



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Living on the Edge: CWCI Newsletter - Summer 2017

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Living on the Edge A newsletter of the Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
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Summer 2017

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Welcome to the summer edition of Living on the Edge, the newsletter of the [Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative](#)! This is a quarterly newsletter to update Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff, partners and members of the public interested in Florida's coastal issues about current projects and other points of interest. Regular highlights will include featured projects related to coastal wildlife, interviews with our staff or partners, special seasonal considerations, news and events, and current funding opportunities. If you are interested in spreading the word about your project or someone who is doing a fantastic job in coastal conservation, please contact the CWCI Coordinator, Fara Ilami, at fara.ilami@myfwc.com.

The Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative is an FWC-led multi-agency strategy to address threats to coastal wildlife and habitats, while considering human interests and uses of Florida's coastal areas. The goal is a statewide, cooperative process to protect coastal wildlife populations, conserve and manage coastal ecosystems, and achieve balance between conservation and opportunities for recreation, commercial activities and responsible development.

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Calendar: Upcoming Meetings, Webinars, and Events

[National
Marine
Educators
Association
Annual
Conference](#),
June 25-29,
2017,
Charleston,
SC

[Regional Sea
Level
Changes and
Coastal
Impacts](#), July
10-14, 2017,
New York, NY

[International
Congress for
Conservation
Biology](#), July
23-27, 2017,
Cartagena,
Columbia

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Hot Topic: Mechanical Beach Cleaning



Mechanical beach cleaning, sometimes called “beach raking”, is the process of using tractors, trucks or other motorized equipment pulling rakes or other objects intended to remove both human-generated debris and biotic material from the beach or otherwise groom

the sand. During the summer, some coastal communities increase the frequency of their mechanical beach cleaning as more people are using the beaches. However, summer is also a critical time for wildlife using the beaches, and mechanical beach cleaning can present problems for them.

One impact of mechanical beach cleaning is a decrease in invertebrate populations found in natural [beach wrack](#) (seaweed and other vegetation that washes ashore). This means less available food for shorebirds. Mechanical cleaning equipment can also disrupt shorebird courtship and nest-site selection, destroy nest scrapes, crush well-camouflaged eggs or flightless young, and cause adults to flush from the nest – leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable to heat stress and predation. Although mechanical beach cleaning permits have provisions for sea turtle nests, hatchlings may be in danger, as they often take cover in beach wrack which is often raked away.

Action can be taken to minimize negative impacts to wildlife from mechanical beach cleaning. Some of these are [required](#), such as surveys for sea turtle nests by Marine Turtle Permit Holders authorized by the FWC. Voluntary actions that can be taken include limiting mechanical cleaning during shorebird nesting season (February through August), using a beach-nesting bird monitor to inspect the beach prior to mechanical cleaning, installing symbolic fencing around nesting areas, leaving as much wrack as possible, and removing human-generated debris by hand. The CWCI’s publication, [“Share the Beach: beach cleaning practices to minimize impacts to protected shorebirds”](#) provides additional information on these and other actions. To request hard copies of this publication to distribute to local decision-makers, please contact the CWCI Coordinator, Fara Ilami at fara.ilami@myfwc.com.

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[147th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society](#),
August 20-24,
2017, Tampa,
FL

[Marine Aquarium Conference of North America](#),
August 25-27,
2017, New Orleans, LA

