



AGENCY

U.S. Department of Commerce

Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 2024– FY 2025| FY 2024 Q2

Advance Toward Climate Ready Coasts

Goal Leaders:

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

Nicole R. LeBoeuf
Assistant Administrator for Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management

Goal Team

APG Leadership

Dr. Spinrad, Under Secretary for Commerce and Oceans and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator

Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

Nicole LeBoeuf, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management

Habitat Restoration

Senior Leads:

Carrie Robinson, Director –
Office of Habitat Conservation
(NMFS)

Jennifer Quan – Regional
Administrator West Coast
Region (NMFS)

Habitat Protection & Conservation

Senior Lead:

Jeff Payne, Director - Office
for Coastal Management
(NOS)

Marine Debris

Senior Lead:

Scott Lundgren, Director - Office
for Response and Restoration
(NOS)

Coordination

DOC Office of Performance Excellence

NOAA Performance Risk and Social Science Office

NMFS Office of Management and Budget

NOS Formulation and Planning Division

Goal Overview

Goal Statement

- By September 30, 2025, NOAA will improve climate resilience in coastal communities by completing 100% of programmatic milestones: to improve fish passage for threatened and endangered species; support coastal habitat restoration priorities of tribes and underserved communities, remove marine debris; and protect and conserve coastal and Great Lakes habitats.

Problem to be Solved

- Human-caused or climate related impacts to coastal habitats across the country, led to a high demand for both small and large-scale habitat restoration and fish passage efforts to restore access to healthy habitats for migratory fish, support fisheries and protected species, and strengthen the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities. Additionally, many areas impacted are in regions that are historically underserved. Focusing on providing capacity building support and on-the-ground restoration assistance will advance the unique coastal habitat restoration priorities in these regions.
- Marine debris is a pervasive issue that damages habitat; impacts wildlife through entanglements, ingestion, and ghost fishing; and transports non-native species. Marine debris can also crush or smother sensitive plants and corals, cause collisions in navigation channels and damage to vessels, impact human health, and contributes to economic losses. Removal and interception of debris can prevent or mitigate these impacts.
- Extreme weather events and coastal change are increasing, becoming a regular aspect of life. It is crucial for coastal communities to develop plans to mitigate climate-related risks including floods, sea level rise, coastal inundation, and other hazards in marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. Addressing these issues is vital to foster thriving conditions for both wildlife and human communities.

What Success Looks Like

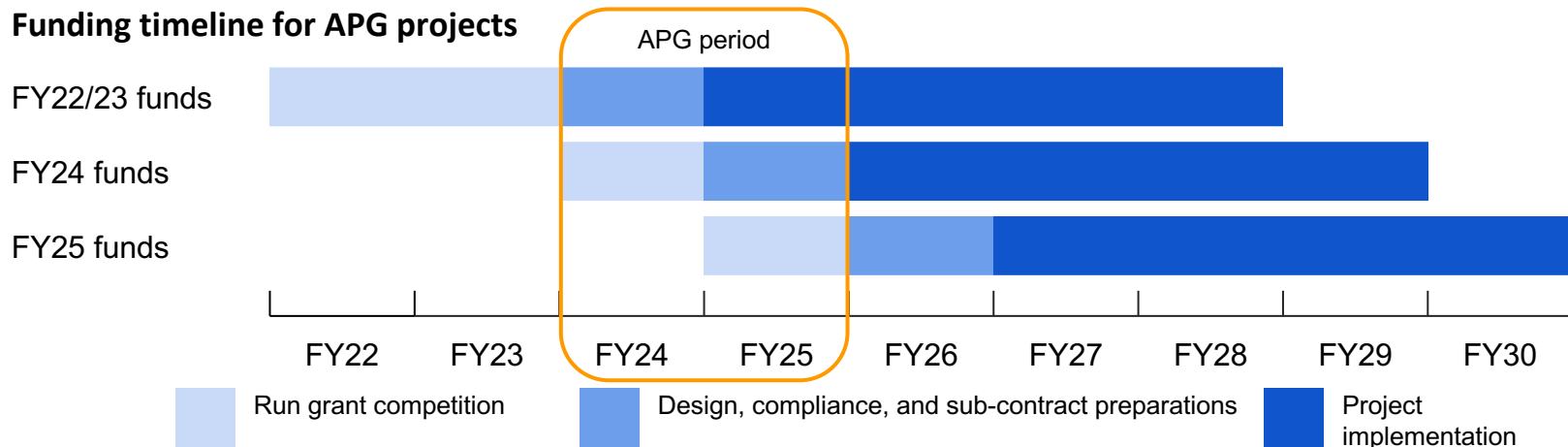
- Increased habitat restoration, marine debris removal, and fish passage in coastal communities and the Great Lakes region.
- Increased capacity in tribal and underserved communities to engage in habitat restoration, fish passage improvements and marine debris removal.
- Durable, local communities with the capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, foster economic growth, protect fisheries, promote environmental justice, and cultivate a climate-ready workforce.

