NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOAA In Your State

Maine

***NOAA** is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.*

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by congressional districts and cities or towns, coastal programs, and then statewide programs.

Highlights of NOAA in Maine

Penobscot River Habitat Focus Area	Orono	ME-1,2
Port Agent Field Office	Portland	ME-1
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	Wells	ME-1
Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Orono	ME-2
New England Bay Watershed Education and Training Program	Statewide	ME
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects	Project Specific	ME

The state of Maine also has two Weather Forecasting Offices, one Regional Office, one Lab and Field Offices, one National Estuarine Research Reserves, and one Habitat Focus Area.

Weather Forecast Offices

Portland	ME-1
Caribou	ME-2

National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Maine. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which two are in Maine. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media,weather.gov, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction centers and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Maine weather, visit www.weather.gov and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

ME-1, ME-2

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

In July 2024, NOAA announced $575 million in funding for the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, to invest in holistic, collaborative approaches to coastal resilience at regional scales. This grant program focuses on increasing resilience to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and storm surge, and longer-term, chronic hazards such as sea level rise, drought, wildfire, extreme heat, and coastal erosion. The program awarded 19 grants that are part of NOAA's larger Climate-Ready Coasts initiative to forge new partnerships, protect coastal habitats, and close equity gaps. They will help scale up proven best practices across 17 states and territories to take resilience and adaptation plans off paper and into coastal communities across the country.

The Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future received a Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant for $69,008,683 to support the goals outlined in "Maine Won't Wait" (the state's award-winning climate action plan), all of which are designed to make Maine (ME-01, ME-02) more resilient to climate impacts, foster economic opportunity and prosperity through climate action, and advance equity through Maine's climate response. This project is focused on reducing climate impacts through nature-based solutions, strengthening the resilience of Maine's working waterfronts, and building enduring capacity to prepare for, and respond to, climate change. Activities include supporting underserved, rural,

and tribal communities in the development and implementation of climate adaptation strategies; expanding the availability and use of technical assistance tools and training focused on flood risk, saltwater intrusion, bluff stability, and living shorelines; updating the state's regulatory framework to support climate resilience; conducting demonstration projects that incentivize regional collaboration and nature-based solutions; and strengthening the climate resilience of vulnerable public infrastructure and working waterfronts.

Orono, ME

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Weather Service (NWS) - Penobscot River Habitat Focus Area

The Penobscot River was selected as a NOAA Habitat Focus Area (HFA). HFAs are targeted places where NOAA addresses high priority habitat issues by collaborating with partners and communities. Over the past several years, NOAA, led by the Office of Habitat Conservation, has selected 11 HFAs across the country which have achieved significant results for ecosystems and communities. While each HFA focuses on individual habitat conservation goals, the overarching goal is to leverage collective expertise and demonstrate results in a short time period.NMFS is working with the National Weather Service and National Ocean Service within the Penobscot River watershed to restore passage for sea-run fish and educate the public about the benefits of restoration, including improvements in water quality, increased recreational opportunities (fishing, boating), increased prey base for groundfish, and resilient coastal communities. NOAA is funding fish passage projects from feasibility study through construction and monitoring, and is developing online planning tools and educational resources to help Penobscot River and bay communities identify local restoration opportunities. The Penobscot River is home to the largest remaining run of endangered Atlantic salmon in the United States.

ME-1

Portland

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Port Agent Field Office

The Greater Atlantic Region's Port Agent Team works directly with the fishing industries of the region to provide in-person advice and support to fishermen and seafood dealers. Port agents also serve as a conduit for industry to relay information to the Regional Administrator and other NOAA staff about fishing industry concerns, thoughts and activities. Team members assist seafood dealers and vessel operators and owners with data reporting requirements, in navigating the permitting process, and with other Agency regulations and processes. They collect biological samples of seafood landed by commercial fishermen for use in fisheries stock assessments. They also provide the general public with information on fisheries and the marine environment by attending public events and through ad-hoc interactions.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office

Located just outside of Portland, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Gray is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of southern and western Maine and New Hampshire. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Forecasters also provide Impact-based Decision-Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site, during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination

Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

Wells

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

The 2,250 acre Wells Reserve, designated in 1984 and managed by the Reserve Management Authority, features a saltwater farm with historic buildings (circa 1720-1903) and a Greek Revival-style house that serves as a visitor center. The reserve contains an 11-kilometer trail system that winds through fields, forests, wetlands, salt marshes, dunes and beaches. Whitetail deer, snowy egrets, soft shell clams, winter flounder and piping plovers find a home here. The site provides a workshop series for adults, educational services for children. Wildflower, bird, and cultural history tours are available. Research conducted at the site helps sustain and restore important coastal habitats such as estuaries, salt marshes, and watersheds.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship

The Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship program funds graduate student research and professional development opportunities within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The program supports collaborative research addressing local management challenges that may influence future policy and management strategies. The Davidson Fellow at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will focus their research on the utilization of system-wide monitoring program data for coastal resilience policy.

