

# NOAA Marine Debris Program

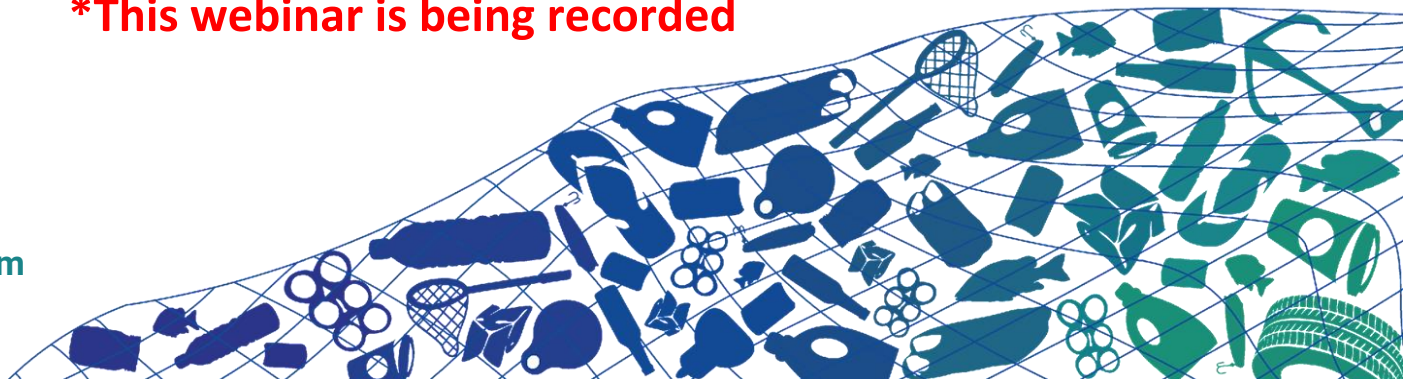
## FY25 Marine Debris Removal Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Applicant Webinar

**\*This webinar is being recorded**

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NOAA Marine Debris Program

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# Agenda

- The NOAA Marine Debris Program
- Funding Availability
- Eligible/Non-eligible Applicants
- Competition Priorities
- Competition Process
- Application Content & Resources
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips & Submission Instructions
- Anticipated Timeline
- Questions & Answers



Photo: NOAA

**This webinar is being recorded**

The recording and a PDF of the slides will be made available as soon as possible



# Goals of today's webinar:

1. Communicate expectations for proposal submissions
2. Provide overview of application submission process
3. Share anticipated timeline and overview of award process
4. Answer your questions about the competition



Photo: NOAA





# NOAA Marine Debris Program

Established in **2006** by Congress as the federal lead for marine debris

**Vision:** the global ocean and its coasts free from the impacts of marine debris

**Mission:** to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris



Photo: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



# Regional Contacts

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<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/your-region>

