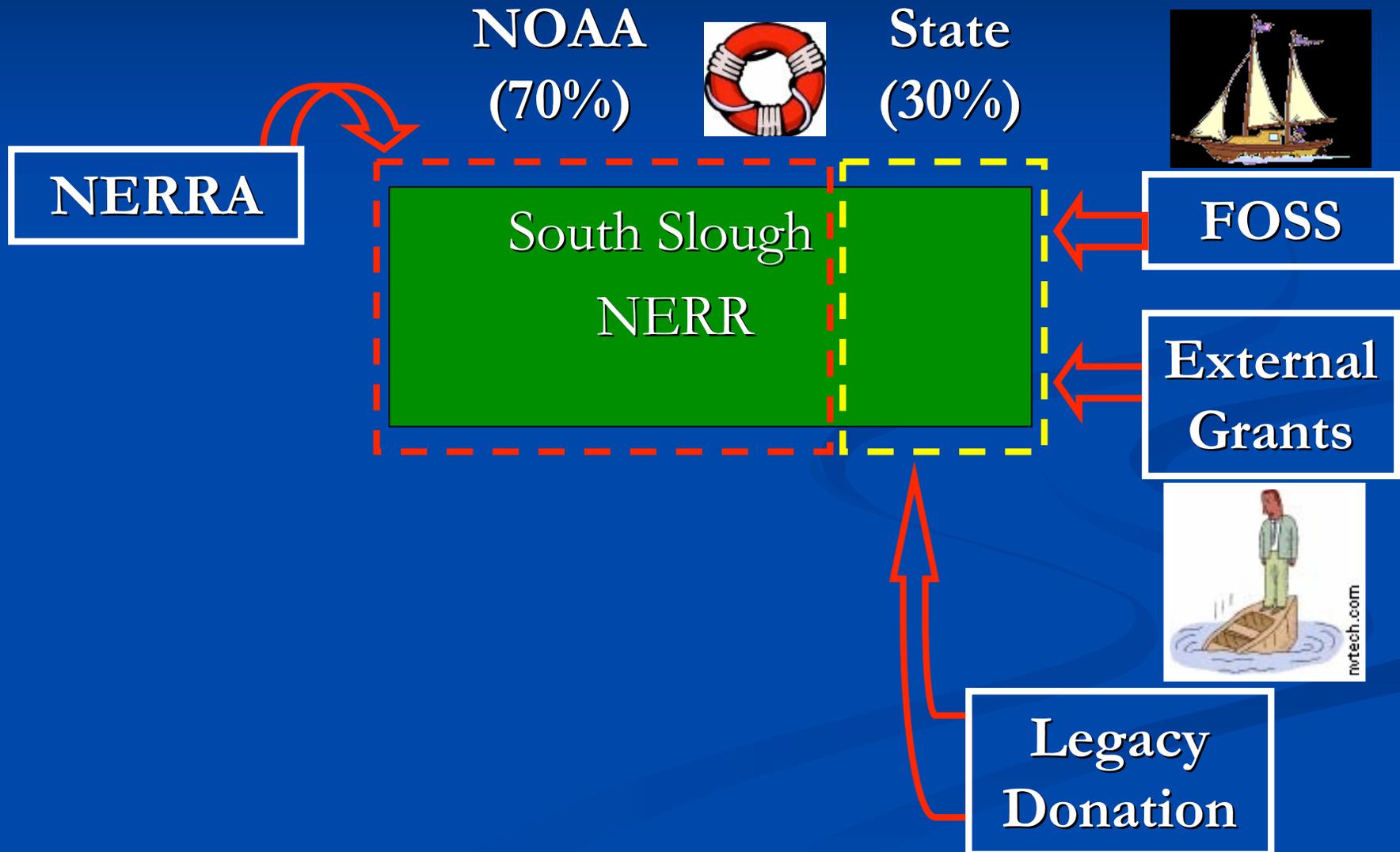


Increases in Operational Funds Were Linked to Establishment of System-wide Initiatives