Kittery

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Portsmouth PORTS®

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in Portsmouth Harbor with real-time data quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time water level and meteorological observations are available from one station, and currents at one location.

ME-2

Argyle

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Global Greenhouse Gas Reference Network and Halocarbon Measurements

NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) operates trace gas monitoring sites at tall towers in eight states, including Maine. The sites were established to extend GML's monitoring network to provide data to aid estimation of the net carbon balance of the continent. Variations of trace gases, especially carbon dioxide, are largest near the ground, so we utilize existing tall towers as platforms for in situ and flask sampling for atmospheric trace gases. Flask samples are delivered to GML in Boulder, Colorado for analysis. These data improve models and our understanding of the distribution of greenhouse gases, including sources and sinks of carbon in North America.

Caribou

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office

This NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of northern and eastern Maine. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves.

This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Forecasters also provide Impact-based Decision-Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site, during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Joplin and Moore tornadoes, Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Ozone Measurements
NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) makes measurements of the column amounts of ozone between the earth's surface and the top of the atmosphere at a number of locations around the United States. The observations are obtained with ground-based spectrometers that measure the attenuation by ozone of ultraviolet light. These observations are part of a global network and used to track recovery of stratospheric ozone layer in compliance with the USA Clean Air act of 1990. The integrated ozone amount is critical in determining the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface. These long-term measurements help determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer, which shields the surface from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Excess ultraviolet radiation is responsible for increased incidence of human skin cancer, crop damage, and damage to other biogenic organisms.

Limestone

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - U.S. Climate Reference Network
The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Old Town

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - U.S. Climate Reference Network
The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Orono

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Northeast Fisheries Science Center
The Maine Field Station houses staff from NMFS Northeast Salmon Team, including fishery managers and scientists from both the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Its mission is to promote

the recovery and future sustainability of Atlantic salmon and other diadromous fish species and their associated ecosystems.

Coastal

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program
NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research is administered by NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation. Mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, it is the nation's only federal research program dedicated to increasing scientific understanding of deep-sea coral ecosystems. Deep-sea corals occur off of every coastal state in the country, and create important habitats for countless species, including many fish species. The Program collaborates closely with partners, including other NOAA offices, to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. This work then informs critical management decisions in the waters of the United States and its territories. These decisions enhance the sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and other ocean uses, while conserving deep-sea coral and sponge habitats.

The Program works with partners to complete multi-year regional fieldwork initiatives, as well as smaller projects around the country, centered on integrating new and existing information on these vulnerable and biologically diverse habitats. The first research initiative took place from 2009 to 2011 in the U.S. South Atlantic region and provided valuable information to help decision-makers refine protected area boundaries. To date, the Program has completed one or more initiatives in each region of the United States.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Office of Law Enforcement
NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coastal states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, MA and has a field office in Portland, ME.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Cooperation with States Program and Species Recovery Grants
Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. A total of 25 U.S. territories and coastal states, including Maine, currently participate in this program. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. The Maine Department of Marine Resources has received multiple awards through this program, including grants to support projects focused on North Atlantic right whales, other large whales, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon, and shortnose sturgeon.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network
The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, monitor factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program
The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There are two stranding network members in the state.

NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. For fiscal year 2020, 43 competitive Prescott Grants were awarded for a total of $3.7 million nationwide, with two awards totalling $199,704 going to two recipients in Maine: College of the Atlantic and Marine Mammals of Maine.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. The legislation provides a historic investment in coastal protection and restoration that will increase community resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and improve how we manage our ocean resources. Projects funded under this law protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Maine received funding for one project in FY22 and three projects in FY23, as well as funds to build the state's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - National Water Level Observation Network
NOS operates four long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Maine, which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Portland, Bar Harbor, Cutler Farris Wharf, and Eastport. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels to land. Station data feeds into many CO-OPS products that are used to support safe navigation, mitigate coastal hazards, and protect communities. Such products include:

- Coastal Inundation Dashboard - view water levels in real-time and during storms
- High Tide Flooding Outlooks
- Sea level trends and maps
- Real-time current measurements
- Hydrodynamic models
- Tidal and water level datums