Timelines for APG and Grant Projects

This two-year APG represents the early phase of a multi-year timeline for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant projects, as shown in the timeline below. The major phases of the grant-funded projects are:

- **Grant competition:** NOAA publishes a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for each competitive opportunity and provides guidance and conducts outreach to assist interested applicants. Proposals that meet the competition criteria are reviewed and evaluated by subject matter experts. NOAA will focus on ensuring that all competitions and subsequent award processing steps are efficient and equitable, including meaningful engagement with tribal organizations, local communities, and underserved populations.
- **Project design, legal compliance, and sub-contract preparations:** Once awards are made, environmental compliance and permitting must be completed before physical project work may begin. Many complex projects, such as dam removal, require substantial upfront investments to lay critical groundwork needed to ensure long-term project success. For Coastal Zone Management (CZM), National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), and marine debris removal competitions, some awardees will run their own competitions to grant subawards.
- **Project implementation and closeout:** Grantees have up to five years to complete funded projects; extending beyond the two-year timeline of this APG. Awardees must provide regular progress reports that NOAA will monitor. NOAA provides technical assistance and support throughout the lifecycle of the projects. Many of the long-term benefits (e.g., stream miles opened, fish barriers removed, and acres of habitat restored) will be realized well beyond the initial investments.

Funding timeline for APG projects



Goal Strategies

Strategy 1: Work to restore coastal habitats and support communities by:

- Advancing projects to restore habitat through the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation.
- Advancing projects to improve fish passage through the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation.
- Advancing projects to restore habitat through the NMFS Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

Projects under this strategy support fisheries and communities through habitat restoration and coastal resilience efforts. This includes funding opportunities for:

1. Fish passage projects that restore access to healthy habitat for migratory fish. Projects selected through these opportunities will support sustainable fisheries, recover threatened and endangered migratory fish, and strengthen the resilience of coastal and Great Lakes communities and tribes.
2. Habitat restoration projects that support fisheries and protected species while also strengthening the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities. Projects selected through these opportunities will have a transformative impact for coastal communities and tribes across the country.
3. Capacity building and on-the-ground restoration projects that advance the coastal habitat restoration priorities of tribes and underserved communities. Projects selected through these opportunities will support community-driven habitat restoration and build capacity of tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities.
4. Improve West Coast salmon and steelhead populations through habitat restoration and protection activities. Projects selected through this opportunity will protect, conserve, and restore habitat for Pacific salmon and steelhead populations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California.

Goal Strategies

Strategy 2: Remove marine debris to benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife by:

- Awarding grants to support locally driven, community-based marine debris removal
- Providing technical assistance and engage regularly with funded partners
- Tracking progress of project indicators, performance measures, and activities
- Communicating project events and milestones

The projects under this strategy help communities to reduce the impact of marine debris through interception and removal activities as well as complementary prevention, assessment, tracking, and monitoring activities. Marine debris can lead to boating accidents, damage coral reefs and other sensitive habitats, kill or entangle wildlife, and cause other dangers. These projects to intercept or remove it can generate long-lasting, transformational benefits for waterways, coastal habitats, and wildlife.