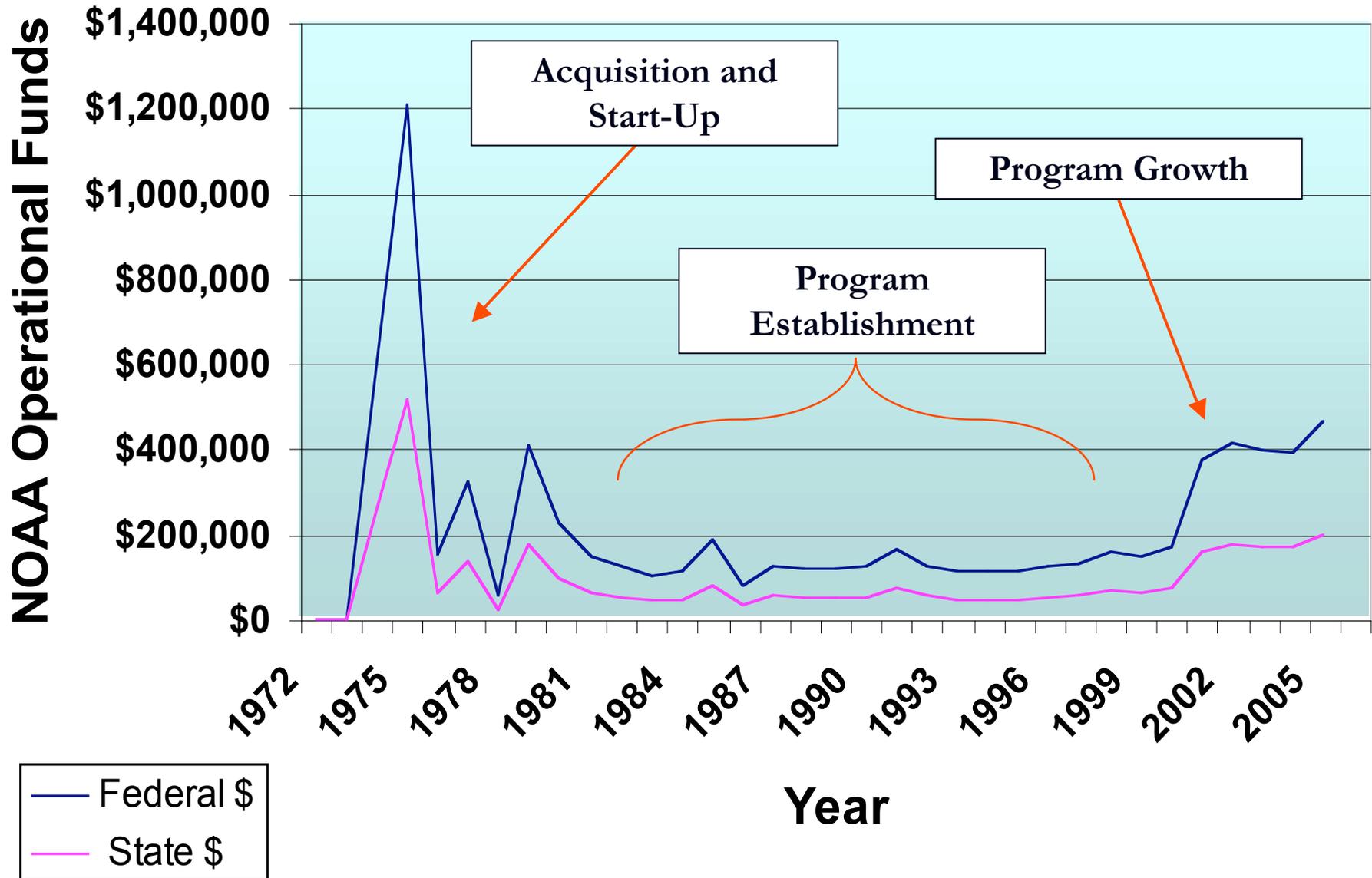
- Management, Research, and Education Core Programs
- System-Wide Monitoring Program
- Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Coastal Training Program