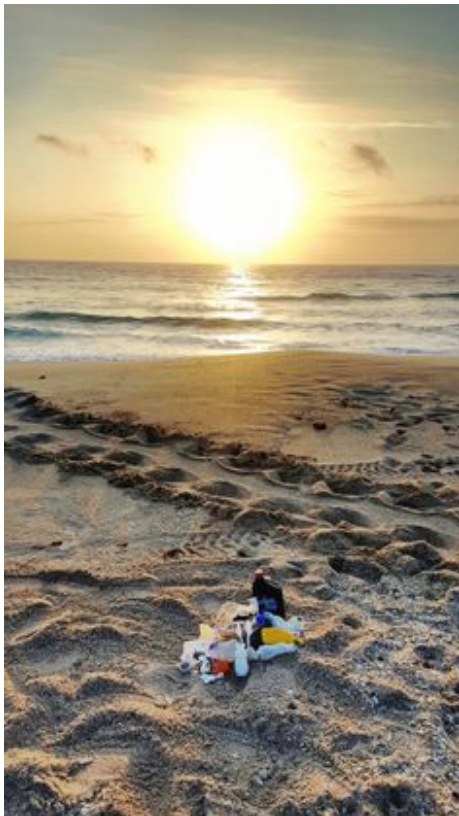
[4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress](#),
September 4-8, 2017, La Serena – Coquimbo, Chile

[Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation Annual Meeting](#),
September 27-29, 2017,
Pensacola, FL

[Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association Conference](#),
October 16-20, 2017,
Shanghai, China

[North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference and Research Symposium](#),
October 17-21, 2017, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Featured Project: Marine Debris Plan



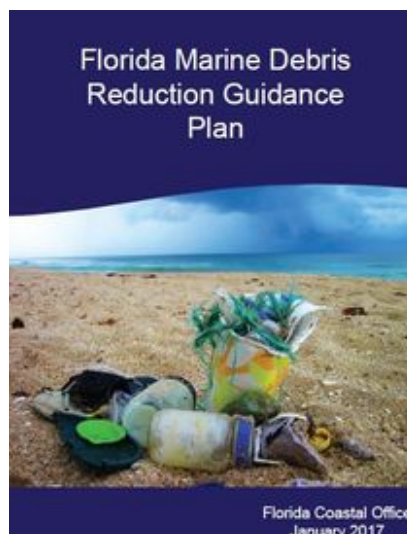
In early 2017, in a partnership among the FWC, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and numerous other statewide agencies and organizations, the *Florida Marine Debris Reduction Guidance Plan (FMDRGP or Plan)* was completed.

Marine debris is a global issue and one of the most widespread problems facing the marine environment, wildlife and habitats today. In Florida, marine debris originates from land-based and other local sources, but some is washed in by ocean currents, gyres and severe storms from other parts of the Caribbean world, including Central America, South America and even Western and Equatorial Africa. Similarly, debris originating from Florida travels across the Atlantic to other parts of the world as well. Florida is

nationally recognized for its coastal and marine resources, and these resources are increasingly harmed or degraded by marine debris.

There was a need to identify and prioritize marine debris issues to address both everyday marine debris and debris generated by severe weather. There is broad recognition that the amount of marine debris is increasing, and the sources and effects of marine debris on natural resources is beyond the capacity of any single government, private or public organization. The core purpose of the development of the *FMDRGP* was to provide people working on marine debris in the State with a common set of goals and strategies to work cooperatively to manage the problem at a statewide level as well as establish and/or strengthen international partnerships.

The *FMDRGP* is the result of a four year process supported both financially and with personnel from the NOAA Marine Debris Program. FDEP took the lead on the drafting of the *Plan* using the information generated from these annual meetings and provided by subject matter experts. FWC Divisions of Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC), Marine Fisheries Management (MFM), Law Enforcement (LE) and the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) have leadership roles in four of the five Working Groups, and 23 FWC staff have participated in workshops and the development of the Plan's goals and objectives. The *FMDRGP* development had considerable participation by government and nongovernment



[Society for Ecological Restoration Southeast Chapter Annual Symposium](#), October 18-20, Ocean Springs, MS

[Florida Association of Science Teachers Conference](#), October 19-21, 2017, Orlando, FL

[ASBPA National Coastal Conference](#), October 24-27, 2017, Fort Lauderdale, FL

[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 24th Biennial Conference](#), November 5-9, 2017, Providence, RI

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Coastal News Snippets

[New Study Shows Americans' Deep Appreciation for Nature, Barriers to Connection](#), April 26, 2017

[Lionfish and festivals and reward programs, OH](#)

organizations. Eighty-two people from 14 government organizations and 24 people from 14 nongovernment organizations participated in the Plan development.

