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Biden-Harris Administration invests more than \$23 million to emove marine debris

ipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will support 13 new emoval and interception projects



pics: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, marine debris, climate

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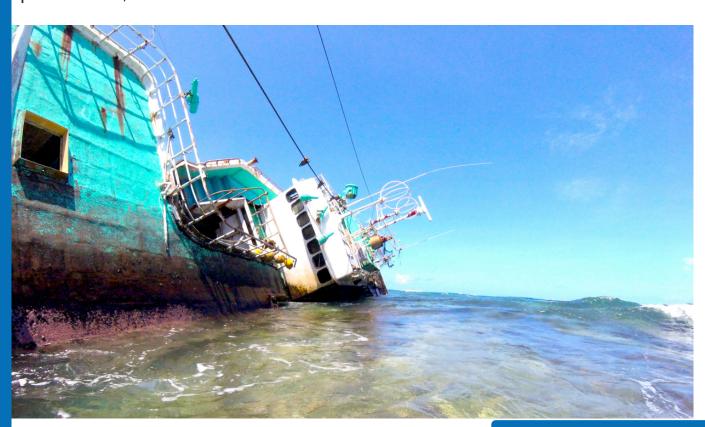








eptember 5, 2024



























thing Vessel Seahawk aground on the reef flat of Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon, Tutuila. (Image credit: Brian ey, Courtesy of American Samoa Department of Port Administration) day, the Department of Commerce and NOAA recommended more than \$23 million funding to support marine debris removal and interception efforts for 13 multi-year ojects across 10 coastal U.S. states, three territories and the District of Columbia. his funding is provided by NOAA's Climate-Ready Coasts initiative under the Bidenarris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as part of President Biden's vesting in America agenda.

ne Climate-Ready Coasts initiative is focused on creating climate solutions by storing rbon; building resilience to coastal hazards such as extreme weather events, bllution and marine debris; restoring coastal habitats; building the capacity of coastal mmunities; and supporting community-driven restoration.

he Biden-Harris Administration is funding critical projects like these that will help move and address harmful marine debris that can significantly impact water quality, bitats and economic prosperity in coastal communities across the nation," said U.S. ecretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "These investments, made possible thanks to esident Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will help improve coastal mmunities for decades to come by making sure they have the necessary resources to otect their ecosystems and local economies from the impacts of marine debris, which e exacerbated by climate change."

llowing a competitive merit review process, NOAA recommended projects from two portunities, which focused either on large marine debris removal or the installation, onitoring and maintenance of interception technologies that capture marine debris at close to the source. Recommended awardees are targeting the largest and most maging debris to provide tangible benefits to coastal and marine habitats, mmunities and economies across the nation.

his was a highly competitive process that highlighted the tremendous need and high mand communities have for marine debris removal support," said NOAA National cean Service Director Nicole LeBoeuf. "These high-impact projects will create cleaner id safer shorelines while preventing future debris accumulation in the environment."

ne of the 13 projects are concentrated on the removal and disposal of large marine bris, such as abandoned and derelict vessels and fishing gear. The remaining four ojects are centered on deploying proven interception technologies to capture trash, cluding plastic bottles, food wrappers and other persistent debris from urban vironments before it enters the nation's waterways. All selected projects are ticipated to advance equity and deliver benefits in tribal and other coastal mmunities facing environmental and climate challenges.







American Samoa Department of Port Administration (American Samoa, \$3,049,396)



City of Benton Harbor (Michigan, \$1,032,500)

Gulf of Alaska Keeper (Alaska, \$3,799,493)



City of Oakland (California, \$3,164,649)



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (Washington, D.C. and Maryland, \$963,132)



Ocean Conservancy (Nationwide, \$5,218,000)



The Ocean Foundation (Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, \$847,881)



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (Rhode Island, \$1,500,512)



Washington State Department of Natural Resources (Washington, \$1,029,285)



<u>arine debris interception technologies:</u>



Rochester Institute of Technology (New York, \$912,829)



Florida State University (Florida, \$677,554)



Savannah Riverkeeper Inc. (Georgia, \$560,965)



Galveston Bay Foundation (Texas, \$505,592)

r more information about the selected projects, visit the NOAA Marine Debris <u>ogram's website</u>.

learn about current and future funding opportunities, visit the **Bipartisan** frastructure Law website, the Removal and Interception Technologies opportunities Grants.gov and the NOAA Marine Debris Program's Funding Opportunities page.

imate, weather, and water affect all life on our ocean planet. NOAA's mission is to derstand and predict our changing environment, from the deep sea to outer space, d to manage and conserve America's coastal and marine resources.

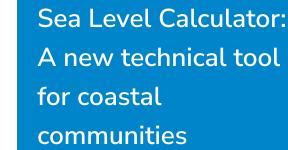
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