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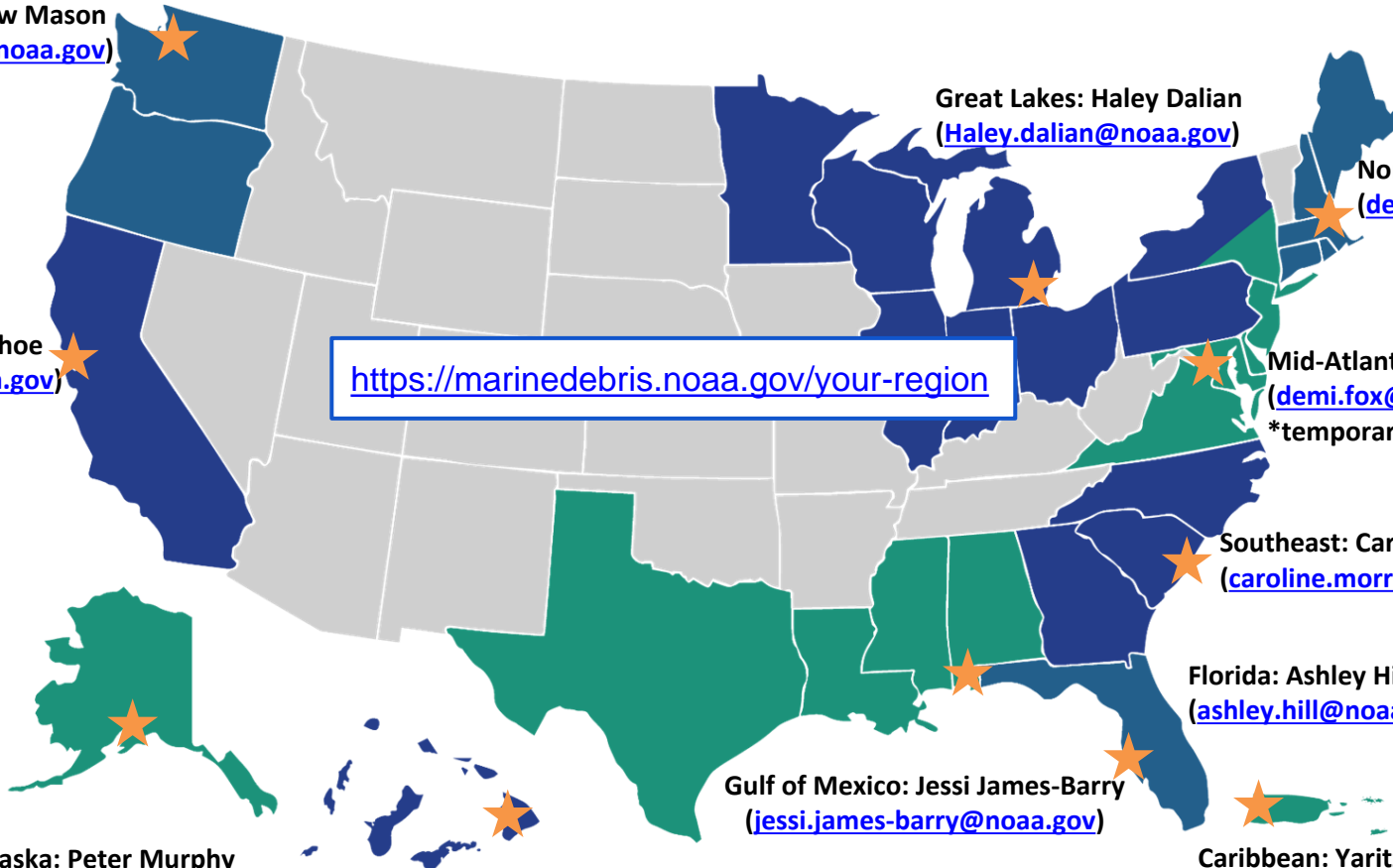
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# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

## Climate Ready Coasts

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**\$1.467 billion**

Helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. Investing in high-impact natural infrastructure projects that build coastal resilience, create jobs, store carbon, and restore habitat.



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Climate Ready Coasts

10. NERR System

\$77 million

9. CZM

\$207 million

8. Marine Debris - OAR

\$50 million

7. Marine Debris - NOS

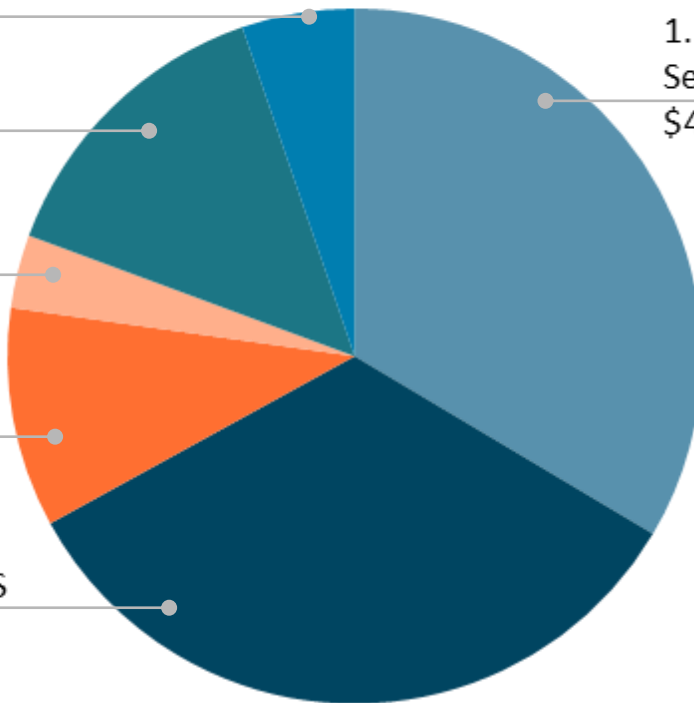
\$150 million

2. Habitat Restoration - NMFS

\$491 million

1. National Oceans and Coastal  
Security Fund Grants

\$492 million



# Large Marine Debris Removal



Image credit: USCG





# FY25 Funding Availability

- Up to \$47M available
- Minimum Request: \$1M
- Maximum Request: \$10M
- Typical Awards: \$2M - \$6M
  - *Proposals requesting over \$6M are expected to be proposals including a subaward competition for other organizations to apply for funding for localized removal activities.*
- Matching funds are acceptable, but not required and not part of evaluation criteria
  - *Cost sharing*
  - *Leveraged funds*
  - *In-kind support*