The *Plan* introduces 5 Goals (and associated Working Groups) which encompass key resource concerns of the FWC and/or sources of particular environmental risk. (Chapter 4):

- Goal 1 – Reduce the amount of Consumer Debris
- Goal 2 – Reduce the amount of Derelict Fishing Gear
- Goal 3 – Reduce the amount of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels
- Goal 4 – Increase the capacity to respond to Emergency Debris
- Goal 5 – Reduce the impact of marine debris on Wildlife and Habitats

Goal 1 – Reduce the amount of Consumer Debris reflects what is commonly considered to be the most important first step in all waste management endeavors – reduce the amount of material that can become debris. Consumer debris is not only an eyesore, fouling economically and environmentally important beaches and other marine areas frequented by people living in and visiting Florida, but is also a threat to many listed species in Florida that accidentally ingest the debris, mistaking it for common food sources found in the marine environment. Stakeholder engagement to address the strategies outlined in this Goal are essential to address the most common causes and sources of consumer debris.

Goal 2 – Reduce the amount of Derelict Fishing Gear identifies fishing gear that is generally abandoned, lost or discarded resulting in, where surveyed, a significant source of submerged debris in Florida. Derelict fishing gear not only creates an entanglement and/or ingestion hazard for wildlife, but also causes damage to benthic marine habitats, such as seagrass beds, coral reefs and mangroves that support healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations. Derelict gear can also pose a human safety risk, particularly to boaters and scuba divers. This Goal relies on better partnerships, education and research into better technology to reduce this type of debris.

Goal 3 – Reduce the amount of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels includes several objectives that emphasize use of partnerships and education to essentially promote the need for more effective ways to prevent vessel abandonment or promote and allow effective derelict vessel disposal. Abandoned and derelict vessels can result in both environmental and navigational hazards. Florida has recently made considerable progress that allows more timely interventions to prevent vessels that are likely to become derelict from impacting the environment or public safety.



Goal 4 – Increase the capacity to respond to Emergency Debris addresses a gap in both the area of responsibility and the funding mechanism to respond to isolated events which pose an imminent threat to humans or wildlife from marine debris. Many of the strategies of this goal address the designation of authority to allow action outside of the normal role of an agency. For this Plan, emergency debris was divided into two

[MY!](#) May 1, 2017

[Nature Coast Fishing for Youth program hosted this summer in Cedar Key.](#) May 8, 2017

[Researchers revive three-decade-old study on manatee, seagrass impacts.](#) May 12, 2017

[Safe boating saves lives.](#) May 17, 2017

[EPA announces funding available for Panhandle estuary program.](#) May 21, 2017

[New research shows protective value of mangroves for coastlines.](#) June 6, 2017

[Placement of artificial reef modules off Mexico Beach now complete.](#) June 7, 2017

[Military-Civilian Partnership Brings New Oyster Reef to Northwest Florida.](#) June 7, 2017

[Mainland Miami ponders returning neighborhoods to nature in order to](#)

categories to most effectively address this goal, resulting in the Marine Debris Rapid Response Program (MDRRP) and the Disaster Debris Program (DDP). As outlined in the FMDRGP, the MDRRP “responds to marine debris of unknown origins that poses an imminent threat to human health and safety and/or natural resources that is not covered under another existing marine debris program.” DDP “strives to coordinate a response to debris resulting from a catastrophic event.”

