



Transcript

NOAA Fisheries Awards \$220 Million to Support 32 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Projects

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Participants:

- James Miller, NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs
- Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
- Carrie Selberg Robinson, Director of NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation
- Chris Doley, Restoration Center Division Chief, NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation

00:Operator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. All parties are in listen only mode until the question and answer session of today's call. At that time to ask questions press star one on your phone. In addition this call is being recorded. If you disagree you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the call over to Mr. James Miller. Thank you and you may begin.

00:23 James Miller: Good afternoon everyone, I am James Miller with the NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs and I would like to thank you for joining NOAA's media teleconference to announce nearly \$220 million for new habitat restoration and coastal resilience projects through the Investing in America agenda. Our press release is now available in the newsroom on the NOAA.gov website. Joining me today is our speaker Janet Coit, the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. With that I would like to welcome Janet who is joining us for the opening of today's call.

00:51 Janet Coit: Thanks James. Thank you all for joining us on our call today. I am thrilled that we are making this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act announcement today on behalf of the Biden-Harris Administration. This is an unprecedented level of grant funding and it will supercharge our transformational habitat restoration projects across the country. We're recommending nearly **\$220 million** for 32 new projects this year, plus an additional \$66 million of future year funding.

01:23 Janet Coit: This historic level of funding will have a transformative impact across the country — through capstone projects that build on decades of work in priority watersheds, innovative projects that implement cutting-edge restoration techniques, and groundbreaking efforts that restore habitat in urban ecosystems that benefit underserved communities. From the rivers of Alaska to the estuaries in the Pacific Northwest, encompassing the coastal wetlands of the Pacific Islands to the Caribbean territories, in

every region of our country, this funding catalyzes work that will lead to healthier, more productive habitats. As well, they will help protect the nation's coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, and also make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

02:09 Janet Coit: This was a very competitive process, and the selected projects span a broad range of habitats and restoration techniques, from reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, to outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, to restoring salt marshes that will help protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise.

2:29 Janet Coit: When we say "Transformational projects" we mean projects that are impactful, innovative, and will drive change in how habitat restoration occurs. For example, these projects may involve on-the-ground construction at multiple sites across a watershed, or they might include building capacity for new partners who can now participate in restoration efforts. We're super excited about the opportunities BIL and IRA and these investments are providing for habitat restoration around the country and we're looking forward to the amazing outcomes we will see due to this funding in the years ahead.

03:11 James Miller: Thank you so much, Janet. We will now take specific questions about the announcement from call participants. For this portion of the call we have subject matter experts on the line to address questions: we have Carrie Selberg Robinson, the Director of NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation and Chris Doley, Restoration Center Division Chief, NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation. Operator, please remind the call participants how they can get into the queue to ask a question.

03:37 Operator: Certainly, to ask a question please press star one, please unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your questions. If you need to withdraw your question please press star two. One moment while we wait for questions to come in.

04:17 Operator: There are no questions.

04:25 Operator: Once again if you would like to ask a question please press star one unmute your phone and record your name.

04:44 Operator: There are no questions at this time.

05:20 Operator: Once again if you would like to ask a question, please unmute your phone and record your name.

05:38 James Miller: Well, if we have no questions, the media advisory probably answered enough questions. So I would like to thank Janet, Carrie and Chris for joining us. An audio file of today's call will be made available online on NOAA.gov later this afternoon.