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Navigation Manager
OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port

authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Maine. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Maine and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Navigation Response Team
The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating the Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. NRT-New London is homeported in New London, CT at the USCG Research and Development Center and is able to respond in the Northeast region within 24 to 48 hours.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program
Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about America's underwater treasures and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program
The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. Subject to availability of funding, the program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements for important lands threatened by development. Since 2002, the program has protected more than 110,000 acres of coastal land nationally, including over 16,000 acres protected as in-kind matching contributions. NOAA awarded seven grants in Maine, and these lands are protected in perpetuity. In addition, a land conservation project was funded in FY23 in Maine under the CELCP authority with funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - National Coastal Zone Management Program
Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Maine. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Coastal Management Fellowship
This program matches postgraduate students with state and territory coastal zone programs to work on two-year projects proposed by the state or territory. The Maine Coastal Management Program is hosting a fellow from 2023-2025 who is helping Maine's vulnerable coastal communities implement Maine's Climate Action Plan, by designing, conducting and evaluating an innovative municipal outreach and technical assistance program.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Digital Coast
The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers. The Digital Coast Act authorizes the Digital Coast as a standing national program and supports NOAA's efforts to increase access to authoritative data, tools, and training that enable coastal communities to plan for long-term resilience, manage water resources, and respond to emergencies.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – National Coastal Resilience Fund
The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases, and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) executes this program in partnership with NOAA to invest in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, which minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities. In Maine, 15 projects have been funded:, one in FY18, two in FY19, three in FY20, one in FY21, five in FY22, and three in FY23.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Regional Ocean Partnership Tribal Awards
With funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NOAA supports Federally-recognized tribes to participate or engage with established regional ocean partnerships on shared ocean and coastal management issues, including enhancing tribal capacity to engage, supporting development of partnerships between tribes and regional ocean partnerships, and increasing consideration and inclusion of tribal data as appropriate in regional ocean partnership work. In FY 23-24 one project was awarded in Maine.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R Preparedness, Response, and Restoration Coordinators
NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, disasters, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, OR&R provides scientific and technical support to prepare for and respond to environmental threats that coastal communities face; determines damage to natural resources from those releases; protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

The **Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC)** is strategically placed within the region to ensure that NOS and our partners are able to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including coastal disasters. The RPC serves as a liaison between NOS and its federal, state, and local disaster preparedness and emergency response partners. A key role of the RPC is to better understand the needs and opportunities within the region and to ensure partners have the tools and resources necessary to inform decision-making. The RPC has expertise across the spectrum of emergency management and provides preparedness, response, and recovery services including planning, training, exercises, response coordination, continuous improvement, and long-term recovery. The RPC, based in Gloucester, Massachusetts, serves the Northeast region – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New York.

Eleven regionally based **Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC)** harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical

hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC for Maine is based in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of **Regional Resource Coordinators** work with multidisciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. The RRCs serving the Northeast/Great Lakes region are based in Boston, Massachusetts and New York, NY.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application and Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills
Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as ship locations, weather, and ocean currents providing an easy-to-use common operating picture for environmental responders and decision makers. ERMA staff continued to work closely with Federal and State agencies for drills, hurricane response, and incidents. Maintained habitat data for sensitive species. Ensured data was kept up-to-date and data collection methods were kept consistent. In addition to ERMA, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) offers a suite of tools to support emergency responders dealing with oil and chemical spills. From Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and data which provide concise summaries of coastal resources including biological resources and sensitive shorelines to GNOME, a trajectory and fate model that predicts the route and weathering of pollutants spilled on water, and so much more, these tools provide easy-access to critical data that support a wide range of needs for emergency responders, ultimately supporting our coastal communities.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in Maine
The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) leads national and international efforts to reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Northeast Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. The MDP also works with local communities and organizations to remove marine debris. In Maine, the MDP is working with the Center for Coastal Studies, using funding provided under the Inflation Reduction Act, to lead a new coalition of New England nongovernmental organizations to remove, document, and recycle, repurpose, or properly dispose of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear and end-of-life fishing gear from the Gulf of Maine's water and shorelines.The Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan, covering Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and partners across the Canadian border, was published in 2019 and updated in 2022. This plan is facilitated by the MDP with the participation of nearly 30 different organizations. The plan establishes a comprehensive framework for strategic action to ensure the Gulf of Maine and its coasts, people, and wildlife are free from the impacts of marine debris.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems)
The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and

Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations critical to safe navigation to the National Weather Service in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for management of hypoxia and harmful algal bloom. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are involved.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Ocean Acidification Observing Network (NOA-ON)
The NOAA Ocean Acidification Observing Network (NOA-ON) is a sustained investment in ocean chemistry observing networks in U.S. waters and abroad. There are currently 16 buoys sponsored by the NOAA OAR Ocean Acidification Program in coastal, open-ocean and coral reef waters that contribute to this network. The long-term datasets collected from these moorings are key to understanding how ocean chemistry and other ocean conditions are changing over time, and their impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. These buoys are located in Alaska (Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea), American Samoa (Fagatele Bay),California (California Current Ecosystem 1 & 2), Chesapeake Bay (MD, VA), Louisiana (Coastal LA), Florida (Cheeca Rocks), Georgia (Grays Reef), Hawaii (Kāneʻohe Bay and CRIMP-II, both in O'ahu) Oregon (Coos Bay), Maine (Gulf of Maine), Puerto Rico (La Parguera), Washington (Cha'ba), and Lake Huron (Thunder Bay).

National Weather Service (NWS) - National Data Buoy Center Buoys
The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation's coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate. NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations.

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - New England Bay Watershed Education and Training Program
The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is a competitive grants program that provides funding for locally relevant environmental education projects for K-12 audiences. The New England B-WET program is administered by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. New England B-WET currently serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The New England B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. New England B-WET regional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities. Please see the funding

opportunities for specifics.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Greater Atlantic Regional Office

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 miles offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles). The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast “multispecies complex” (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, North Atlantic right whales, and leatherback, loggerhead and Kemp’s ridley sea turtles. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The Office also fosters sustainable aquaculture in the region, with two Regional Aquaculture Coordinators that act as a liaison between federal and state agencies to assist in permitting and coordination activities, supporting aquaculture outreach and education, and collaborating with industry, academia and other stakeholders on regional marine aquaculture issues.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) studies fishery species and fisheries, monitors and models ocean ecosystems, and provides reliable advice for policy makers. The Center's work promotes recovery and long-term sustainability of marine life in the region, supports both wild and cultured seafood harvests, helps sustain coastal communities, and generates economic opportunities and benefits from the use of these resources.The Center has five laboratories and three research vessels to support its work. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Restoration Center

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with partners across the nation to restore habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. We have over 30 years conducting habitat restoration through competitive funding opportunities and technical assistance. We also work to reverse habitat damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. The Restoration Center works with private and public partners in Maine to enhance fish passage at dams, widen bridges and culverts to improve tidal flushing in coastal wetlands, and restore river habitats and native wetlands. See the interactive Restoration Atlas to find habitat restoration projects near you. Site visits to see habitat projects may be available in your state, please inquire if interested.

In addition, the Office of Habitat Conservation is responsible for executing an unprecedented $1.4 billion in funding under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for habitat restoration and fish passage. We are working with our partners to do this through our expert technical assistance and four funding competitions: Fish Passage, Tribal Fish Passage, Transformational Habitat Restoration, and Habitat Restoration for Tribes and Underserved Communities. We