Goal 5 – Reduce the Impact of marine debris on Wildlife and Habitats reflects a core principle of the FWC. As such, this Goal is overarching in nature, given its significant interaction with Goals 1-4, and represents the successful outcome of the other four Goals. The focus of this Goal is to minimize the impacts of marine debris on wildlife and habitats by increasing the understanding of their interactions through better and more comprehensive data monitoring and assessment, developing protocols for removal of debris from sensitive habitats, strengthening response to wildlife entanglements and/or ingestion and expanding scientific research. One such program that targets wildlife and habitat impacts is the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) managed by the FWC (<http://mrrp.myfwc.com/>). See the Staff Spotlight Section for more information on Elizabeth (‘Lizzie’) Winchester, MRRP Statewide Coordinator.

These Goals are specific to Florida but are consistent with the broader, global marine debris prevention and management issues identified by the internationally recognized Honolulu Strategy. The FMDRGP is intended to serve as a tool for aiding in the development of future agency and organizational conservation work plans and provide guidance and prioritization of research, management, outreach and conservation efforts. Intentionally, the FMDRGP does not assign actions or prescriptive measures to any specific agency or organization. The FMDRGP is intended as a living document and to serve as a guide to identify the key issues around the State. Strategies associated with each goal emphasize organizational partnerships and education and, as a living document, implementation planning is the next step in the plan to continue moving the FMDRGP forward. Agency coordinators from the FWC, NOAA and FDEP are currently working together with the five Working Groups to coordinate and assist in the development of an implementation plan and timeline.

Currently, a copy of the FMDRGP can be found at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/florida-caribbean> and http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/publications/FL_Marine_Debris_Reduction_Plan2017.pdf. A copy of the Plan will also be available soon on a new FWC Marine Debris page (in development) that will also provide opportunities for commenting and feedback, marine debris reduction resources, cleanup events and volunteer opportunities, links to related FWC Programs and much, much more! Please contact MarineDebris@MyFWC.com for more details or for marine debris related questions/comments.

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[survive rising seas](#), June 9, 2017

[Addressing climate change in your own back yard](#), June 13, 2017

[FWC reminds scallopers to stay safe, recognize and use divers-down flags and buoys](#), June 15, 2017

[Help FWC monitor fish health by reporting fish kills](#), June 20, 2017

[Accounting for Accelerated East Coast Sea Level Rise](#), June 23, 2017

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Summer Coastal Wildlife Tips: Be Careful with Fireworks!



Fireworks are a staple of summer celebrations, but both the noise and the debris left behind by fireworks can be harmful to wildlife. Fireworks tend to cause animals to panic in their efforts to flee the noise, explosive lights and the associated crowds of people, potentially resulting in stress, injury and even death. A review of studies concerning the

impacts of noise on wildlife found that wildlife behavior and individual fitness was affected, ultimately resulting in changes to ecological communities.

“Fireworks launched too close or toward a nesting colony can cause adult shorebirds to flush off their nests and chicks to scatter, leaving the chicks vulnerable to predators, the elements and the potential of getting accidentally stepped on by beach-goers,” said Nancy Douglass, who works on shorebird conservation for the FWC.

In addition to the noise factor, fireworks leave behind particulate matter that is a source of air pollution, and some firework litter may cause physical damage to wildlife.

Shorebirds, sea turtles and other coastal wildlife may become entangled in or ingest debris. Errant fireworks can also cause wildfires, damaging wildlife and habitats.

Even with these risks in mind, it is still possible to safely enjoy fireworks by following some simple guidelines:

- Leave personal fireworks, including sparklers, at home and attend an official fireworks display instead. Official displays must obtain permits which have conditions to minimize the impacts on wildlife.
- If you see firework residue remaining on the beach, pick it up and throw it away, preferably in a lidded trash can away from the beach.
- If you choose to use your own fireworks, do not ignite them near trees, dune vegetation, beach wrack, nesting areas, rookeries, brush piles or other sheltered areas where wildlife may be living. Remember that the only fireworks legal for personal use in Florida are sparklers, fountains, snakes and glow worms—nothing that explodes, flies or lifts off.
- Follow all the proper fireworks safety tips to keep friends and family members safe; many of these common sense safety tips can also protect pets and nearby wildlife from unnecessary trauma or injuries caused by fireworks.
- Spread the word about fireworks and report any activities that disturb or harm wildlife to the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone, or by texting Tip@MyFWC.com.

