



Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund

NFWF CONTACT

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PARTNERS

- NOAA
- Marc and Lynne Benioff

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, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Yellowfin goatfish in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

| Credit: Claire Fackler, CINMS, NOAA.

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Marc and Lynne Benioff announced a new suite of projects to receive funding in 2022 for the Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund. Five new or continuing grants totaling nearly \$2.6 million were awarded to help in the protection of endangered wildlife such as the Hawaiian monk seal and habitats such as coral reefs, which are protected in the Monument. The five grants will leverage \$1,335,000 in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$3,540,000. NOAA support includes funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and additional support is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund seeks to advance the management of the remote island archipelago of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands with a focus on the interconnectivity of these marine island systems and their adaptability to environmental stressors. A significant focus in the 2022 group of projects focuses on removing the ongoing threats of marine debris and an invasive alga and in helping the Monument's management team explore options for preserving important habitats for sea

(continued)



A Hawaiian monk seal and green sea turtle nap in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. | Credit: Mark Sullivan/NOAA

turtles, seabirds and monk seals which are experiencing loss of from sea level rise.

Increasing Capacity for Marine Debris Removal from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (HI)

Grantee: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
 Grant Amount: \$2,186,600
 Matching Funds: \$879,400
 Total Project Amount: \$3,066,000
 Remove large-scale debris from coral reefs and shorelines of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and implement strategies to improve removal practices. Project will aim to remove 110 metric tons of marine debris to mitigate impacts to protected wildlife species and marine habitat.

Monitoring and Mitigation of Chondria Tumulosa Spread in Papahānaumokuākea (HI)

Grantee:..... College of Charleston
 Grant Amount..... \$174,000
 Matching Funds \$174,000
 Total Project Amount: \$348,000
 Utilize satellite imagery and invertebrates to monitor and understand invasive Chondria’s spread in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will create distributional maps, Best Management Practices, and train resource managers to decrease the spread of Chondria.

Understanding Chondria Spread at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawai’i
 Grant Amount:\$116,000
 Matching Funds:\$159,000
 Total Project Amount:\$275,000
 Detect and characterize Chondria spread and potential impacts using eDNA. Project will seek to understand the dynamics of the Chondria outbreak to increase management options.

Innovating Management Strategies to Protect Terrestrial and Marine Species at Lalo (HI)

Grantee: Na Maka Onaona
 Grant Amount: \$50,000
 Matching Funds: \$50,000
 Total Project Amount:\$100,000
 Develop biocultural process to identify and assess management options for terrestrial and marine species at risk from sea-level rise. Project will convene a group of experts to establish a list of management options for Lalo (French Frigate Shoals).

Formulating a Resiliency Strategy to Address Climate Impacts at Lalo (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawai’i
 Grant Amount: \$45,000
 Matching Funds: \$22,500
 Total Project Amount: \$67,500
 Formulate an inter-agency resiliency strategy to maintain ecosystems that include birds, coral, green sea turtles, and monk seals. Project will explore innovative management options for terrestrial and marine species through research and workshops.