



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Aja Sae-Kung, NOAA
(202) 482-0702
Michelle Pico, NFWF
(262) 695-0462

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NOAA AWARDS OVER \$1.1 MILLION TO NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION TO RESTORE COASTAL FISHERIES HABITAT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a \$1,132,950 grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as part of a three-year partnership to restore marine and anadromous fish habitat.

The grant will continue a program between the Foundation and NOAA's Restoration Center to conduct habitat restoration projects throughout the coastal United States. The goal of this multi-initiative partnership is to implement meaningful on-the-ground habitat restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian areas. This may include habitat such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, shellfish beds, and freshwater streams and rivers important to anadromous fish species for spawning and rearing. The partnership emphasizes using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fish habitat throughout coastal America.

"The continued partnership between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation demonstrates both organizations' commitment to restoring fisheries habitat," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "These habitat restoration efforts fit into our model of ecosystem-based management, and promote local stewardship of the habitats that sustain our nation's fishery resources."

"Thanks to NOAA, local communities will be able to continue to restore coastal habitats that are home to a variety of fish species," said Foundation Executive Director John Berry. "On-the-ground conservation work supported by this grant will have long-term benefits for America's fisheries resources as well as for the public."

Funding from the habitat restoration partnership is distributed nationally and regionally through a series of Foundation funding initiatives: Pacific Grassroots Salmon Initiative, North Gulf Coast Initiative, Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants, Delaware Estuary Grants Program, Coastal County Initiative (in partnership with the National Association of Counties), and the Great Lakes Initiative. Past projects funded through the NOAA/Foundation Habitat Restoration partnership include shoreline restoration in the Chesapeake Bay, oyster reef restoration in Alabama, and habitat enhancement for Horseshoe crabs in the Delaware estuary.

The NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program is a financial and technical assistance program that promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local level to restore fisheries habitat. NOAA CRP works with organizations and government to support locally-driven habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine and riparian areas. NOAA CRP funds habitat restoration projects that (1) offer educational and social benefits for citizens and their communities, and (2) provide long-term ecological benefits for fishery resources. Since 1996, more than 900 projects in 26 states have been implemented using NOAA funding and leveraged funding from national and regional habitat restoration partners.

Each year, NOAA awards approximately \$900 million in grants to members of the academic, scientific, and business communities to assist the agency in fulfilling its mission to study the Earth's natural systems in order to predict environmental change, manage ocean resources, protect life and property, and provide decision makers with reliable scientific information. NOAA goals and programs reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities of science and service to the nation for the past 35 years.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The organization creates partnerships between the public and private sectors to strategically invest in conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Foundation distributed 709 grants in 2004 and has leveraged – with its partners – more than \$305 million in Federal funds since its establishment, for a total of more than \$918 million in on-the-ground conservation.

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 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 and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

Community-based Restoration Program: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: <http://www.nfwf.org>