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Staff/Partner Spotlight: Elizabeth Winchester



1. **What is your title?** Education Specialist - Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2. **What organization do you work for?** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
3. **What type of work do you do?** I run and coordinate a variety of outreach and education programs for the state. I am the Kids' Fishing Clinic Coordinator, so I travel around to different cities in Florida putting on events to engage and teach youth ages 5-15 about ethical angling, habitat conservation, basic fishing techniques, as well as other marine resource information. I am also the state coordinator for the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP), which means I am in communication with local coordinators all over the state to make sure every location has the information and materials that they need to run a successful program. We also promote cleanup events to make sure everyone knows that they can play a part in keeping our oceans marine debris free! I am also the primary aquarist for the Division of Marine Fisheries taking care of our educational animals that we take to our outreach events.
4. **What project(s) have you recently been working on?** One of my most recent projects has been revamping our MRRP Facebook page – [Facebook.com/FloridaMRRP](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaMRRP) – check it out.
5. **How does your work relate to the CWCI?** My work relates to CWCI because of the education and outreach that I do. One of CWCI's goal is to protect coastal wildlife populations and to achieve a balance between conservation and recreational activities, such as fishing. I reach out to future anglers and teach them how to respect and conserve the coast and the species that inhabit that environment.
6. **How long have you been working in the coastal environment, and what are some lessons you have learned?** Although I've always been a beach goer, my first marine education internship was with an organization in the Keys in 2010, so I guess 7 years! I've learned how interconnected every part of the marine environment is and everything you do during your daily life has an impact on our oceans.
7. **What do you think is the greatest threat to coastal ecosystems, and what action(s) should be undertaken to address it?** I think one of the greatest threats to coastal ecosystems is single use plastics, such as plastic bottles, plastic bags, and balloons that can last hundreds of years. These items are some of the most commonly found items during beach cleanups and have the biggest effects on marine life. There are simple actions that people can take to keep these items off of our beaches: reusable water bottles, say no to straws, cloth bags when shopping, and reusing and recycling when possible!
8. **What is your favorite coastal animal, and why?** I love all species of sea turtles, especially the loggerhead sea turtle. I am fascinated with their life history: nesting on the same beach as they were born on and the eggs actually hatching. Seeing the complete process of a female laying her eggs during a late night turtle walk changed the way I looked at all things marine related.
9. **Do you have a message you would like to share with readers of this newsletter?** You can make a difference! I challenge you every time you go to the

beach, pick up and throw away (or recycle!) 5 pieces of trash and to challenge your friends and family to do the same.

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Critter of the Quarter: Loggerhead Sea Turtle



This summer's Critter of the Quarter is the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), which is the most abundant nesting sea turtle present in Florida. Loggerhead nesting and hatching season runs from May 1 through October 31st in the state of Florida, which is why this species was chosen for this quarter. The loggerhead sea turtle can weigh around 400 pounds as an adult and has a hard shell

called a carapace. They are reddish brown in color and have a large head (which is where the name "loggerhead" comes from) that has strong jaws for crushing their prey (typically mollusks and crustaceans).

Loggerhead sea turtles are reptiles and must exit the ocean to dig nests and deposit their eggs in the beach sand. The females then cover their nests and camouflage them and return to the ocean. Their nests may be subject to predation by raccoons, coyotes, foxes, ghost crabs and other animals. After 45 to 60 days, the eggs hatch, and the hatchling turtles dig their way up out of the sand together. At the surface, they orient towards the brightest horizon, which should be the ocean. Once they make it to the water, they have a "swimming frenzy" period that allows them to get out to the sargassum weed in the oceanic gyres. There they spend the next several years until they settle out as juveniles into neritic (nearshore) habitat. Once they become adults, they will make the long migration to their natal beaches to repeat the cycle.

