



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce



# Timothy R. Petty, Ph.D.

Assistant Secretary of  
Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere and Deputy

## Administrator

**Focus areas:** Across NOAA **Topics:** NOAA leadership

---

Tim Petty is NOAA's assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere, and deputy NOAA administrator. Dr. Petty's portfolio oversees the strategic vision, policy direction and oversight of NOAA's oceans, mapping and fishery programs.

Dr. Petty previously served as senior professional staff on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives. He also served as assistant secretary for water and science at the Department of the Interior (DOI) under the first Trump Administration, and as acting assistant secretary and deputy assistant secretary for water and science at DOI during President George W. Bush's Administration. He has served three U.S. senators supporting legislation focused on natural resources, water resources and technology.

[Help improve this site](#)

Dr. Petty earned his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (College of Engineering and Mines), an M.S. from the University of Maryland Global in International Business Management & Accounting, and a B.S. from Purdue University in Geosciences & Engineering. Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist. He is originally from Indiana where he grew up on his family farm. He resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife.

---

Last updated March 6, 2026

[Cite this page](#)