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

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will support 13 new removal and interception projects

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ishing 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)



Today, the Department of Commerce and NOAA recommended more than \$23 million
funding to support marine debris removal and interception efforts for 13 multi-year
projects across 10 coastal U.S. states, three territories and the District of Columbia.



This funding is provided by NOAA's [Climate-Ready Coasts](#) initiative under the Biden-
Harris Administration's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) as part of President Biden's
Investing in America agenda.



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



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



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

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

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

The recommended projects are:

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Large marine debris removal:

- **American Samoa Department of Port Administration** (American Samoa, \$3,049,396)
- **City of Benton Harbor** (Michigan, \$1,032,500)
- **City of Oakland** (California, \$3,164,649)
- **Gulf of Alaska Keeper** (Alaska, \$3,799,493)
- **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)

Marine debris interception technologies:

- **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)

For more information about the selected projects, visit the [NOAA Marine Debris Program's website](#).

To learn about current and future funding opportunities, visit the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) website, the Removal and Interception Technologies opportunities on [Grants.gov](#) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program's [Funding Opportunities page](#).

Climate, weather, and water affect all life on our ocean planet. [NOAA's mission](#) is to understand and predict our changing environment, from the deep sea to outer space, and to manage and conserve America's coastal and marine resources.

Media contact

Kim Rodgers, kim.rodgers@noaa.gov, (771) 233-3988

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