have funded 214 awards totaling $985M in rounds one and two with more to come in round 3. We are funding work all over the country, explore them on our interactive map.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and National Ocean Service (NOS), and NOAA General Counsel - Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program
NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. Maine is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Maine. For more information about our work in Maine, visit: DARRP in Your State (and use the top menu to navigate to "Maine") and this interactive map.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Office for Coastal Management
The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots-on-the ground regional approach to coastal management, with staff available in the eight regions. Assistance is provided to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts. Constituent feedback and assessments are an important part of the effort. New England staff are located in Durham, New Hampshire, Gloucester, Woods Hole, and Scituate, Massachusetts and Yarmouth, Maine. These employees represent NOAA on several regional ocean governance initiatives (e.g., Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Gulf of Maine Council, and Northeast Regional Planning Body), coordinate NOAA involvement in ocean observing system activities, and support research reserves, coastal zone management, and other NOAA and state coordinated activities.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Regional Ocean Partnerships: **Northeast Regional Ocean Council**
To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region are active co-leaders and participants in the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, a Regional Ocean Partnership made up of coastal states, federal agencies, tribes and other partners to address regional solutions in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and ecosystem health. With funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NOAA is investing approximately $56 million nationwide over five years to enhance and support the priorities of established regional ocean partnerships like NROC, to advance priority work that requires coordinating interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal management issues, and enhancing sharing and integration of data to inform management decisions.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – Regional Geodetic Advisor
The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Barre, Vermont serving the Northeast region including Maine. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Gulf of Maine Harmful Algal Bloom Predictive Models
Toxic blooms of *Alexandrium catenella*, also known as red tide in New England, have resulted in extensive closures of shellfish harvesting. Closures were estimated to have caused $18 million in lost shellfish sales in Massachusetts in 2005. NOAA-funded research has led to the development of models that can predict Alexandrium blooms. Weekly forecasts issued throughout the summer months allow managers and the shellfish industry to minimize harvesting closures while still protecting public health.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Phytoplankton Monitoring Network
The Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is a nationwide community-based volunteer program of citizen scientists monitoring for the presence of organisms that can lead to Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) formation. Volunteers serve as data collectors for marine and freshwater blooms at more than 200 coastal and inland sites in the U.S. and Caribbean. Monitoring is conducted year-round and volunteers are trained to measure salinity, air and water temperatures, and how to collect phytoplankton samples using a plankton net. Samples are then analyzed for any HAB organisms via microscopy. Data collected by PMN volunteers enhances the Nation's ability to respond to and manage the growing threat posed by HABs by collecting important data for species composition and distribution in coastal and freshwater environments and creating working relationships between volunteers and professional marine biotoxin researchers. Event monitoring can assist state and federal agencies to issue timely warnings about shellfish consumption and other public health concerns.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Aquaculture Phytoplankton Monitoring Network
The Aquaculture Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (AQPMN) is a volunteer-based network that works with coastal US aquaculture farms and organizations. The network has adapted its protocols to specifically monitor for species known to have adverse effects on shellfish and finfish aquaculture. Participating hatcheries and growers receive training on methods to collect and identify local phytoplankton and potential HAB species. NOAA supplies each network member with plankton nets, thermometers, salt refractometers and digital microscopes free of charge.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Mussel Watch Program
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mussel Watch Program (MWP) monitors the status and trends of chemical contaminants and biological stressors in the nation's coastal waters. MWP began in 1986, and is based on the periodic collection and analysis of bivalves (oysters and mussels) and sediment from a network of more than 300 monitoring sites nationwide. Contaminants monitored at each site include the EPA's Priority Pollutant List of toxic substances and a suite of chemicals of emerging concern such as flame retardants, PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and current use pesticides.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for Zero Waste Week
Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program
Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about America's underwater

treasures and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

National Weather Service - **NEXRAD (WSR-88D) Systems**
NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which two are in Maine.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations
The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 10 ASOS stations in Maine.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Cooperative Observer Program Sites
The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 58 COOP sites in Maine.

National Weather Service (NWS) - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). There are 11 NWR transmitters in Maine.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – Maine Sea Grant College Program
The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Maine Sea Grant supports science and extension to promote sustainable use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources. In partnership with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, members of our Marine Extension Team focus on issues of concern to Maine residents and visitors, extending current knowledge and expertise in ecology, human dimensions, fisheries, aquaculture, and climate change to coastal communities from Kittery to Eastport. Current projects focus on healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development. Administrative offices are located in Orono. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at seagrant.noaa.gov.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was entrusted with billions of supplemental federal funding dollars with passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act on August 16, 2022. This historic infrastructure funding has been invested in communities across the nation to build resilience in the face of climate change. NOAA distributed funding to communities, tribal, state and local governments, higher education programs, businesses, non-profit organizations, and facilities in need. NOAA funded billions of dollars in grants and cooperative agreements across the country to fund projects that enhance climate resilience, restore coastal and marine habitats, improve safety, and create jobs. For an interactive map of NOAA BIL and IRA investments in your state, visit https://www.noaa.gov/bil-ira-awards-explorer.

BIL
Atlantic Salmon and Other Diadromous Fish Recovery Actions in the Piscataquis River and Greater Penobscot River Watershed, $7,554,797
The project will address fish passage barriers in the Penobscot River watershed to support the largest run of Atlantic salmon, a NOAA Species in the Spotlight, in the United States. They will completely remove two dams and install fish ladders at two other sites to open sites that are currently complete barriers to fish passage.

Improving Fish Passage at Milltown and Woodland Dams on the International St. Croix River, Maine, $14,826,500
The project will design and implement a fish lift at Woodland Dam on the St. Croix River, providing access to 600 miles for all migratory fish and 60,000 acres of habitat for alewife. By benefitting species like alewife, American shad, and American eel, the project is expected to result in increased prey for whales, dolphins, groundfish, and saltwater sportfish.

Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage in the Penobscot River Watershed and Building the Penobscot Nation's Resource Management, Stewardship, and Restoration Capacity, $2,979,896
The project will eliminate five culvert and dam barriers within the East Branch of the Penobscot River. This work will benefit Endangered Species Act-listed Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish species. The project will also build tribal capacity to manage and steward migratory fish resources by funding fishery biologist positions.

