



NFWF

Ocean Health Initiative - Recently Funded Projects

PROGRAM CONTACT

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DETAILS

To learn more, go to
www.nfwf.org/oceanhealth

PARTNERS



Sea Turtle

BACKGROUND

Stranding networks serve as ambulance crew, doctors and “CSI” detectives for marine wildlife around the United States. These networks – of over 200 permitted institutions and volunteers that act as first responders to stranded animals – offer one of the best opportunities to gather critical management information for the more than 100 species of marine mammal and sea turtles that live in U.S. waters. Stranding networks take action to increase the chance of survival of distressed animals and engage scientists to monitor emerging diseases and morbidity/mortality trends. The networks also improve understanding of natural and human-interaction threats to marine wildlife populations, and allow resource managers to respond to and mitigate threats, as appropriate. Unfortunately, lack of resources – funds, equipment, supplies and training – limit the networks’ ability to respond to thousands of strandings reported each year with the high standard of animal care and evaluation that is needed.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Foundation and its partners seek to increase available funding for the U.S. networks that respond to stranded marine mammals and sea turtles to address emergency response shortfalls and build capacity for evaluation of causal impacts and quality of care.

2016-2017 AWARDS

Increased Capacity to Help Cold-Stunned Sea Turtles (NC)

Grantee: STAR Center

Total Project Amount: \$5,000

The STAR Center will increase capacity for sea turtle rehabilitation following cold-stun events. Project will expand an existing facility at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island used to assist stranded marine animals.

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation’s fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Expand Supply of Tag Readers for Rapid Deployment to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (FL)

Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Total Project Amount:..... \$10,000
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will replenish their supply of PIT tag readers, and small radio transponders used to track sea turtles. Project will allow readers and tracking equipment to be deployed quickly across the network as needed for cold-stunning events.

Tag Supply for Sea Turtle Stranding Response in South Texas

Grantee: National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore
Total Project Amount:..... \$1,368
National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore will rehabilitate sea turtles along Port Aransas, South Padre Island, and Corpus Christi. Project funding will be used to purchase tags and tag implanters for sea turtles that have been rehabilitated and released in south Texas.

Recovery of Cold-Stranded Sea Turtles along the Southern Texas Coast and Lower Laguna Madre

Grantee: Sea Turtle Inc.
Total Project Amount:..... \$3,524
Sea Turtle Inc. will rescue and rehabilitate cold-stranded turtles along the southern Texas coast and the Lower Laguna Madre. Project funding will purchase additional tanks and temporary filtration pumps to hold cold-stunned sea turtles.

Hypothermic Rehabilitation of Stranded Sea Turtles (MA)

Grantee: New England Aquarium
Total Project Amount:..... \$31,000
New England Aquarium will install an HVAC system in a sea turtle holding room at the New England Aquarium. Project will provide additional space to warm threatened and endangered turtles, and provide upgraded pool pumps for temperature control.

Increase Capacity to respond to Humpback Whale Stranding Events (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
Total Project Amount:..... \$31,963
Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center will supply resources to respond to humpback whale mortalities along the Virginia coastline. Project will support staffing, sea towing, and equipment for managing strandings.

Equipping Strategic Stranding Site Facilities on Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC)

Grantee: UNC Wilmington
Total Project Amount:..... \$8,244
UNC Wilmington will assist stranding response on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, which protrudes into the Gulf Stream and experiences high numbers of marine strandings each year. Project support will provide equipment, sample process and a staging area for stranding response of large whales, dolphins and sea turtles.

Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Mobile Unit for Stranding Response (NY)

Grantee: Atlantic Marine Conservation Society
Total Project Amount:..... \$25,000
Atlantic Marine Conservation Society will develop a mobile command post to respond to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings. Project will outfit a mobile trailer with supplies and diagnostic equipment to transport animals or conduct necropsies.

Response and Rehabilitation of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles along Coastal Maine

Grantee: Marine Mammals of Maine
Total Project Amount:..... \$24,060
Marine Mammals of Maine will respond to reports of stranded marine mammals and sea turtles along 2,500 miles of Maine coastline. Project will support triage and long term rehabilitation of stranded pinnipeds, whales, dolphins, porpoises and sea turtles.

Enhancing Response Capacity and Outreach of the Coastal Wildlife Network (LA)

Grantee: Audubon Nature Institute
Total Project Amount:..... \$91,676
Audubon Nature Institute's Coastal Wildlife Network will increase the quality and quantity of data collected from stranded marine mammals to determine causes of death. Project will support a volunteer program in the northern Gulf coast region, increase public awareness of live and dead strandings, viewing procedures, and dangers of human-marine mammal interaction.