

## Marine Debris Clean-Up Program Guide

### Eligibility & Purpose

The Marine Debris Clean-Up Program provides financial support to organizations planning to address the issue of debris/litter on Nova Scotia’s freshwater and marine shorelines. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship as a means to protect our waters and continue to produce high-quality seafood products.

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture celebrates inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. We encourage applicants to provide a brief description of how their organization or project takes these principles into consideration in the “Brief Description of Applicant” space in section 1.0 of the application. Applying an inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility lens to your work and your project can take many forms. This could include actions like:

- You may choose to self-identify as a member of an equity-deserving group (Persons with Disabilities, Women in occupations or positions where they are under-represented, African Nova Scotians, Indigenous People, and Other Racially Visible Persons)?
- As an organization, how have you incorporated or applied inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility to your organization, for example: employing members of an equity-deserving group, have equity and diversity training?

These are just examples. In your application, explain if/how you are applying an inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility lens to your project. We will work with applicants to enable projects that support this evaluation criteria.

Please see the “Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Information Sheet” for additional information on these principles.

### Funding Streams

The Program is composed of three funding streams:

- (1) Shoreline Clean-Up Stream- supporting clean-up efforts of marine and freshwater coastlines.
  - Applications considered on an **ongoing basis, while funding is available.**

Shoreline Clean-Up Activity	Funding Options
One event/activity	Option 1: Funding up to 50% of total eligible program costs to a maximum of \$1,500
	Option 2: Funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$2,500 if the following two criteria are met....

- Seafood industry participation in the event
- Recycling component included in the clean-up

If criteria for seafood industry participation and recycling are not met, the requirements of the funding will not be complete. Funding will not be awarded.

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**Multiple events/activities**

Funding up to 75% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5,000 if the following two criteria are met....

- Seafood industry participation in events
- Recycling component included in clean-ups

If criteria for seafood industry participation and recycling are not met, the requirements of the funding will not be complete. Funding will not be awarded.

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(2) Marine Debris/Litter Prevention Stream- exploring methods of mitigating litter from reaching our water systems.

- Applications submitted by **August 30, 2024** will be considered in a **competitive process**.
- Funding up to 50% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$3,000
- Applications can be strengthened by including...
  - Strong collaboration with seafood industry (as outlined in Industry Engagement Plan section of application)
  - A recycling component to the project
  - Estimated performance metrics such as kilograms of debris prevented/diverted, number of participants, number of receptacles installed, etc.
  - Clear description of the project impact on the sustainable development of the seafood sector

(3) Marine Debris/Litter Recycling Stream- investigating waste diversion solutions that encourage recycling over sending debris to landfill.

- Applications submitted by **August 30, 2024** will be considered in a **competitive process**.
- Funding up to 50% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5,000
- Applications can be strengthened by including...
  - Strong collaboration with seafood industry (as outlined in Industry Engagement Plan section of application)
  - Estimated performance metrics such as kilograms of debris recycled, number of participants, number of receptacles installed, etc.
  - Clear description of the project impact on the sustainable development of the seafood sector

## Eligible Expenses

Applicants may submit proposals to fund purchase of items/fees including but not limited to:

- Materials and supplies (e.g., gloves, wire cutters, bags)
- Equipment rental
- Activities to promote the project and recruit volunteers (at a maximum of 10% of total project costs)

- Liability insurance (limited to expense directly associated with the event/project)
- Pick Up Costs (tipping fees, municipal waste collection trips)
- Costs for specialized workers or consultants.
  - Note: This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must be directly related to the shoreline clean-up event or prevention/recycling project in the application.

Remaining project costs may include in-kind or financial contributions from the applicant or other sources. Applicants will be asked to provide supporting documentation for the value assigned to in-kind contributions (quotes, justification for valuation, etc.). All funding sources and expenses must be itemized in the application documents submitted.

### Ineligible Expenses

- General operational funding (e.g. ongoing or recurrent expenses, administrative expenses, etc)
- Organizational and operational labour costs (e.g. overhead, project management, event coordination, application preparation)
- Expenses that do not directly contribute to the purpose of the funding stream (e.g. promotional merchandise)

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture reserves the right to, at its discretion, determine if expenses are eligible and the total allowable value for that expense to maximize program funding allocations in support of the goals of the fund (kilometres cleaned, kilograms/pounds of debris collected or recycled, etc.). This may include (but is not limited to) capping reimbursement totals for line items, requiring consideration of cost-effective alternatives, and declining to cover expenses based on the overall project budget. This includes in-kind budget items. Applicants are encouraged to ensure that the project budget maximizes the impact of each funding dollar.

### Proposal Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a brief application outlining particulars of the planned clean-up event or activity per the provided template. Note: if you plan to conduct multiple clean-up events, you may submit these under a single application. You will have the option to include additional support documents, such as endorsement letters or supplier quotes, as applicable.

### Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based on merit (feasibility of the project and qualifications of the applicant and project partners), estimated performance metrics such as kilometres cleaned or kilograms of debris recycled, project costs, community and seafood industry support, and project impact on the sustainable development of the seafood sector.

The Department has the authority to deny an application based on any of the selection criteria or availability of funding.

## Reporting Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a Clean-Up Report to the Department (per provided template) outlining event, industry participation and litter details. Applicants must also provide receipts for actual costs incurred in order to receive funding. Applicants are also encouraged to take photos during the clean-up event for use by NSDFA in future Program promotion, pending approval and photo release.

For Marine Debris/Litter Prevention and Recycling stream projects, applicants will be required to submit a final project report on their results, industry participation, learnings, key performance indicators, and plans to scale their project (per provided template).

## Application Process

Applications will be accepted for the 2024-2025 fiscal year through February 1, 2025, or until funds are exhausted.

Marine Debris Prevention and Recycling Stream applications must be submitted prior to the August 30, 2024 deadline to be eligible for consideration in the competitive process.

All receipts for reimbursement of eligible, approved project expenses must be submitted in advance of March 1, 2025. Funding will be paid out when all required documentation, as outlined in the contract, has been received, reviewed and meets expectations. Funding will be processed as a single, one-time payment to the applicant.

Please submit a completed application form or queries by e-mail to [MarineCleanUp@novascotia.ca](mailto:MarineCleanUp@novascotia.ca) or send by mail to:

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Services Division  
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
1800 Argyle St, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor (Suite 603) Halifax, NS B3J 3N8

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Department and applications will be assessed in the order they were received. You will then receive a subsequent email informing you if your application was successful or not. Successful applicants will enter into contract with the Department in advance of conducting their proposed clean-up. Following the clean-up, receipts for eligible expenses (per the contract) will be submitted for reimbursement.