Planning and Capacity to Restore Sea-Run Fish Passage on the St. Croix River: From Still Waters to the Gulf of Maine, $2,000,000
The project will identify preferred approaches to enhance fish passage across the Grand Falls and Woodland Dams. The project will strengthen tribal engagement in restoration decision-making alongside state and federal agencies at the site of an active paper mill that is economically important to the community.

Restoration and Conservation of Coastal Habitats in Southern Maine, $299,924
This funding will build the capacity of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (WNERR) to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, WNERR will use these funds to hire a new Habitat Restoration and Conservation Coordinator who will coordinate habitat restoration, land conservation, and related infrastructure project planning among partners and landowners in Southern ME. The coordinator will establish a program to help vulnerable coastal communities mitigate and adapt to climate change; develop habitat restoration and conservation projects; build regional partnerships; provide technical support; and develop and implement a plan for enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Maine Coastal Program Technical Assistance to Towns, Regions and Tribes - Habitat restoration and resilient infrastructure, $450,000
This funding will build the capacity of the ME federally-approved coastal management program within the ME Department of Marine Resources to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, the ME Coastal Program will use these funds to provide habitat restoration technical assistance in several regions of coastal ME. This technical assistance will focus on project development, grant-writing, stakeholder outreach and other activities in underserved communities and with underserved populations.

Applying the Coastwise Approach for Coastal Habitat Resilience and Community Adaptation in Downeast Maine, $1,654,680
The Maine Coastal Program (within the Maine Department of Marine Resources), along with other coastal partners, will apply innovative, science-based best approaches (referred to as CoastWise) to plan and design coastal infrastructure improvements. The project features a collaborative, locally-led process to produce preliminary designs for barrier removal at six tidal crossings, and final designs for four of those. The application of the CoastWise principles to this project will serve as a model for how the approach can be used to develop resilient tidal crossings on a much larger scale than previously possible.

Seaweed-based bioplastic replacement for commercial lobster fishing gear, $100,000
Viable Gear will provide proof-of-concept for a seaweed-based bioplastic to be used in manufacturing a compostable biotwine for marine equipment, designed to replace petroleum-based plastics. This is a critical need, since broken-down or lost fishing/aquaculture gear comprises ~ 70% of ocean-based macroplastics. Technical questions to be addressed include whether seaweed can be the primary component of a bioplastics durable enough to last in the ocean for a minimum of six months and whether it can be created without petroleum-based toxic additives that are typical in mainstream plastics and bioplastics.

Reducing derelict fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine: educating and empowering boaters to be a part of the solution, $156,151
The Maine Sea Grant was awarded $156,150 to form a coalition that will co-develop the first organized outreach campaign to Maine's recreational boaters and commercial fishing vessels on preventing derelict fishing gear accumulation

and other marine debris, which result in losses to the local lobster industry as well as economic and environmental impacts to vulnerable communities. Resulting communications products will be shared with local, regional and national networks.

Reducing Marine Debris at the Source: Material Replacement and Source Reduction for Single Use Food Packaging, $2,997,876
The Maine Sea Grant was awarded $2,997,876 to lower the barriers for companies to enter the sustainable packaging market and understand slow resource loops that help reduce the inflow of plastics to the ocean. This project aims to reduce the burden of marine debris on human communities and coastal ecosystems in Maine and throughout the Gulf of Maine where the impacts of marine debris are disproportionately borne by small, rural coastal and island communities with limited capacity to support increasingly costly solid waste management systems and conservation planning initiatives.

Littlefield Dam Removal and Little Androscoggin Watershed Improvements, $3,514,820
This project will remove the Littlefield Dam, a former hydropower project in the Little Androscoggin River, to reopen stream habitat and access to a pond for endangered Atlantic salmon (a NOAA Species in the Spotlight) and other migratory fish. They will also assess the feasibility of improving fish passage at three additional dams in the area. The project would support the local community by helping improve public safety, creating opportunities for recreation and tourism, and developing fish as an important food source.

Barrier Removal in Merrymeeting Bay Tributaries: Restoring Critical Habitat for Maine Diadromous Fish Species, $13,499,993
This project will improve fish passage at numerous sites in the Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, a NOAA Species in the Spotlight. Efforts will include multiple dam removals, culvert replacements, and construction of fish ladders and nature-like fishways. When completed, these efforts will improve access to significant stream habitat for Atlantic salmon and alewife. They will also support local communities by reducing flood risk and removing aging infrastructure.

