

# Marine Debris Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

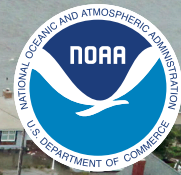


Photo: National Guard

After disasters, significant amounts of marine debris may threaten the economy, navigation safety, and important natural resources. The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) has a Response Team and Regional Coordinators in 11 coastal regions around the country to assist communities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impacts of disaster debris, such as derelict fishing gear, and abandoned and derelict vessels.

## Preparedness

**Before a disaster**, the MDP leads a highly collaborative process with local, state, and federal agencies to develop response documents that improve preparedness and facilitate a coordinated, well-managed, and immediate response to debris generated by disasters. These guides outline existing response structures at the local, state, and federal levels, capturing all relevant responsibilities and existing procedures for easy reference.



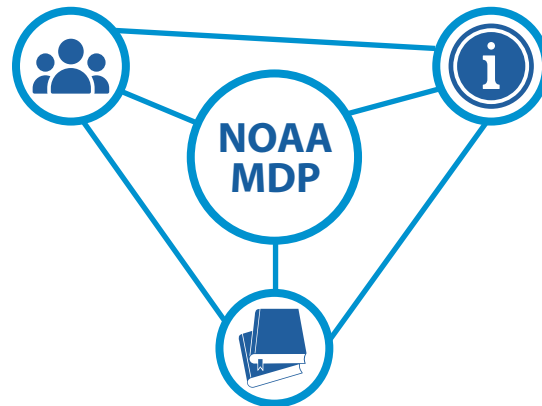
## Recovery

**After a disaster** that generates a large quantity of marine debris, Congress may provide disaster relief funding to NOAA to aid in coastal recovery efforts. The MDP may use this funding for the removal of disaster debris through competitive funding opportunities that support impacted coastal states and territories with marine debris recovery operations, such as mapping, removal, disposal, and restoration.



## Response

**During a disaster**, the MDP works within the National Response Framework to provide support and expertise about marine debris, connecting stakeholders with information, resources, and each other. MDP staff can provide on-demand training opportunities, assist with the prioritization of submerged debris mapping, or share approved best management practices for the removal of marine debris from wetlands and intertidal areas and modeling the distribution of debris to prioritize areas for submerged debris mapping.



The MDP may also provide onsite and remote support for a response by participating in debris response activities, coordinating access to NOAA science and tools, and participating in interagency debris response meetings.

# Resources

**Response Guides:** Marine debris emergency response guides define current response structures at the local, state/territory, and federal levels by compiling relevant responsibilities and established procedures into a single reference source. The MDP also hosts exercises to improve marine debris responders' familiarity with existing guides and supports the integration of response guide information into other existing plans.

**Resource Advisor Training:** Resource Advisors serve as field observers to ensure marine debris is removed in a way that minimizes harm to the environment. They become the "eyes and ears" of large debris removal efforts, whether it's a chronic debris issue or after a disaster. NOAA provides training and resources that include information on the roles and responsibilities of a Resource Advisor and tools that can be used in the field such as best management practices, environmental trade-offs, and salvaging techniques.

**Abandoned and Derelict Vessel InfoHub:** The Abandoned and Derelict Vessel InfoHub was developed by the MDP to serve as a central source of information regarding programs and policies across the nation focused on abandoned and derelict vessels. The InfoHub contains information on each coastal state's program, legislative summaries, case studies, and recordings of a webinar series.

**Webinar Series:** Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels is a nine-episode webinar series created by the MDP. The series features experts who share perspectives on common issues arising from abandoned and derelict vessels. The webinar speakers are specialists across disciplines about communications, funding, policy, and successes and challenges under blue skies and storm conditions to help communities better deal with abandoned and derelict vessels.

**Storm Preparedness and Marine Debris Fact Sheet:** This fact sheet, available in English and Spanish, provides basic steps for home and boat owners, fishers and aquaculture farms, and marinas to prepare for storms and prevent property from becoming marine debris.

**Funding Opportunities:** The MDP offers several nationwide, competitive funding opportunities for marine debris projects. Following a disaster, the MDP may provide funding through disaster relief from Congress to assist with marine debris recovery operations in impacted coastal states and territories.



Photo: Federal Emergency Management Agency



Photo: NOAA