Biden-Harris administration invests $27 million to support community-driven marine debris solutions through investing in America agenda

unding will support innovative marine debris prevention nd removal

cus areas: Research
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arine debris, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Sea Grant, merica the Beautiful

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arine debris technicians from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project scour the shoreline of dway Atoll on April 23, 2024 to remove extensive amounts of marine debris, including discarded nets hich can entangle and kill birds, seals, turtles and destroy coral reefs. They harm native seabirds like e Laysan and Black-footed albatrosses, Hawaiian green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals. The moval project previously received support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. (Image credit: A. llivan Haskins/ PMDP Hawaii)

oday, the Department of Commerce and NOAA announced $27 million in funding for ojects to prevent and remove marine debris in coastal and Great Lakes communities part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, under the Bipartisan frastructure Law.

his funding will support innovative research and foster local coalitions to address gent marine debris issues by using NOAA Sea Grant's partnered approach to bring ience together with communities for solutions that work.

Marine debris can present significant threats to the water quality, habitats and conomic opportunity for our coastal and Great Lakes communities, but thanks to esident Biden's commitment to investing in America, we are taking steps to remove nd address marine debris," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "With nding from the Biden-Harris Administration, these projects will help make sure astal communities across the country have the tools and resources they need to ddress the harmful effects of marine debris head on, protect coastal and marine cosystems and boost local economies."

By involving local communities in marine debris removal and prevention, we are not nly tackling a pressing environmental issue but also fostering collaboration, novation and sustainable practices that will strengthen community resilience," said OAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D.

arine debris technicians from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project celebrate after the moval of multiple bags of marine debris from Midway Atoll on May 1, 2024. The marine debris nsists of discarded nets which can entangle and kill birds, seals, turtles and and destroy coral reefs. ey harm native seabirds like the Laysan and Black-footed albatrosses, Hawaiian green sea turtles and awaiian monk seals. (Image credit: A. Sullivan Haskins/ PMDP Hawaii)

ne projects were selected through two competitive opportunities: The Marine Debris hallenge Competition and the Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions.

larine Debris Challenge Competition

even projects across Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, orth Carolina, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin were recommended for approximately 25 million in total funding. These projects will push the boundaries of existing marine ebris prevention and removal technologies and approaches, and turn innovative search into tangible results. Examples include:

- **New York:** Developing a new marine robot for efficient marine microplastic removal inspired by the particle-collecting mechanism of snails.
- **Texas and Florida:** Evaluating the use of plastic versus non-plastic materials in oyster reef restoration.
- **California:** Transforming ocean-sourced plastics into dyes to produce eco-friendly fashion and enzymes to produce sustainable laundry detergents.

ee the full list of Marine Debris Challenge projects on the NOAA Seagrant website.

larine Debris Community Action Coalitions

n projects across California, Florida, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South arolina, Wisconsin and Vermont were recommended for approximately $2.9 million total funding. These projects will engage communities, groups and localities — rticularly those that have been historically disadvantaged — in translating research to collaborative marine debris removal and prevention efforts. Examples include:

- Forming a cross-boundary coalition in the western U.S.-Mexico border region to address cross-border debris flows and related issues.
- Establishing "Zero Waste Miami," a coalition of diverse stakeholders, including businesses and government, to develop a circular economic system where materials are maintained through reduction, reuse, repair, recycling and composting.

ee the full list of Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions on the NOAA Seagrant ebsite.

e Community Action Coalitions advance President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which ms to ensure that at least 40% of the overall benefits from certain climate, clean ergy and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are arginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution and intensifying mate impacts.

hese programs will ensure that disadvantaged communities benefit from cleaner, fer coastal and marine environments," said Jonathan Pennock, director of NOAA's ational Sea Grant College Program. "The impact of this funding will be extensive, hancing the ecological health of our coastlines and the well-being of the people ho depend on them."

ese projects are a component of the nearly $3 billion investment in NOAA's imate-Ready Coasts, Climate Data and Services and Fisheries and Protected esources through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address the climate crisis and lster coastal resilience and infrastructure.

sit NOAA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act websites to arn how NOAA is collaborating with communities to build a Climate-Ready Nation, d to see current and future funding opportunities.

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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 res

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