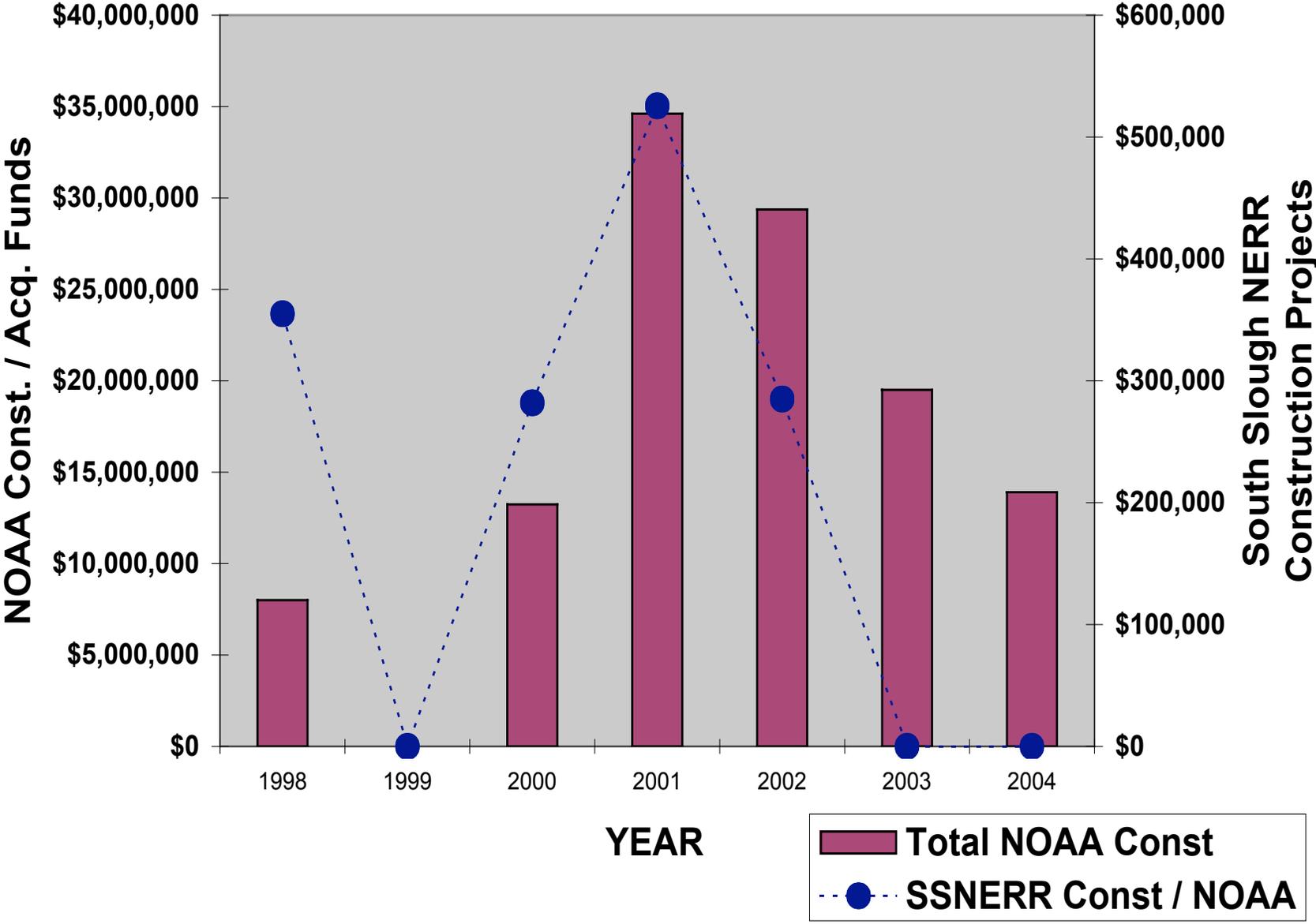
Financial Support for the South Slough NERR : “Buoyancy, Bailing, and Favorable Winds”