NOAA estimates that approximately 16 million pounds of marine debris will be removed once all BIL and IRA projects from all funding competitions are complete. The projects funded from the FY22/FY23 competition are expected to remove an estimated 10 million pounds of debris once all are complete. Of that, approximately 4.78 million pounds are expected to be removed by the end of FY25, when this APG concludes.

External factors that may impact goal achievement include delays due to environmental compliance and permitting requirements; logistical challenges; weather and safety concerns; project staff turnover; equipment or supply chain issues; and other unexpected events. To mitigate these challenges, NOAA meets regularly with project partners. NOAA also leverages lessons learned from prior awards to reduce the impact of challenges and ensure partners fulfill project objectives. The actual amount of debris removed also depends on the priorities, scale, and complexity of the projects selected in future grant competitions.

Goal Strategies

Strategy 3: Advance resilient and productive coastal habitat by:

- Implementing projects through state Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs and National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).

The projects under this strategy help communities mitigate the impacts of, and more quickly recover from, extreme events such as hurricanes, coastal storms, flooding, and sea level rise. Greater infrastructure resilience protects the lives and property of coastal community members, conserves coastal habitat, and maintains America's vibrant coastal economies and lifestyles.

Projects funded from the FY22 and FY23 CZM and NERRS grant competitions are expected to protect or restore an estimated 50,000 acres of habitat once all projects are complete, with up to 22,300 acres protected by the end of FY25. NOAA expects the full amount of habitat restored/protected once all BIL and IRA projects are complete to be more than 100,000 acres.