Supporting the Penobscot Nations involvement in the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, $199,998
The Penobscot Indian Nations' (PIN) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will support work that aligns with regional ocean partnerships priorities. The overall goals of the project are to: continue to identify tribal priorities in both inshore and offshore ocean environments; increase tribal involvement, support and awareness of ocean related issues of climate change, energy projects, etc. by presenting information to the Tribal administration and Tribal public while inviting participation; increase communications with other Tribal governments on topics, especially other Wabanaki tribes; identify potential research projects and surveys of submerged archaeological sites and historic uses; participate in Regional Ocean Partnership meetings to assist in identifying aligned and collective priorities; represent Penobscot Indian Nation interests, comment and participate in offshore wind process development and associated Northeast Regional Ocean Council efforts; create a draft Tribal Climate Action Plan.

Habitat Restoration and Protection to Enhance Salt Marsh Resilience to Sea Level Rise in the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, $2,890,294
The Town of Wells and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will use these funds to acquire a conservation easement for 9.5 acres of salt marsh and 8.5 acres of freshwater wetlands and uplands and restore the marsh's tidal hydrology. The Town of Wells and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will partner to restore the protected marsh by replacing a failing and undersized municipal roadway crossing. The new bridge will be more resilient to extreme

storm events, improve safety for motorists and pedestrians, and allow for the migration of tidal marsh as sea level rise progresses.

IRA

A community education and research development initiative to develop new materials and uses from ghost traps, $299,707

The Maine Sea Grant was awarded $299,707 to facilitate the recovery, recycling and refabrication of marine debris material in the Gulf of Maine, such as ghost lobster traps and derelict aquaculture farming gear, into new products with creative, practical and industry applications.The community created will connect Maine high school students and professionals with information exchange, professional development and networking opportunities to collaborate on new applications and markets for marine debris.

Improving Fish Passage at Woodland Dam on the International St. Croix River, Maine, $7,478,009

This project will continue construction of structures to improve fish passage at Woodland Dam on the St. Croix River. When complete, this effort will provide access to 600 miles of habitat for migratory fish, and 60,000 acres of habitat for alewife. By benefitting species like alewife, American shad, and American eel, the project is expected to result in increased prey for whales, dolphins, groundfish, and saltwater sportfish.

Restoring the Mainstem: Realizing Dam Removal in the Piscataquis River, $19,948,969

This project will work to improve fish passage on the Piscataquis River, a major tributary to the Penobscot River. This effort will reconnect a significant amount of stream habitat in the Penobscot Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, a NOAA Species in the Spotlight. It will also support local communities by reducing the potential for flooding and addressing a public safety hazard.

Improving Migratory Fish Passage in the Skutik River, Heart of the Traditional Peskotomuhkati Homeland, $11,992,935

This project will work to increase fish passage at the Woodland and Grand Falls Powerhouse Dams on the Skutik River (St. Croix River). With the downstream Milltown Dam currently being removed, Woodland and Grand Falls are the only remaining barriers to migratory fish in the lower river. This effort will improve access to 600 miles of habitat for alewife and other migratory species important to tribal cultural traditions and sustenance lifeways practices.

Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage in the Penobscot and Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Units While Building the Penobscot Nation's Fisheries Restoration and Outreach Capacity, $5,411,318

This project will address five barriers in the Penobscot and St. George River watersheds to increase access to streams and spawning habitats for migratory fish. This work will help support alewives, endangered Atlantic salmon, and other migratory species of cultural, subsistence, economic, and recreational importance to the tribe. The project will also support tribal capacity for public outreach and community engagement to identify and implement new projects.

Replacing the Cherryfield Ice Control Dam with a Nature-Like Fishway, $9,098,873

This project will remove the Cherryfield Ice Control Dam on the Narraguagus River and replace it with a nature-like fishway, allowing for endangered Atlantic salmon (a NOAA Species in the Spotlight) and other fish to migrate unimpeded up and downstream of the site. The Narraguagus River has some of the highest quality habitat for Atlantic salmon in the Downeast Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for Atlantic salmon.

Transformational Habitat Restoration and Connectivity in Downeast Maine, $9,000,000
This project will undertake initial planning and design steps to restore more than 400 acres of salt marsh on the west branch of the Pleasant River. The project will replace and enlarge a culvert along Addison road, as part of a larger effort to replace six tidal crossings and raise the roadway. Roadway flooding is a concern in the project area, and improved tidal and freshwater flows will help reduce flooding hazards.