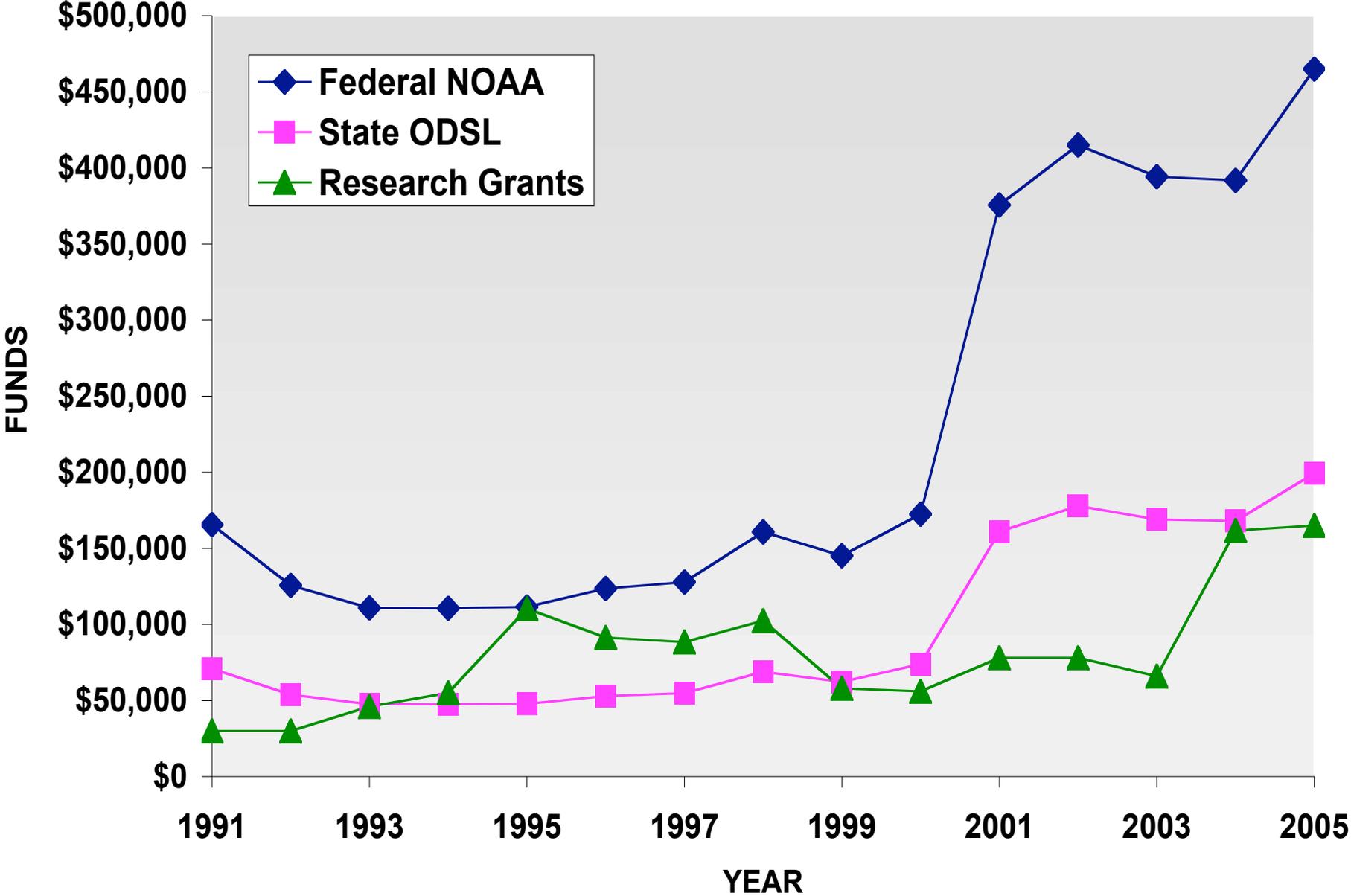
Financial History of the South Slough NERR (1972-2005)