# Eligible Applicants

- State, local, Tribal, and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris
- Federally and non-federally recognized Tribes and Native or Indigenous organizations
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit organizations
- Commercial (for-profit) organizations with expertise in marine debris removals





# Non-Eligible Applicants

- Federal agencies or employees of federal agencies
  - Interested federal agencies may collaborate with eligible applicants but may not receive funds through this competition
- Foreign public entities, individuals, and organizations from outside of U.S. and Freely Associated States are not eligible to apply
  - Transboundary projects may involve foreign organizations, however projects must primarily take place within the coastal U.S., territories, and FAS.





## Other Criteria Affecting Eligibility

- Applicants proposing applications to renew or supplement previously-awarded NOAA grants will be subject to the competitive process and will not receive preferential treatment.
- Projects proposing work in the same areas as previously funded MDP-BIL projects should indicate how the proposed work is complementary and not duplicative







## Other Criteria Affecting Eligibility

- Removal efforts in non-coastal states or inland areas outside the Great Lakes watershed will not be considered
- Project activities must benefit NOAA trust resources and take place within the United States, its territories, or Freely Associated States. Projects proposing removals in international waters, including the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, are not eligible.





## Other Criteria Affecting Eligibility

- Applications proposing to simultaneously collect large and smaller scale debris are eligible, but the focus of the proposed work and benefits should be on the large scale marine debris removals.
- Applications addressing microplastics or microfibers and/or research and development proposals are not priorities for this solicitation and will be withdrawn from the review
- Funding for the development of new marine debris databases will not be awarded through this competition.