OceanVista: Advancing Ocean Data for Climate Resilience, $250,000
The Gulf of Maine Research Institute ("GMRI"), in partnership with MassChallenge ("MC") and the Roux Institute of Northeastern University ("Roux") will launch the OceanVista accelerator - a program that will leverage the Gulf of Maine's maritime economy, regional knowledge, and infrastructure to support innovative data-driven solutions for seafood production and supply chain, coastal resilience and infrastructure, renewable energy, shipping, risk management, and financial markets. Ocean data-enabled companies must focus on early detection, real-time forecasting, and predictive modeling to enhance risk management, operational decision-making, and climate resilience. We have aligned to theme 4 (Ecosystem Services) to focus on tools that respond to a changing ocean climate in near real-time.

Advancing the Planning, Design and Implementation of Nature-Based Resilient Infrastructure in Coastal Maine, $875,000
This funding will build the ability of the state's federally-approved coastal management program within the Department of Marine Resources to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, Maine Coastal Program (MCP) will use these funds to continue to support the advancement of Nature Base Infrastructure (NBI) in various ways. With the initial OCM funding, MCP established a temporary habitat restoration position and a local grants program for restoration planning and design, creating a pipeline of NBI projects for state funding. However, the workload is beyond the capacity of that previously funded position. This new award funding will provide MCP with additional contracted capacity to assist the MCP Habitat Restoration Coordinator and to offer an additional round of local planning and design grants for NBI.

Working with and engaging coastal communities to enhance resilience and safety in a changing climate, $400,000
This funding will build the ability of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) within the Wells Reserve Management Authority to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, they will establish a 5-year program to increase the climate resilience of southern Maine coastal communities and the ecosystems supporting them. The program will address critical unmet needs for the functions of network facilitation, stakeholder engagement, communication, conflict management and program evaluation. The Coastal Resilience Coordinator, a new role within the Coastal Training Program, which will be supported by this funding, will address engagement and communication gaps in existing networks, focusing on facilitation, stakeholder engagement, communication, conflict management, and program evaluation.

Using Restored Tidal Flow to Combat Migratory Fish Decline and Increase Climate Resilience, $4,490,000
The two proposed projects are municipally owned road crossings. Engineering and building tidal crossings that maintain ecosystem function of the salt marsh and build in resilience to future climate change. Poor water exchange to tidal marshes caused by restrictive road infrastructure threatens to compromise Maine's marshes. Propose to replace two culverts on high value rainbow smelt streams with best practice tidal crossing structures. Natural bottom open arch or box culverts will be used to allow full tidal water exchange and safe, timely, and effective fish passage for smelt and other aquatic organisms.

Planning for Resilient Restoration of Scarborough Marsh, $1,402,308
Scarborough, Maine is a rapidly growing town in the Greater Portland region that faces increasingly frequent flooding of low-lying roads. The purpose of this project is to: a) inform the design of more resilient infrastructure and advance restoration of Scarborough marsh; b) create designs for marsh restoration; and c) model effective new partnerships. The project will implement recommendations of Maine's new Climate Plan, including committing to manage for 1.5 ft of sea-level rise by 2050 and 4 ft by 2100, upgrading infrastructure, protecting natural lands, restoring habitats, using nature-based solutions, exploring blue carbon and conserving upland areas for marsh migration.

Resilient Maine: Local Adaptation and Resilience Actions at a Coastwide Scale, $69,008,683
Maine's vision is to become a national leader in climate resilience among rural states by the end of this decade. This project supports the goals outlined in the "Maine Won't Wait" climate action plan. This project will focus on reducing climate impacts through nature-based solutions, strengthening the resilience of Maine's working waterfronts, and building enduring capacity to prepare for, and respond to, climate effects on our communities, people, and economy. Activities include supporting underserved, rural, and tribal communities in the development and implementation of climate adaptation strategies; expanding the availability and use of technical assistance tools and training focused on flood risk, saltwater intrusion, bluff stability, and living shorelines; updating the state's regulatory framework to support climate resilience; and conducting demonstration projects. *This project was funded through the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge.*

Manufacturing an innovative seaweed-based bioplastic to replace petroleum-based plastic used in fishing and aquaculture gear, $361,507
Viable Gear, LLC (VG) has developed a proof-of-concept prototype of a marine degradable biotwine using innovative seaweed-based bioplastic. In Phase II, VG will refine this prototype for market launch as a sustainable alternative to petroleum-based nylon strings in seaweed nurseries and fishing gear. This biotwine addresses the issue of ghost fishing caused by lost plastic gear, which harms marine life and contributes to ocean pollution. VG aims to create a minimum viable product for seeding twines, enhancing sustainable aquaculture while reducing environmental impact. Future applications include bait bags and zip ties, with potential for licensing the material for broader use.