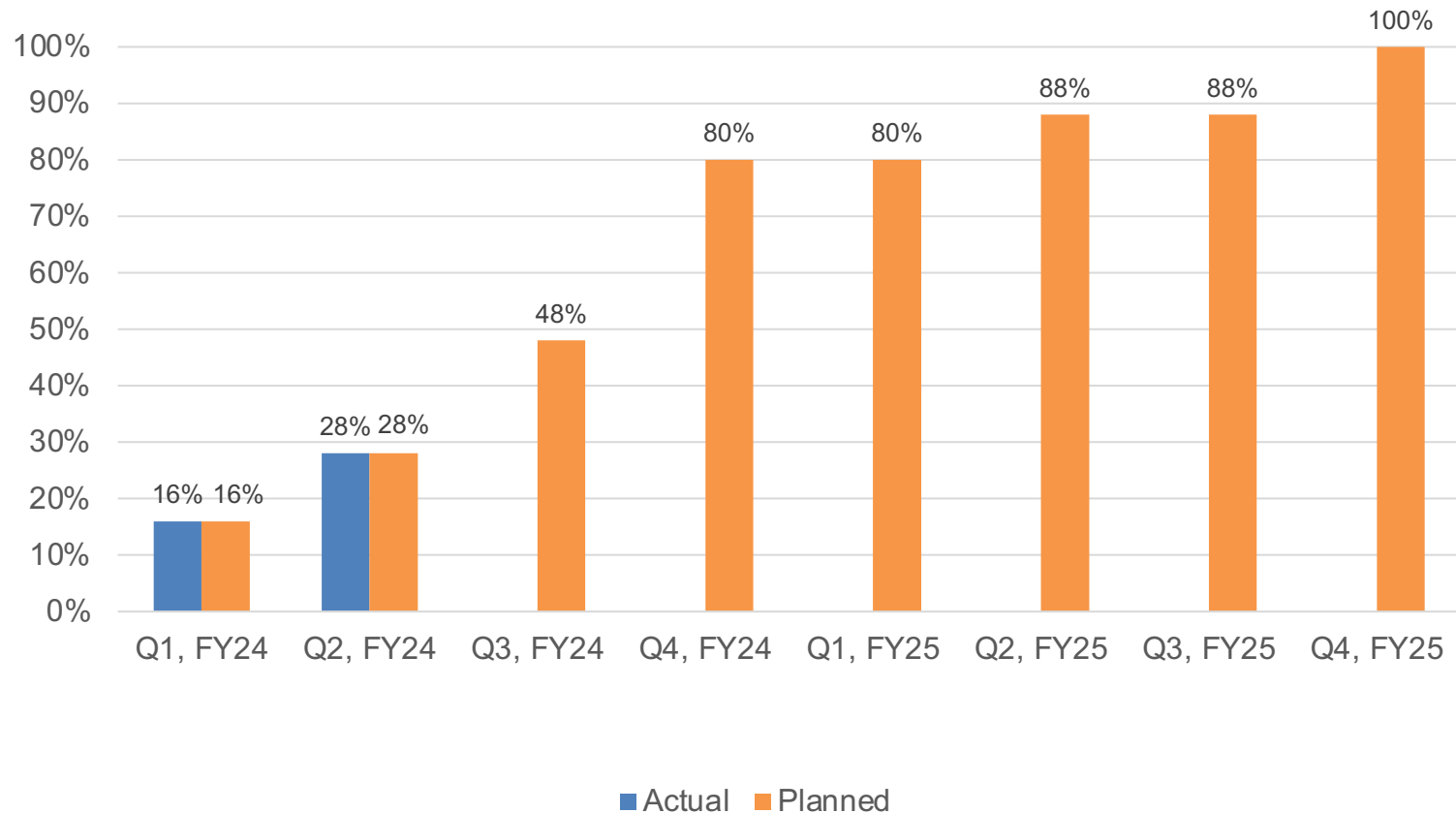
Goal Targets

	Achievement statement	Key indicators	Quantify progress					Frequency
	We will...	Name of indicator (units in parentheses)	Start value	As of (Date)	Target value	Current value	As of (Date)	Update cycle
1	Enhance climate resilience in coastal communities by completing 100% of programmatic milestones	Program milestones completed (percent)	0%	10/1/23	100%	28%	3/31/24	quarterly
2	Remove marine debris	Marine debris removed (pounds)	0	10/1/23	4.78 million	---	---	semiannual
3	Restore or protect coastal and Great Lakes habitats	Coastal, ocean and Great Lakes area restored or protected (acres)	0	10/1/23	22,300	---	---	semiannual

	Footnotes by Achievement statement/ Key Indicator Number
2	Target is an estimate based on awardee proposals. External factors (e.g., weather) can influence the timing and amount of debris removed for a given project. All projects continue beyond the APG timeframe. Grant reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period. This indicator does not have a Q1 value as it is reported semiannually. The Q2 value will be available in the Q3 update.
3	Targets are estimates based on descriptions for CZM and NERRS projects. External factors (e.g., land purchase negotiations, weather, and remote locations) can influence the actual amount of area protected or restored for a given project. This indicator does not have a Q1 value as it is reported semiannually. The Q2 value will be available in the Q3 update.