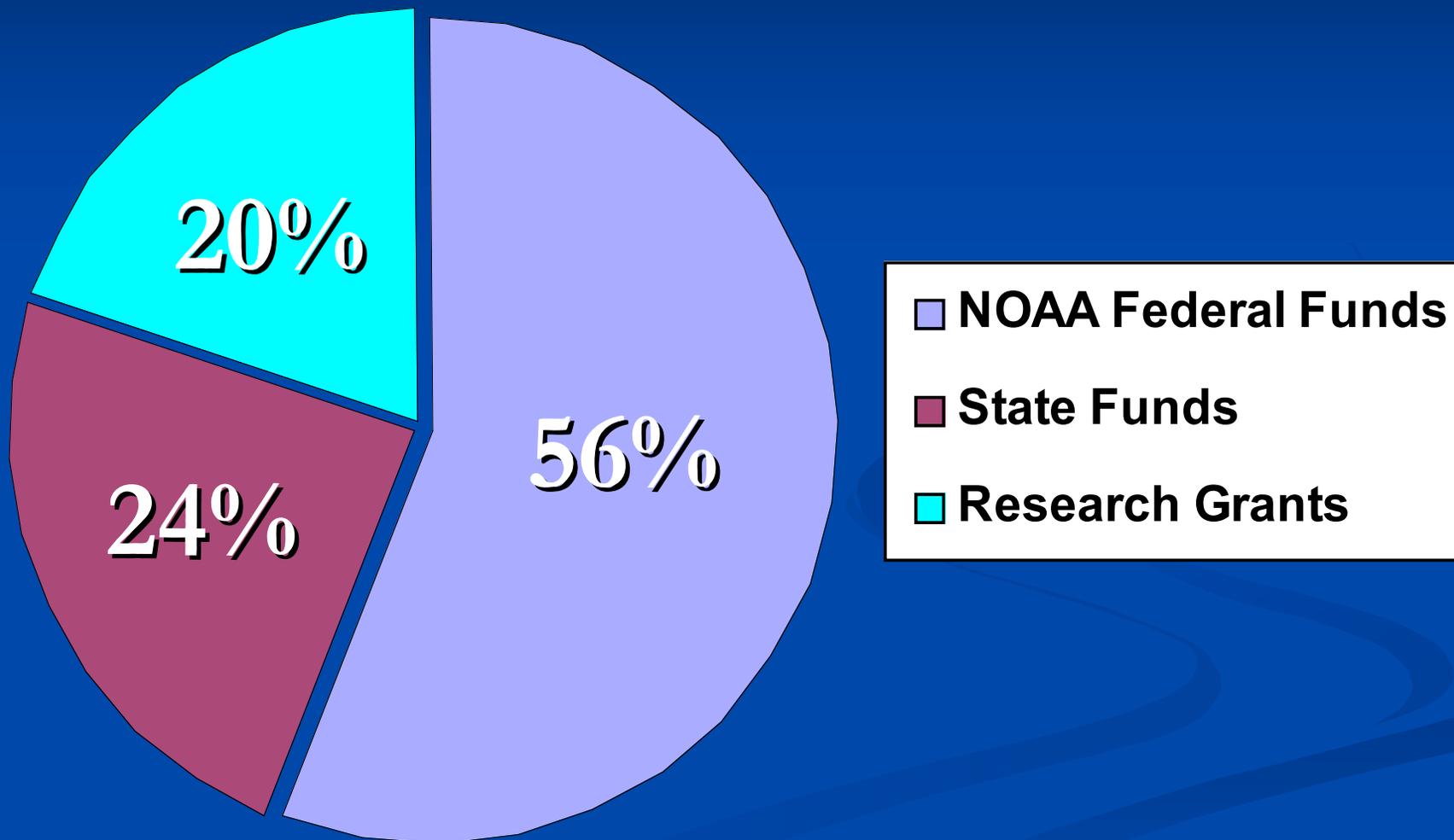
Total NOAA Construction Funds and South Slough NERR Construction & Acquisition Awards (1998-2004)



South Slough NERR: Financial Support from NOAA, ODSL, and Research Grants (1991-2005)



Financial Support for South Slough NERR Programs : State, Federal, and Research Grants (1991-2005)



“Favorable Winds” – Creative Financing Mechanisms



1. Volunteer Organization - Friends of South Slough (FOSS)
2. Gustafson Estate Donation

Friends of South Slough (FOSS)

Non-profit organization with a mission “to provide educational and interpretive services for the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.”

Contribute to the South Slough NERR by:

- 📁 Fundraising
- 📄 Grant administration
- 📄 Donation of goods and volunteer labor



FOSS Fundraising Techniques:

- conducting raffles
- collecting donations from visitors
- interpretive program fees
- grant writing - especially foundation funds
- approaching foundation donors
- soliciting private donations from local citizens



FOSS Fundraising Contributions:

- Raised \$140,000 towards construction of new auditorium at Interpretive Center
- Raising \$85,000 for new interpretive exhibits
- Over period from 2002-2004, value of volunteer hours = \$41,900



Gustafson Estate Donation

- \$1,625,000 willed to South Slough in 1987 → now worth over 2 Million \$
- specifically for the purpose of acquiring additional land (or interests in land) to be added to the ownership of South Slough NERR.
- Will help fund South Slough's acquisition plan

Example of funding concept for other MPAs?

