

NOAA Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants

Partnerships for Removing and Preventing Marine Debris

Promoting Healthy Marine Environments

Marine debris is any manufactured or man-made solid material that enters the coastal or marine environment. It may enter directly when it is lost or dumped from a ship, or indirectly, when debris washes out to sea from rivers, storm drains or severe weather events like hurricanes.

Marine debris adversely impacts marine life through the destruction of essential habitat, entanglement, ghost fishing, and ingestion and poses a threat to human health and safety. Coastal communities spend millions of dollars cleaning up the persistent debris on their beaches. U.S. ports and harbors are in a constant battle to keep the nation's waterways free of hazardous debris to allow efficient maritime commerce to flow efficiently.

To address the adverse impacts of marine debris, NOAA has initiated a new grant opportunity through its Marine Debris Program (MDP) to provide funding for locally-driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects. These grass-roots projects will benefit waterways; coastal habitat such as wetlands and coral reefs; and marine mammals and sea turtles. Projects funded through the MDP grants initiative are expected to have strong on-the-ground habitat components involving the removal of marine debris and derelict fishing gear, as well as educational and social benefits for people and their communities.



Marine Debris in Baltimore Harbor.

Program Details

Anticipated Award Size: \$15,000 to \$100,000

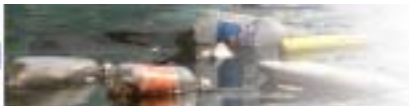
Match: 1:1 match is encouraged

Funding Duration: Up to 18 months

Eligibility: Academic institutions, commercial (for profit) organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments, and other non-profits

How Can You Apply to NOAA Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal?

Organizations can apply directly to NOAA for funds to support marine debris removal and prevention projects in your community. Proposals for these applications are accepted and competitively awarded by the MDP. NOAA anticipates that the awards will typically range from \$15,000 - \$100,000. NOAA will not accept proposals for under \$15,000 or proposals for over \$250,000 under this solicitation.



PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Marine debris removal may include, but is not limited to:

- * Detection and removal of derelict fishing gear;
- * Removal of solid waste material in coastal habitats including marshes, bays, mangroves, and coral reefs;
- * Shoreline clean-ups including a targeted outreach/education component;
- * Removal of debris left over from hurricanes or other natural disasters; and
- * Detection and removal of derelict pilings, bulkheads and similar obsolete materials that pose a hazard to navigation or diminish habitat quality.

Marine debris prevention may include, but is not limited to:

- * Training for the safe removal of derelict fishing gear, ghost nets, and other debris adversely impacting coastal habitats;
- * Monitoring cleaned areas to determine re-accumulation rates;
- * Prevention activities related to reception facilities at marinas and fishing ports including recycling initiatives for monofilament fishing line and other types of fishing gear, or debris; and
- * The development of debris reduction incentives for prevention, removal, and safe disposal of plastics and derelict fishing gear.

Organizations whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources are all eligible to apply. Grant deadline information can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding.html or on www.grants.gov by search the Funding Opportunity number NMFS-HCPO-2006-2000351.

Ensuring Project Success

Fiscal year 2006 is the first year of this grant initiative. The Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants Competition is funded through the MDP with appropriations to the Office of Response and Restoration, National Ocean Service. The NOAA Restoration Center, within NOAA Fisheries Service, is partnering with the MDP to administer this grants program, which was modeled after the highly successful Community-based Restoration Program which has

been providing grants for grass-roots efforts to restore a wide variety of marine and coastal habitats since 1996.



Shark caught in derelict net