Key Indicators

Program milestones completed (percent)¹

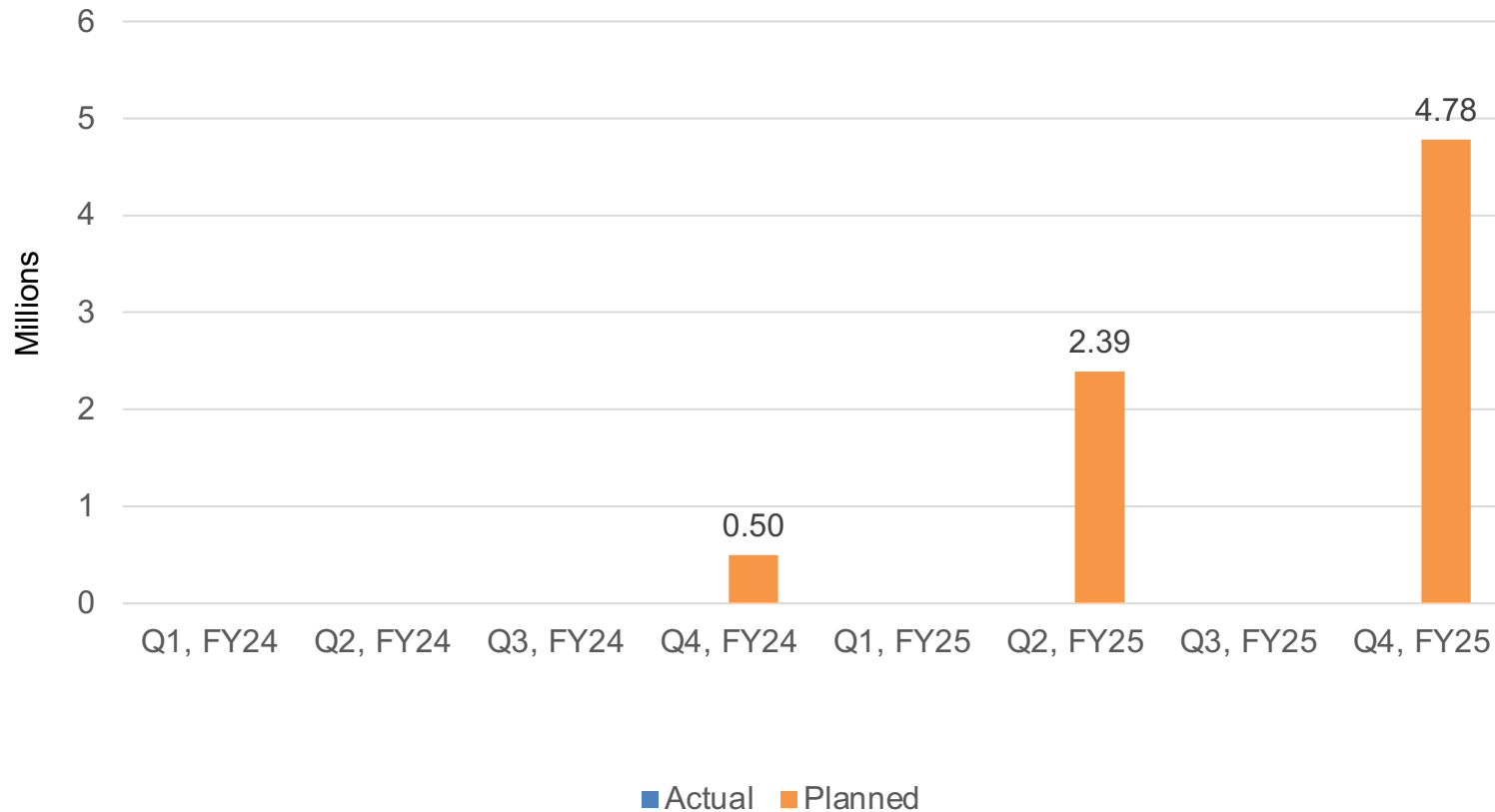


Footnote

- 1 Programmatic milestones focus on the grant awarding process to restore coastal habitats and support communities, including opening and closing of notices of funding opportunities, public engagement, and announcing or awarding grants. As NOAA collects performance and other data from grant recipient progress reports, this information will inform our longer-term assessments of coastal resilience investments, such as economic impact modeling and process evaluations to determine whether programs are on track in achieving their intended purposes.