Threats to these turtles include incidental capture from fisheries, coastal development and marine debris. Artificial lights near nesting beaches may draw turtles landward in a process we call "disorientation". Disoriented turtles are more likely to be caught by predators or may die from exhaustion or dehydration. Those that eventually make it to the water may be less fit for their offshore journey. Humans can modify their lights on beachside buildings to prevent them from disorienting turtles. Other threats to loggerheads include marine debris. Turtles can become tangled in things like discarded fishing gear that could damage their flesh or even prevent them from surfacing to breathe air. Some marine debris such as plastic bags and released balloons may also resemble their food items, causing them to ingest it and become ill or die. Properly disposing of debris and minimizing the amount of plastic you consume are great ways to prevent this risk to turtles. There is even a state law that regulates balloon releases for this reason.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Ocean Conservancy's [International Coastal Cleanup](#) – This cleanup event will take place Saturday, September 16, 2017 and involves local volunteers collecting trash and recording it on data cards. The map of locations is on the website, and anyone can add a local cleanup to the map.

FWC's [Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program](#) – Volunteer to empty a monofilament recycling bin at regular intervals at a location near you, or help keep fishing line out of the environment in other ways. For more information, contact Marine@myfwc.com.

FWC's [Kids' Saltwater Fishing Clinics](#) – Host or volunteer at one of these educational events for kids ages 5-15 to create responsible marine resource stewards, teach fundamental saltwater fishing skills, and provide kids with a positive fishing experience. For more information, contact Marine@myfwc.com.

[Florida Shorebird Alliance](#) – Volunteer to conduct bird surveys, monitor beach-nesting birds and roof-top nests, post sites, become a bird steward, or simply join a local partnership.

[Sea turtle organizations](#) – Many organizations and individuals permitted by the FWC to conduct sea turtle conservation activities use volunteers. To find out who may have local volunteer opportunities involving sea turtles, contact MarineTurtleVolunteers@MyFWC.com.

FWC's [Horseshoe Crab Mating Survey](#) – Volunteer to submit your observations of horseshoe crabs mating on beaches into the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's [online survey](#). For more information, contact horseshoe@MyFWC.com.

FWC's [Barotrauma Tool Study](#) – Volunteer to take part in a descending-device citizen science study to test a descending device and help identify the benefits and drawbacks of using this tool when fishing in deeper waters. For more information, contact Marine@MyFWC.com.

FWRI's [Red Tide Offshore Monitoring Program](#) – A volunteer program to assist the researchers who study *Karenia brevis*, the organism that causes Florida red tide. Citizen volunteers expand the spatial coverage of FWRI's monitoring program by collecting water samples from routine collection points and sites reported for suspected harmful algal blooms (HABs). For more information, contact RTOMP_coordinator@MyFWC.com.

FWRI's [Bay Scallop Harvest Survey](#) – Help biologists track the bay scallop population long term by reporting data to a [web survey](#), such as where you harvest scallops, how many you collect, and how long it takes to harvest them. For more information, contact BayScallops@MyFWC.com.

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Funding Opportunities

National Park Service [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#) — This program assists with community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives. RTCA staff provide guidance to communities so they can conserve waterways, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. The Cycle 2 deadline is **June 30, 2017**.

Mohamed bin Zayed [Species Conservation Fund](#) — Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded in support of plant, animal, and fungi species conservation efforts for endangered species, without discrimination on the basis of region or selected species. The deadlines are three times a year: February 28, **June 30**, and October 31.

Mazda Foundation [Grant Program](#) — Awards may promote education and literacy, environmental conservation, and scientific research, among other issues. Applications primarily accepted from organizations located in markets where Mazda has offices (Jacksonville, Florida). The deadline is **July 1, 2017**.

