



# Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## FUNDING PARTNER

National Oceanic and  
 Atmospheric Administration

## 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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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A boat unmoored during Hurricane Laura

## BACKGROUND

The Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund, a partnership between NFWF and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, supports efforts to assess, remove and dispose of marine debris caused by severe storms. Launched in 2019, the fund awards grants based on the potential impact of existing debris to coastal communities and resources, as well as the potential to prevent further harm to sensitive marine habitats and species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Severe storms can create significant marine debris, from capsized vessels and lost fishing gear to logs and other terrestrial objects washed out to sea. Such debris can harm coastal communities by negatively affecting navigation, industrial operations, tourism, and human safety and health. Marine debris also generated immediate and prolonged damage to wildlife populations, including through entanglements and ingestion, as well as to marine habitats through scouring and smothering.

Over the last two years, the program awarded more than \$9.8 million in grant funding to 11 projects that assess and remove debris and provide for proper disposal.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The program 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.

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