Key Indicators

Marine debris removed (millions of pounds)¹

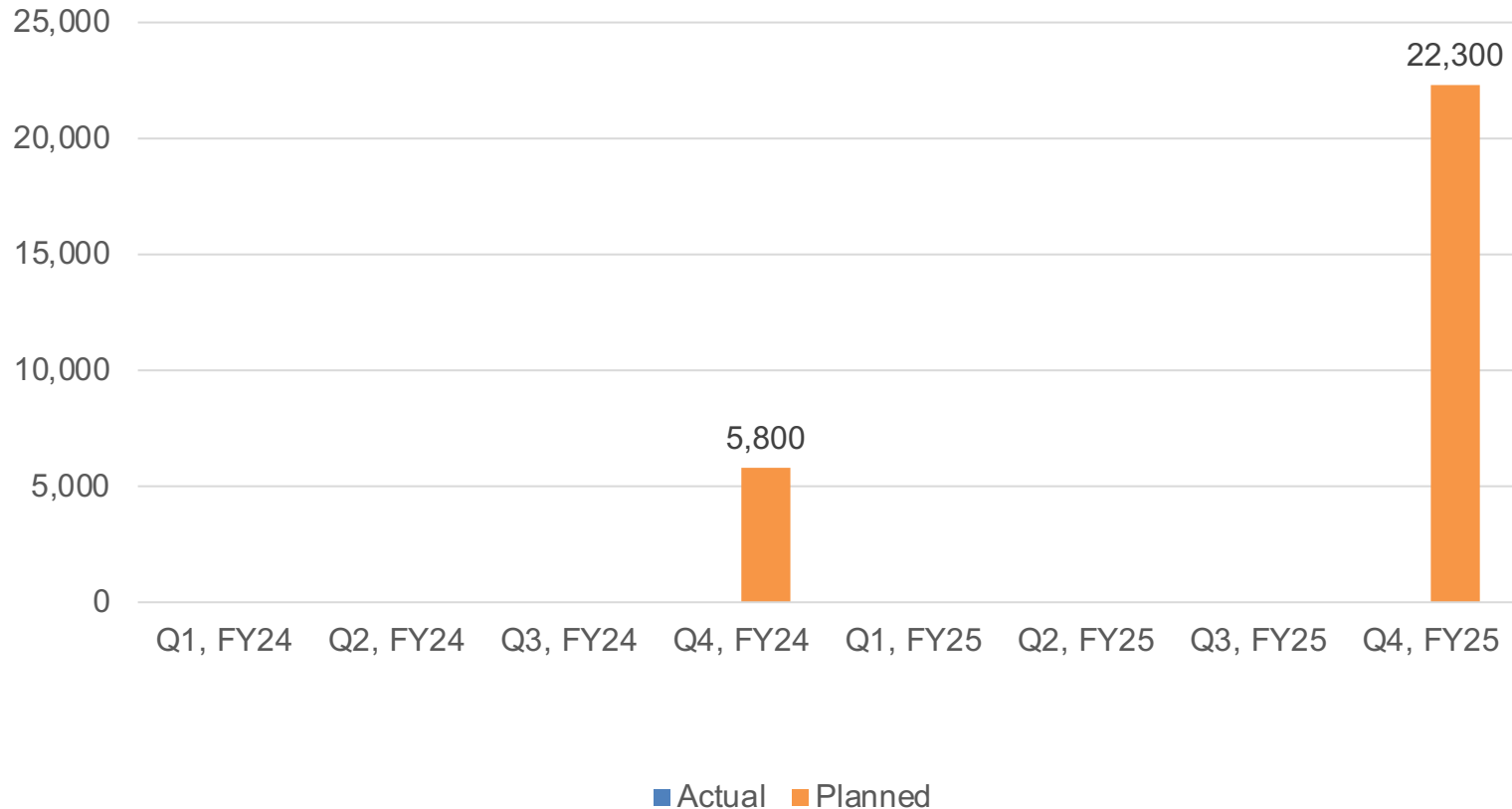


Footnote

¹ This indicator is measured semiannually and does not have an actual value for Q1, FY 2024. The Q2 value will be available in the Q3 update.

Key Indicators

Coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes area restored or protected (acres)¹



Footnotes

1 This indicator is measured semiannually and does not have an actual value for Q1, FY 2024. The Q2 value will be available in the Q3 update.