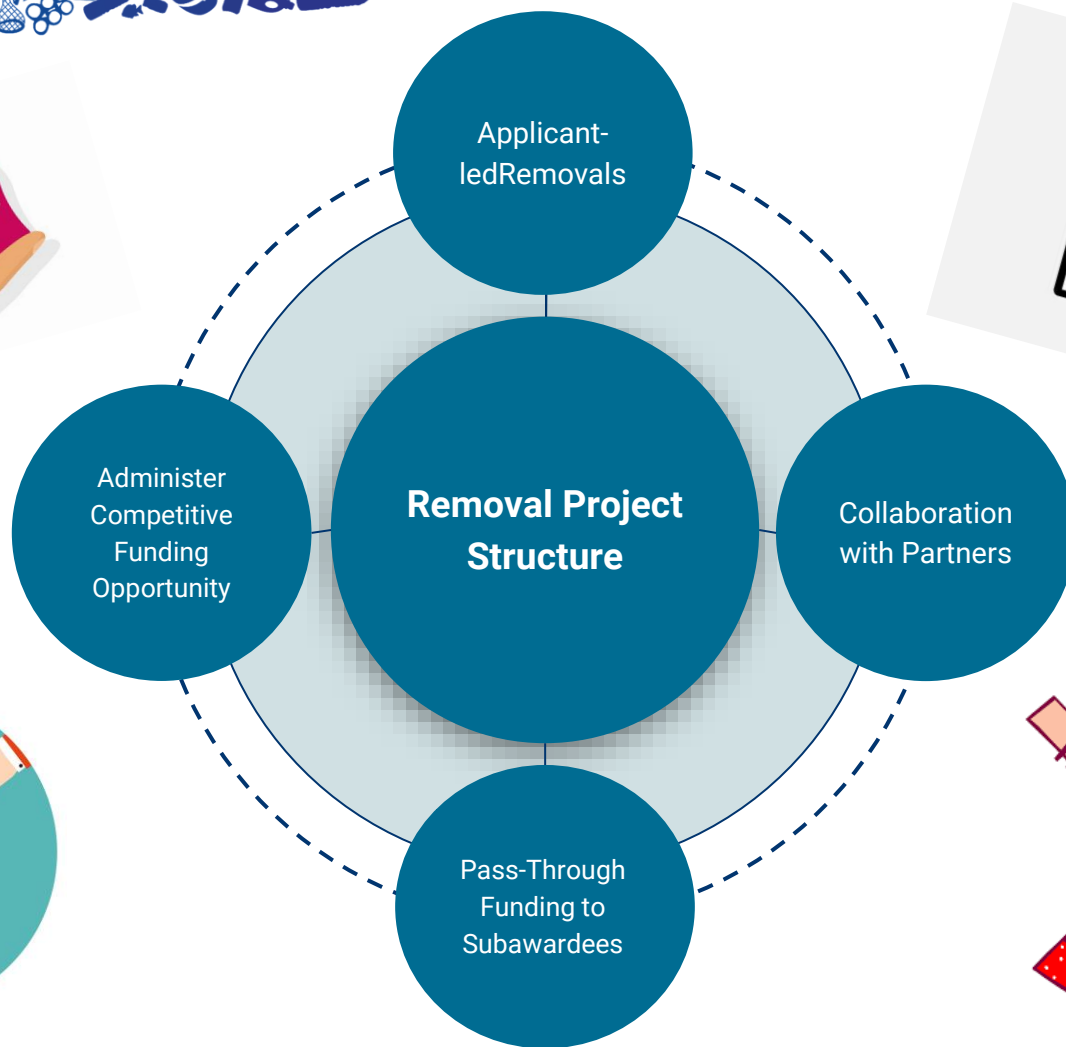
# Competition Priorities

## 1. *Support impactful, large marine debris removal projects*

- Clearly demonstrate the beneficial impacts the removal project will have on NOAA trust resources, and the surrounding coastal environment or community.



\*Removals should also be conducted with a focus on alternative disposal methods when possible







# Competition Priorities

## 3. *Prevent the reaccumulation of debris*

- To ensure the outcomes and benefits of the removal activities are sustained beyond the award period
- Competitive applications will design prevention strategies that are complementary to the debris types that are being targeted for removal.
- Proposals that have clearly targeted prevention activities that include the community(s) that are the source of the marine debris and/or the individual or community behavior(s) leading to the debris issue will be prioritized.



Photo: NFWF



# Competition Priorities

## 5. *Advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility in removal activities that will benefit local communities*

- Applications should demonstrate how their work will advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility throughout the proposed work.



- Applicants should identify any project activities that will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage with the local community impacted by the targeted debris.
- The most competitive projects will be those that also meaningfully engage with Tribes and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.



# Competition Process

## Letter of Intent (LOI)

The Letter of Intent (LOI) submission is a critical step to determine if proposed projects are well-suited for this specific competition.

Applicants must submit a LOI **[via email]** and receive an invitation from the NOAA MDP before submitting a full proposal.

## Review & Invite Only

NOAA MDP reviews LOIs and provides feedback and guidance on invited application ideas.

Those applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive an email notification containing feedback and full proposal submission instructions from NOAA MDP.

## Full Proposal

Applicants may only submit a full proposal if invited to do so by the NOAA MDP.

Applicants are required to apply through the Grants.gov website.

Applicants are required to register with eRA Commons prior to submission

## Projects Recommended for Funding

NOAA may select all, some, or none of the applications, or part of any application, ask applicants to work together or combine projects.

The exact amount of funds to be awarded, and other changes will be determined in pre-award negotiations.

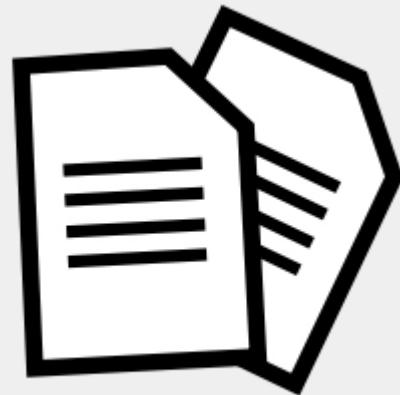




# Letter of Intent

- No more than 3 pages in length
- Single spaced
- 1 inch margins

\*A 4th page may be included showing only project site maps and/or photographs of the area/debris targeted for removal







# Letter of Intent Content

- A. **Applicant Organization**
- B. **Project Title**
- C. **Principal Investigator(s)** Contact Info; PI/Organizational capacity and/or expertise; List of primary project partners and their roles and/or contributions
- D. **Project Location:** List the geographic area(s) in which the project will be implemented. Include geographic coordinates of removal site(s), if known.
- E. **Project Type:** State if the removal activities will be conducted by the applicant/project team, administered through a nationally- or regionally-focused subaward competition, or a combination of both.
- F. **Project Description:** Clearly state the purpose of the project and briefly list specific tasks to be accomplished with requested funds.
- G. **Anticipated removal activity start date** (not the proposed award start date)
- H. **Funding:** Approximate federal funds being requested and approximate non-federal match or informal leverage anticipated.
- I. **Project Outcomes & Metrics:** Project benefits to NOAA trust resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies; Describe project metrics expected to be tracked.
- J. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, & Accessibility (DEIJA):** Indicate how the project demonstrates principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility in the project development and throughout the proposed project activities



