

Fiscal Year 2024 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993)

Community Engagement for Removal Projects Guidance

***Please reach out to the NOAA Marine Debris Program grants team
(grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) with any questions***

While this competition is focused on removal projects, the intent of this funding is also to reduce the reaccumulation of debris in the future. Involving the community in removal project efforts can help to decrease reaccumulation of specific debris types. There are a variety of ways to incorporate community involvement in removal projects, including project planning, execution, and raising awareness following the removal work. Below are some community engagement examples for large scale removal projects, and we encourage you to reach out if you have questions about incorporating these kinds of activities into your project. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Prioritizing engagement of local vendors and removal contractors when possible
- Working with local groups on alternative disposal options to divert the removed debris from going to the landfill
- Selecting project sites with currently limited direct engagement on marine debris issues
- Involving local partners in various stages of the proposed removal project including proposal development, planning, coordinating, and education efforts for proposed project activities
- Creating incentive programs:
 - For local fishers to use new traps with technology that prevents lost traps
 - Using funding or donations to purchase traps for local fishers and promote the cost-savings of not having to replace traps as frequently with the new technology
 - Working with marinas and local boat owners to encourage participation of turning in end-of-life vessels to prevent reaccumulation of abandoned and derelict vessels in the project area
 - Partner with small businesses selling fishing gear to share messaging about the importance of both environmental and economic benefits of gear retrieval and new technologies to help prevent lost gear
- Hands-on training opportunities for stakeholders
- Participation in focus groups to learn how to prevent marine debris

- Donation of in-kind goods and services, such as boat time and/or monitoring activities by volunteers, work crews, or other local stakeholders
- Hiring local fishers to help with collection of identified sites with large accumulations of derelict fish gear