

Marine Debris Projects Recommended for NOAA Funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: National Competition

*Projects selected through the National Sea Grant Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Marine Debris Community Action Coalition Competition Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity*

California

Advancing Equitable Resources to Marine Debris Solutions Through California's Ocean Litter Strategy

Recipients: California Sea Grant, Project Lead: Theresa Talley

University of Southern California Sea Grant, Project Co-Lead: Amalia Aruda Almada

Federal funding: \$298,351 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The California Sea Grant and USC Sea Grant will be awarded \$298,351 to strengthen the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility focus of the California Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy to increase the accessibility, equitability, and justice of litter pollution solutions in California. This project aims to increase involvement of groups who have been largely missing from marine debris conversations and actions thus far, including traditionally underserved community-based groups and California Tribes. Specifically, this project will engage and identify the needs of local communities and establish a coalition to inform coordinated investments in community-based marine debris solutions.

Delaware

Fish-Finders for Stewardship: Training Volunteers to use Side-Scan Sonar to Find and Remove Derelict Crab Pots From Delaware's Recreational Blue Crab Fishery

Recipient: Delaware Sea Grant, Project Lead: Joanna York

Federal funding: \$169,325 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Delaware Sea Grant will be awarded \$169,325 to reduce the prevalence of derelict crab pots from waters used by the recreational crabbing industry in Delaware's Inland Bays through community education and volunteers. This project will transition Delaware's volunteer-based derelict crab pot round-ups from a highly university-dependent project to a primarily community-based activity while also supporting outreach and education programming for residents on responsible crabbing practices.

Hawai'i

Pacific Islands Marine Debris Community Action Coalition

Recipient: Hawai'i Sea Grant, Project Lead: Eileen Nalley

Federal funding: \$299,987 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Hawai'i Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,987 to include partners in their Marine Debris Action Plan efforts throughout the Pacific region, such as Guam and American Samoa,

who are disproportionately affected by marine debris due to their geographic locations and lack of sufficient waste infrastructure. The Coalition formed in this project will connect communities who have not been traditionally engaged with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, academic institutions and the business sector to build partnerships to more comprehensively and effectively address marine debris.

Louisiana

Consider Litter: Data-Driven, Community-Centered Marine Debris Prevention and Mitigation

Recipient: Louisiana Sea Grant, Project Lead: Danielle DiIullo,

Federal funding: \$295,748 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Louisiana Sea Grant will be awarded \$295,748 to empower community members (students, teachers, businesses and local leaders) in dialogue and stewardship on the removal and prevention of marine debris in Louisiana's Barataria, Pontchartrain and Terrebonne Basins, communities that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution and are historically marginalized. By focusing on Title I schools, Consider Litter will build a network of visible and diverse community stewards that can monitor litter in their communities and compile data that can help inform the resulting prevention/mitigation projects.

Fostering Community Partnership and Understanding Financial Vulnerabilities to Reduce Marine Debris and Enhance Louisiana's Resilience to Disaster

Recipient: Louisiana Sea Grant, Project Lead: Julie Lively

Federal funding: \$299,638 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Louisiana Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,638 to improve awareness of the issues surrounding storm-transported litter in Louisiana. Trainings with the Financial Debris Management Simulation tool will help municipalities with underrepresented populations understand their financial vulnerability to storm events in terms of clean-up costs. Additionally, youth education and community outreach will educate on the consequences of litter/marine debris and promote environmental stewardship through clean-up activities.

Maine

Reducing Derelict Fishing Gear in the Gulf of Maine: Educating and Empowering Boaters to be a Part of the Solution

Recipient: Maine Sea Grant, Project Lead: Keri Kaczor

Federal funding: \$156,150 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Maine Sea Grant will be awarded \$156,150 to form a coalition that will co-develop the first organized outreach campaign to Maine's recreational boaters and commercial fishing vessels on preventing derelict fishing gear accumulation and other marine debris, which result in losses to the local lobster industry as well as economic and environmental impacts to vulnerable communities. Resulting communications products will be shared with local, regional and national networks.