Conclusions: Key Elements Supporting the Economic Sustainability of South Slough

1) Consistent Institutionalized Federal Funding

Why has this been stable?

- MPA network with clear mission, purpose, and administrative framework
- Research results benefit larger coastal management community
- Represented by non-governmental organization that lobbies effectively
- State matching contributions (partnership/leveraging)
- Bi-partisan political support

Conclusions: Key Elements Supporting the Economic Sustainability of South Slough

2) Consistent State Funding/Support

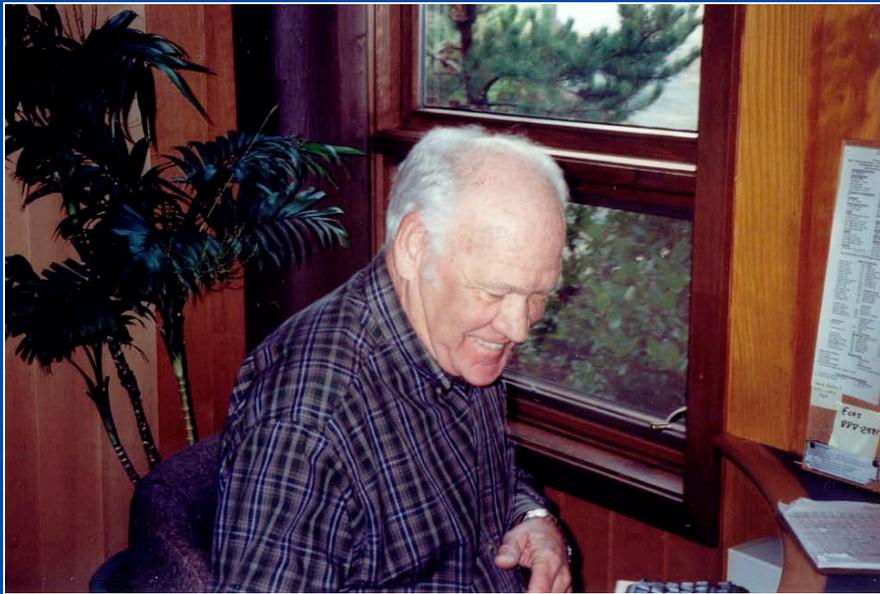
Why has this been stable?

- State funds leverage considerable federal money
- Mission of the South Slough NERR compliments the activities of numerous state natural resource agencies responsible for coastal management, fish and wildlife, wetland conservation, and watershed enhancement.
- South Slough educational emphasis cultivates multi-generational support

Conclusions: Key Elements Supporting the Economic Sustainability of South Slough

3) Staff Ability To Secure Additional Grant Funds

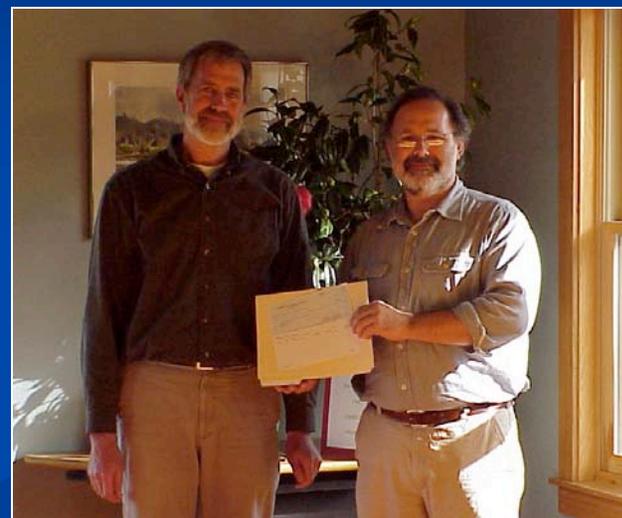
4) Community Advocates



Recommendations and Future Directions

A. Build creative partnerships with the private sector

- Foundations
- Community Groups
- Large and small NGOs
- Individual citizens



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Recommendations and Future Directions

B. Strengthen linkages between MPAs and local community economies

- Buy local for goods and services
- MPA staff become community members
- Communicate economic benefits of MPA (Ex. South Slough economics study and outreach plan)
- Integrate local businesses and community vision into MPA management (Ex. “Charleston Gateway Project”)