Woodard & Curran Foundation [1 Year Grants](#) — These address water scarcity through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Projects at levels of grant requests from \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be accepted. This opportunity is limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofits. The deadline is **July 1, 2017**.

Woodard & Curran Foundation [3 Year Impact Grant](#) — Award of \$100,000 funding an innovative project that applies or advances technology by addressing water issues (e.g. water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.) relating to climate change. This opportunity is limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofits. The letter of intent is due **July 1, 2017**.

National Wildlife Refuge Friends [Request for Proposals](#) — Competitive grants (\$1,500 – \$15,000) go to creative and innovative proposals that seek to increase the number and effectiveness of organizations interested in assisting the Refuge System nationwide. The deadline is **July 11, 2017**.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grants](#) — Public-private matching grants support long-term protection, restoration and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated upland habitats. U.S. Standard Grants Cycle 2 applications are due **July 14, 2017**. U.S. small grants applications are due **October 19, 2017**.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund — Florida is currently developing the GEBF Restoration Strategy, a science-based restoration planning effort which will serve as a framework for the development and implementation of GEBF projects to restore and conserve Gulf Coast natural resources. There is a **July 14th, 2017** deadline for new and updated projects to be submitted to the state project portal to be reviewed for inclusion in the Restoration Strategy. For more information see the NFWF-GEBF page at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com or email Amy.Raker@MyFWC.com. Note: The portal will remain open after this deadline – any submitted or updated projects before or after this deadline will continue to be reviewed for all Deepwater Horizon funding streams, as appropriate.

National Park Service [Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program](#) — This provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of lands and waters for outdoor recreation purposes. Search grants.gov number P17AS00340. The deadline is **July 31, 2017**.

Environmental Protection Agency [RESTORE Northwest Florida Estuary Program](#) — This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals to develop and stand-up a place-based estuary program encompassing one or more of the following bays in Florida's northwest panhandle region: Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, St. Andrews Bay and Apalachicola Bay. The deadline is **August 1, 2017**.

Environmental Protection Agency [Gulf of Mexico Program](#) — This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals that address water quality improvement; coastal habitat and ecosystems enhancement, restoration and/or protection; environmental education and outreach; and community resilience in the Gulf of Mexico region and its watersheds. The deadline is **August 4, 2017**.

Wildlife Acoustics [Scientific Product Grant](#) — Wildlife Acoustics has established a grant program to support bioacoustics research efforts from chiropteran, avian, terrestrial, amphibious and marine wildlife, to everything else in between. The deadline is **August 15, 2017**.

Alcoa Foundation [Grant Program](#) — Sustainability is a major focus promoting 1) the prevention of and resilience to climate change and 2) the restoration and preservation of biodiversity. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis.

George & Miriam Martin Foundation [Grants](#) — The focus of the foundation is river and watershed conservation. There are no deadlines.

[Rockefeller Family Fund](#) — Grant making currently has an environment program focus on the challenges of climate change with an emphasis on public education. Letters of inquiry (LOI) may be submitted at any time.

[Surdna Foundation Grantmaking](#) — Grant making to nonprofit organizations in the priority areas of Sustainable Environments, Strong Local Economies and Thriving Cultures. Letters of inquiry (LOI) may be submitted at any time.

[Waite Foundation Rapid Ocean Conservation \(ROC\) Grants](#) — This opportunity provides small grants with a quick turnaround time for solutions to emerging conservation issues. The funding cycle is open to new applications. Proposals are reviewed monthly on a rolling basis, although some applications take additional time to evaluate.

[Wells Fargo Environmental Grant Program](#) — Environmental grant program focuses on addressing local environmental priorities in communities and providing support that fosters innovation to help accelerate a “green” economy. One letter of inquiry per year per organization is accepted.

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