A Community Education and Research Development Initiative to Develop new Materials and Uses From Ghost Traps

Recipient: Maine Sea Grant, Project Lead: Dana Morse

Federal funding: \$299,707 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Maine Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,707 to facilitate the recovery, recycling and refabrication of marine debris material in the Gulf of Maine, such as ghost lobster traps and derelict aquaculture farming gear, into new products with creative, practical and industry applications. The community created will connect Maine high school students and professionals with information exchange, professional development and networking opportunities to collaborate on new applications and markets for marine debris.

Maryland

Raising Awareness of Marine Pollution in Underserved Populations (RAMP-UP)

Recipient: Maryland Sea Grant, Project Lead: Fredrika Moser

Federal funding: \$254,305 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Maryland Sea Grant will be awarded \$254,305 to increase awareness about marine debris, environmental degradation, and connections to environmental justice among minority youth in Maryland. The coalition will enhance community literacy about marine debris through formal education and training at two Historically Black Colleges and Universities and informal education in conjunction with summer youth programs.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Marine Debris From Source to Stellwagen: A Comprehensive Suite of Tools for Environmental Educators

Recipient: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sea Grant, Project Lead: Michael Triantafyllou

Federal funding: \$286,284 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sea Grant will be awarded \$286,284 to form a coalition of K-12 teachers and students, environmental organizations, underserved communities and commercial fishermen who are interested in addressing issues of marine debris in eastern Massachusetts together. This project aims to build new tools for the tracking and visualization of marine debris, develop marine debris curricula for teachers, and create a pathways internship for underrepresented students to further explore issues of marine debris.

Cape Cod Coalition to Shift Tourism Businesses to Sustainable Serviceware

Recipient: Woods Hole Sea Grant (Massachusetts), Project Lead: Stephanie Murphy

Federal funding: \$299,999 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Woods Hole Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,999 to address the problem of single-use plastics used in tourism-based food, hospitality and experiences businesses on Cape Cod that contribute to marine debris. Building on existing partnerships and relationships, the project will form an action-based environmental stewardship coalition of tourism, education and

government partners to transition businesses away from single-use plastics. This work will expand on an “alternative serviceware guide”.

New Jersey and New York

Community Science to Address Microplastic Pollution in Environmentally Underserved Watershed Communities in New Jersey and New York

Recipient: New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, Project Lead: Diana Burich

Federal funding: \$284,969 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium will be awarded \$284,969 to partner with Columbia University’s Eco Ambassador program and New York Sea Grant, through its summer K-12 community outreach program, to develop timely and effective marine debris curricula and expand environmental literacy outreach to school districts from marginalized communities located in New Jersey and New York urban watersheds. Additionally, participants will be trained in community science approaches to collect water, soil and biological samples from their communities for plastic waste analysis.

New York

Mitigation of Stormwater-Derived Debris: A Community-Based Approach

Recipient: New York Sea Grant, Project Lead: Mary Austerman

Federal funding: \$300,000 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The New York Sea Grant will be awarded \$300,000 to build a community network engaged in the prevention and remediation of stormwater-derived human-caused debris in the City of Rochester and the watershed of Lake Ontario. The project will expand a trash capture network of “Littatrap” and use a combined technical and community-based approach to reduce input of debris through mitigation, removal and education. Embedded in activities are career-readiness activities, designed to enhance participation of Rochester youth in environmental stewardship and careers.

Ohio

Beach and On-water Trash Trapping Tech Team for Lake Erie (Botttle)

Recipient: Ohio Sea Grant, Project Lead: Jill Bartolotta

Federal funding: \$299,498 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Ohio Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,498 to offer paid workforce development opportunities to underserved and underrepresented youth in the greater Cleveland area to assist in the creation of training resources for two newly implemented trash removal devices that support cleanup efforts on beaches, marinas, inland waterways and ports in Ohio. In addition to support for students, this work will provide operator support to on-site partners utilizing active trash removal devices and further clean-up of coasts and waterways.

