



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA Awards Grants in Florida to Remove Marine Debris

NOAA has awarded \$1.17 million in grants nationally to 14 community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects – including \$265,000 in Florida. These grants, awarded in 2007, provide financial and technical assistance to local groups to clean up and prevent marine debris such as fishing gear, fuel tanks, and other discarded material in coastal areas.

“These projects will remove tons of marine debris, helping to prevent unnecessary harm to important fish species and their habitats,” said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “Each project relies on cooperative conservation, which brings together the skills, expertise and knowledge of state, local and private partners.”

A grant of \$200,000 to the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources will be used to expand the scope of the county’s “Baynanza” celebration, an annual celebration and cleanup of Biscayne Bay. The funding will allow the Baynanza cleanup to focus on bulky marine debris such as abandoned vessels, docks, pilings, and piers, and other bulky items that cannot be bagged by volunteers.

Another grant of \$65,000 to The Ocean Conservancy will help fund projects in several areas of Florida that bring together professional divers and community volunteers to clean up fishing gear, derelict crab traps, and other debris from five locations. The Conservancy will also develop a “how-to” manual for trap removal for local agencies and organizations to use in future clean-ups.

NOAA is currently reviewing grant proposals for 2008 that were submitted by the Oct. 31, 2007 deadline. Grants are funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program and administered by the NOAA Restoration Center. More information on the NOAA Marine Debris Program and future funding opportunities can be found at www.marinedebris.noaa.gov.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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