# Application Resources

## [NOAA MDP Guidance for Applicants](#)

- [NOFO Guidance Document](#)
- [Webinar recording, Q&A document, & Presentation Slides](#)
- [LOI Template](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria Table](#)
- [Community Engagement for Removal Projects Guidance](#)
- [Allowable Costs and Cost-sharing Guidance](#)
- [Applicant Cost-sharing Guidance](#)



## FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Applicant Resources

The NOAA Marine Debris Program will award up to \$47 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support the removal of large marine debris throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, territories, and Freely Associated States. These removal projects should focus on large marine debris, including abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict fishing gear, and other debris that is generally unable to be collected by hand.

Funding Opportunities



# LOI Evaluation Criteria

- Benefits & Outcomes (30%)
- Technical Merit (20%)
- Qualification of Applicants (10%)
- Prevention Activities (20%)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (20%)

| — | ✓ |   |
|---|---|---|
| — |   | ✓ |



# Application tips

- Adobe PDF is the preferred file format for all application attachments
  - Please minimize the number of files uploaded by combining relevant files when possible
- Please carefully read through the NOFO for important details for creating and submitting your application that were not covered today

## Executive Summary

### Federal Agency Name

NOS Office of Response and Restoration (ORR)

### Funding Opportunity Title

FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

### Announcement Type

Competitive

### Funding Opportunity Number

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974

### Assistance Listing Number(s)

11.999

### Dates

This funding opportunity requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted to [grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov](mailto:grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) for competitive review before a full proposal can be submitted. LOIs must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, September 27, 2024. If invited, full proposals must then be submitted in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) and validated by eRA on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, January 31, 2025.



# Submission Instructions

- Applicants must submit a LOI and receive an invitation from the NOAA MDP before submitting a full proposal!
- LOIs must be submitted as an *email attachment* to [grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov](mailto:grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) by 11:59 pm Eastern time on September 27, 2024.
  - Please put “*FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal Letter of Intent (LOI)*” in the email subject heading.
- An email confirmation will be sent indicating successful submission of the LOI. If no confirmation email is received, that is an indication that the LOI submission was not successful and will not be reviewed. In such cases please contact the NOAA MDP to resolve the issue prior to the deadline.
- For this reason, it is highly recommended that LOIs are submitted early!



# Anticipated Timeline

\*some steps of this process are outside of NOAA MDP control so timeframe may change

| Step   | Timeframe                        |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Letters of Intent (LOIs) due to <a href="mailto:grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov">grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov</a></b>   | <b>11:59 PM ET Sept 27, 2024</b> |
| 2. LOI review by NOAA to select LOIs to recommend for full proposals   | Oct/Nov 2024                     |
| 3. Applicants selected are invited to submit full proposals  | Nov 2024                         |
| 4. NOAA MDP Webinar for Full Proposal Applications (invitees only)   | Nov 2024                         |
| 5. Full Proposals for invited applicants are due to <a href="https://grants.gov">grants.gov</a> (invitees only)  | 11:59 PM ET Jan 31, 2025         |
| 6. Full proposal review by NOAA to select projects to recommend for funding  | Feb - Mar 2025                   |
| 7. Projects recommended for funding are notified and negotiation calls are conducted to address any modifications to the proposal or budget; Unsuccessful applicant letters are distributed; Environmental Compliance begins | April/May 2025                   |
| 8. NOAA Grants Management provides official approval of awards, NOAA MDP has kick off call with grantees, proposed project activities can begin  | late summer/early fall 2025      |







# Other Marine Debris Funding through BIL

- **NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25572: *FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law***
  - Support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies



# Submitted Questions



# Please reach out with any questions

- For questions about this competition please email the MDP Grants Team ([grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov](mailto:grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov))
- For project-based questions related to the particular region of your proposed work please contact the appropriate NOAA MDP Regional Coordinator (see next slide for contact info)



# Regional Contacts

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<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/your-region>

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**Thank you for joining!**