Oregon

Oregon Coalition to Combat Marine Debris

Recipient: Oregon Sea Grant, Project Lead: Tracy Crews

Federal funding: \$278,706 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Oregon Sea Grant will be awarded \$278,706 to form a coalition that will leverage industry partnerships, K-12 education programs and undergraduate internships to enhance community literacy around marine debris and marine debris prevention in Oregon at the local scale. Students and educators will gain access to scientifically accurate, rigorous, engaging resources and activities that will inspire actions to address the problem of marine debris beyond the classroom at the community level.

South Carolina

The Lowcountry NETwork: Building a Coalition of Community Members, Shrimpers, Educators, and Conservationists to Remove and Recycle Marine Debris

Recipient: South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, Project Lead: Matt Gorstein

Federal funding: \$299,696 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium will be awarded \$299,696 to use Trawl to Trash, a previously successful Sea Grant program, to engage the public in stewardship activities that educate communities about the impacts of marine debris and encourage use of upcycled stow bags made by commercial shrimpers from nets that would have been discarded to prevent littering, as well as to collect and remove debris from waterways. This project seeks to expand the program to additional communities that have commercial shrimping activity, to enhance education and outreach capacity, and to sustain a successful program with existing community partners while fostering new collaborations across South Carolina and Georgia coasts, including communities within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor which is a federal National Heritage Area. Partners include University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

Gullah/Geechee CREATE: Coastal Debris Removal Engaging Artists through Environmental Cleanups

Recipient: South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, Project Lead: Matt Gorstein

Federal funding: \$299,992 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium will be awarded \$299,992 to initiate multiple community-based clean up efforts across Gullah/Geechee communities in South Carolina. Cleanup event attendees will gain scientific literacy through collecting and entering marine debris data. The marine debris collected at these events will then be converted into artwork by local Gullah/Geechee artists, and subsequent showcase events will highlight the art installations in concert with marine debris education opportunities. Partners include the Gullah/Geechee Nation, the Gullah Geechee Chamber Foundation, and the Gullah Preservation Society.

Virginia

From Learning to Willing to Doing: A Collaborative Approach to Implementing the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan

Recipient: Virginia Sea Grant and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Project Lead: Troy Hartley

Federal funding: \$299,982 (Inflation Reduction Act)

Summary: The Virginia Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,982 to support implementation of the 2021-2025 Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan through the establishment of a coalition that brings together the concerns of multiple sectors to achieve goals related to derelict fishing gear and abandoned and derelict vessels in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia. The project will result in a robust and diverse network of interested parties and increased marine debris literacy through creation of an online hub and outreach resources. K-12 youth outreach activities will focus on engaging students living in underserved communities.

Washington

Washington CoastSavers Clean Coast Quest

Recipient: Washington Sea Grant, Project Lead: Kate Litle

Federal funding: \$299,965 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Washington Sea Grant will be awarded \$299,965 to partner with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Washington CoastSavers in order to support annual beach cleanups in Washington state, work with the Quinault Indian Nation to expand cleanup and outreach education efforts, and contribute large marine debris data to MyCoast, a Washington Department of Natural Resources database, to understand the scope of the marine debris issue, encourage stewardship, and provide an informed assessment to be used in future removal efforts.

Wisconsin and Ohio

Plastic-Free Cleveland: An Expansion of Coalition Based Efforts to Reduce Marine Debris Throughout the Great Lakes Region

Recipient: Wisconsin Sea Grant, Project Lead: Deidre Peroff

Federal funding: \$300,000 (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

Summary: The Wisconsin Sea Grant will be awarded \$300,000 to work with the Ohio Sea Grant in order to develop a plastic-free coalition within the Cleveland Metropolitan area. The project's primary objectives will be to reduce the consumption of unnecessary single-use plastics by individuals and businesses, thereby reducing pollution entering the watershed. This project will also expand the efforts of Plastic-Free MKE (Milwaukee), particularly surrounding the coalition's education and outreach efforts focused on marine debris.