

Community-based Restoration Program

Funding Opportunities

Across the nation, NOAA, its partners, and thousands of volunteers are actively restoring fish habitat. NOAA encourages innovative project ideas and welcomes new partners in habitat restoration.

Through the Community-based Restoration Program, NOAA awards millions of dollars to national and regional partners and local grassroots organizations every year. Under a competitive process, projects are selected for funding based on technical merit, level of community involvement, cost-effectiveness and ecological benefit.

Individual project grants allow groups to apply directly to NOAA for funds to support habitat restoration, marine debris removal, and river restoration projects to remove dams and other barriers. Proposals are due in the fall of each year. Awards range from \$30,000 to more than \$500,000.

National and regional partnership grants allow groups to establish multi-year cooperative agreements with NOAA. Proposals for partnership grants are accepted once every 3 years. Funding ranges from \$100,000 to nearly \$2 million, and is provided annually to support multiple habitat restoration projects across a broad geographic range. The partner solicits proposals from local groups and selects projects jointly with NOAA.

For more information on funding opportunities through NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, please visit our website.

<http://habitat.noaa.gov/crp>



NOAA's Fisheries Service

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Community-based Restoration Program
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Photography

River Herring: Tim Watts
Hawaii algae removal: Bruce Casler
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Communities around the country are restoring coastal and marine habitats with help from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Community-based Restoration Program. Community-based restoration brings life back to degraded ecosystems while fostering long-term stewardship of the nation's coastal habitats. These habitats are enjoyed by countless Americans and are critical to sustaining populations of fish, shellfish, birds, and other wildlife.

The Community-based Restoration Program ...

- Awards millions of dollars annually and leverages resources for habitat restoration projects.
- Provides technical advice on restoration techniques, environmental compliance, and scientific monitoring.
- Builds partnerships to identify local priorities and share resources.
- Promotes community involvement and stewardship of local projects.
- Implements special initiatives to remove marine debris and re-open historic river habitat to migratory fish.

Since 1996, NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program has funded more than 1,200 on-the-ground restoration projects in 26 states, Canada, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands to benefit marine and coastal resources and anadromous species. These funds support a wide range of restoration projects, large and small, in a variety of habitats including:

Oyster Reefs

In the Pacific Northwest, community groups are working to reestablish Olympia oyster populations, a native oyster that virtually disappeared by the middle of the 20th century.

Salt Marshes

In Louisiana, 2,000 acres of marsh were restored through shoreline stabilization in Lafourche Parish, an area that is losing wetlands at an alarming rate.

Stream Corridors

In Maine, local partners removed a dam on the Sandy River, opening 240 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish.

Coral Reefs

In Hawaii, more than 1,600 volunteers removed over 100 tons of invasive algae to help sustain and restore coral reef communities.



River herring swim up the Kennebec River in Maine to reach spawning grounds.

The Nature Conservancy Hawaii Chapter leads a community-based effort to remove invasive algae from coral reefs at Waikiki Beach.



Riparian and Upland Habitats

On Tarboo Creek in Washington, local partners removed a series of fish passage barriers, opening 17 miles of spawning habitat to coho salmon and steelhead.

Seagrass Beds

In Narragansett Bay, community groups have restored 25 acres of seagrass, a resource that has been decimated by disease and storms in the past century.

Mangroves

In Florida, dedicated volunteers donated over 7,000 hours to restore tidal flow to nearly 40 acres of mangrove habitat devastated by hurricane damage.