Key Milestones: Restore Coastal Habitats and Support Communities

- Support and advance projects to restore habitat and improve fish passage through the Office of Habitat Conservation and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Funding opportunities open for applicants to submit proposals	Q1, FY24	Complete		
Current funding opportunities closed and begin program review	Q2, FY24	Complete		
Announce selected conservation and habitat restoration projects from current funding opportunities	Q4, FY24			
Host webinars for applicants submitting full proposals for upcoming funding opportunities to ensure outreach and engagement	Q4, FY24			
Funding opportunities open for applicants to submit proposals	Q2, FY25			
Funding opportunities closed and begin program review	Q2, FY25			
Announce selected conservation and habitat restoration projects	Q4, FY25			

Key Milestones: Remove Marine Debris

- Award grants to support locally driven, community-based marine debris removal

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Receive and review FY24 marine debris removal letters of intent (LOIs) for projects to remove and dispose of large marine debris, such as abandoned and derelict vessels and derelict fishing gear	Q1, FY24	Complete		
Receive and review FY24 marine debris interception LOIs for projects to install, monitor, and maintain technologies to capture marine debris around known sources	Q1, FY24	Complete		
Host two FY24 marine debris removal and interception full proposal applicant webinars	Q2, FY24	Complete		
Complete initial preparations for 75% of projects from FY22/FY23 awards and start marine debris removal work for 75% of projects from FY22/FY23 awards	Q2, FY24	Delayed		Planning activities underway for all projects. Initial preparations complete for 36% (5 of 14) of projects and 21% (3 of 14) have begun removing marine debris. We expect to complete the 75% target in Q3. Timeline shift is primarily a result of environmental compliance due diligence timelines.

Key Milestones: Remove Marine Debris

- Award grants to support locally driven, community-based marine debris removal (continued)

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Receive and review FY24 marine debris interception full proposals	Q3, FY24			
Receive and review FY24 marine debris removal full proposals	Q3, FY24			
Two National subaward competitions for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels and derelict fishing gear open for proposals	Q3, FY24			
Award large marine debris removal and interception technology competitions FY24 grants for marine debris projects	Q4, FY24			
Additional grant opportunities open/close for proposals	Q4, FY24			
Award Selected projects	Q4, FY25			

Key Milestones: Habitat Protection & Conservation

- Implement projects through state Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs and National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Complete FY23 LOI reviews and invite applicants to submit full proposal	Q1, FY24	Complete		
Additional grant opportunities open for proposals	Q3, FY24			
Receive and review FY23 full proposals	Q3, FY24	Complete		Completed early, in Q2 FY24.
Award FY23 grants for CZM. Award can fund activities such as habitat restoration; habitat restoration planning, engineering, and design; and ecosystem conservation	Q4, FY24			
Award FY23 grants for NERRS. Award can fund activities such as habitat restoration; habitat restoration planning, engineering, and design; and ecosystem conservation	Q4, FY24			
Engage FY23 grantees on reporting requirements and eRA Commons	Q4, FY24			
Engage with prospective applicants for additional grant opportunities	Q4, FY24			
Award Selected projects for additional opportunities	Q4, FY25			

Narrative – FY 2024, Q2

NOAA is overall **On Track** to accomplish this APG.

Progress on Strategy 1: Restore Coastal Habitats and Support Communities during Q2 FY 2024:

- NOAA is reviewing and analyzing full proposals for the four grant competitions to restore coastal habitats and support coastal communities, including:
 - Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants
 - Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities
 - Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants
 - Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants
- Applicant requests surpassed the available funding for all four competitions listed above. Applicants requested over \$792 million for the two fish passage competitions, available funding is \$279 million; over \$2 billion for the habitat restoration competition, available funding is \$240 million; and \$256 million for habitat restoration priorities with Tribes and underserved communities, available funding is \$45 million.
- During Q3-Q4 FY24, NOAA will complete the review process for these competitions and finalize project selection.
- In Q2, NOAA closed the request for applications for the FY24 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund competition. NOAA received 15 applications requesting over \$168 million of \$106 million available funding. During Q3-Q4 FY24, NOAA will complete the review process and announce recommended projects in Q4.

