



NFWF

Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal

NFWF CONTACTS

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FUNDING PARTNER

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Debris Program

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Debris washed ashore in Alaska following Typhoon Merbok

BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund projects targeting impacts from 2022 storm events. Five new marine debris removal grants totaling \$6.07 million were awarded. The five awards announced leveraged \$31,800 in matching contributions from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$6.1 million.

The Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund (the Fund) is a partnership between NFWF and the NOAA Marine Debris Program to support projects to assess, remove and dispose of marine debris in and around coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and other episodic storm events. The Fund awards grants to remove damaging marine debris from coastal areas of communities impacted by hurricanes or other natural disasters to reduce impacts to communities and industry, and prevent further harm to habitats, fish and wildlife populations.

Funding was made available for this opportunity by the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 117-328. Eligible projects for this funding will reduce marine debris from coastal habitats and nearshore waters of coastal counties impacted by the 2022 Hurricanes Fiona, Ian, Nicole and Typhoon Merbok.

Over the last five years, the Fund awarded more than \$15.9 million in grant funding to 16 projects that assess and remove debris and provide for proper disposal.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Fund employs an expedited grants process to solicit and deploy projects to remove and dispose of marine debris that resulted from severe storms. The Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund focuses on marine debris generated by hurricanes that have affected parts of the U.S. and U.S. territories through congressionally directed emergency and supplemental funding.

This competitive grant program is made possible through congressionally directed emergency and supplemental funding in response to destructive hurricanes.

(continued)



Concrete and other debris resulting from intense winds and waves sustained during Hurricane Fiona

Demolition and Removal of Hurricane-Generated Marine Debris from the Coast of Medianía Alta (PR)

Grantee: University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla
 Grant Amount:..... \$800,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$800,000
 Remove and dispose of hurricane-generated marine debris from 38 acres of shoreline and nearshore waters in Loiza, Puerto Rico. Project will prepare this area for future restoration projects to increase its resilience to coastal hazards such as sea-level rise and flooding.

Hurricane Ian Debris Removal and Restoration in Boone Lake (FL)

Grantee: Ding Darling Wildlife Society
 Grant Amount:..... \$42,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$3,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$46,500
 Remove and dispose of approximately 430 cubic yards of Hurricane Ian debris from 5.32 acre Boone Lake. Project will protect and enhance habitat used by state and federally protected species such as manatees and sea turtles, and replant mangrove fringe using the assistance of the local community.

Removal of Hurricane Ian-Related Debris from Navigable Canals Throughout Charlotte County (FL)

Grantee: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Remove and dispose of up to 4,000 tons of debris deposited

by Hurricane Ian into 37 miles of navigable channels throughout Charlotte County. Project will improve safety and restore flow to these areas, which will assist in preventing flooding due to impeded waterflow.

Removing Marine Debris Caused by Typhoon Merbok in Chevak, Alaska

Grantee: City of Chevak
 Grant Amount:..... \$686,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$28,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$714,700
 Remove, salvage and properly dispose of 35,000 pounds of Typhoon Merbok marine debris, including boats, motors and fish nets, large amounts of wooden debris, and hazardous materials such as batteries and oil. Project will remove debris in a way that minimizes impact to the environmentally-sensitive tundra wetland, protecting nearby waterways and conserving sensitive habitat.

Strengthening Alaska after Merbok: A Coordinated Community-Based Debris Removal Across the Region

Grantee: Zender Environmental Health and Research Group
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,544,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,544,200
 Assess and remove Typhoon Merbok marine debris from key habitat and subsistence harvesting areas in 18 Alaska Native communities. Project will conduct community mapping and prioritization of debris, build capacity and efficiency through drones, provide training and employment for local community members and oversee regional disposal and recycling logistics.