Narrative – FY 2024, Q2

Progress on Strategy 2: Marine Debris during Q2 FY 2024:

- During Q2, NOAA hosted two webinars for letters of intent (LOI) applicants who were invited to submit a full proposal. Demand for funding was high. 120 LOI applicants requested over \$213 million in funding. Available funding across two competitions is \$28 million. NOAA received 29 full proposals for the FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law competition and 12 full proposals for the FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law competition. NOAA is working to review these proposals.
- Planning activities are underway for all 14 FY22/23 projects. Environmental compliance is complete for five projects. Three projects began removing marine debris. A statewide marine debris removal subaward competition opened in Alaska.
- During Q3, NOAA will complete the review process for FY24 competitions and finalize project selections.
- NOAA anticipates additional FY22/23 awarded projects will begin debris removal activities during Q3, and two national subaward competitions for the removal of marine debris will open for proposals.

Progress on Strategy 3: Habitat Protection and Conservation during Q2 FY 2024:

- During Q2, the notice of funding opportunities (NOFO) closed. NOAA received 32 full proposals for the FY23 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) competition and 20 full proposals for the FY23 National Estuarine Research Reserve System competition. After the review process, 20 CZM projects funded at \$59.8 million and eight Reserve projects funded at \$15 million were selected and recommended for funding.
- NOAA is working to negotiate award terms for selected projects. This process will conclude at the program level in late Q3. Awards are expected to begin in Q4.
- NOAA is working to begin the FY24 competition and plans to release the NOFO in early Q3.

Data Accuracy & Reliability

- NOAA reviews grant progress reports, conducts site visits, and has technical experts maintain regular communication to ensure accurate reporting from awardees.
- Awardees track performance indicators (e.g., weight of debris removed for debris removal and disposal activities).
 - Awardees submit a semiannual report to NOAA, detailing major project indicators and performance measures.
 - Throughout the award, NOAA provides reporting guidance to awardees.
 - Land sales provide the basis for estimating the acres protected for CZM and NERRS. Upon completing legal review, NOAA will incorporate acres acquired through fee simple acquisitions or conservation easements into the reported totals.
 - The estimation of acres restored is based on project progress reports submitted to NOAA. NOAA requires that all projects have data management plans encompassing environmental data and information collected under NOAA funded projects.

Data Source	Accuracy	Reliability	Comments
GEMS/eRA	High	High	The Department of Commerce is transitioning grant processing and management from Grants Online to the Grants Enterprise Management Solution (GEMS), which will be using the eRA platform for all grant activities.
Business Application Solution (BAS)	High	High	NOAA is working on a transition to the Business Applications Solution (BAS). BAS is a new set of financial, procurement, property management, and financial assistance software applications, which will replace our legacy systems that have been in place for nearly 25 years.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS)

Program Activities:

- Office of Habitat Conservation
- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Office of Response and Restoration, Marine Debris Program
- Office for Coastal Management, Coastal Zone Management; National Estuarine Research Reserves

Regulations:

- Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq)
- Save our Seas Act 2.0 (PL 116-224, 2020)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (PL 117-58, 2021)
- Inflation Reduction Act (PL 117-169, 2022)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94-265, 2007)
- Endangered Species Act (PL 93-205, 1973)

Policies:

- Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government
- Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Public Participation / Congressional Consultations

- Tribes: NOAA engaged with tribal leaders and will continue to engage interested tribal governments in a sustained dialogue.
- State and Local Governments
- Institutions of Higher Education: Stockton University, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Florida, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Non-Governmental Organization and/or Nonprofit: Boat U.S. Foundation, Center for Coastal Studies Inc, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Lynnhaven River NOW, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, North Carolina Coastal Federation, Pacific Coastal Research & Planning
- For-Profit Organizations: Isla Mar Research Expeditions, LLC