

## ***Marine Debris Clean-Up Program Guide***

### **Eligibility & Purpose**

The Marine Debris Clean-Up Program provides financial support to organizations or individuals planning to remove debris/litter from 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 diversity and encourages applicants from under-represented groups to identify themselves in the application process in the "Brief Description of Applicant" space in section 1.0.

### **Funding Streams**

The Program is composed of one core funding stream and two new funding streams:

- (1) Shoreline Clean-Up stream, supporting clean-up efforts of marine and freshwater coastlines.
  - Funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$2,500
- (2) Marine Debris/Litter Prevention stream, exploring methods of mitigating litter from reaching our water systems.
  - Funding up to 50% of total eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$5,000
- (3) Marine Debris/Litter Recycling stream, investigating waste diversion solutions that encourage recycling over sending debris to landfill.
  - Funding up to 50% of total eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$10,000

Remaining project costs may include in-kind or financial contributions from the applicant or other sources. All funding sources must be identified in the application documents submitted.

### **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), project costs, community support, and project impact of commercial and social prosperity of the seafood sector.

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

## 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
- Pick Up Costs (tipping fees, municipal waste collection trips)
- Wages for specialized workers or consultants.
  - Note: this may apply to clean-up organizers and/or specialized staff. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Other expenses to support the clean-up or activity will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Reporting Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a Clean-Up Report to the Department (per provided template) outlining event 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, learnings, key performance indicators, and plans to scale their project (per provided template).

## Application Process

Applications will be accepted for the 2023-2024 fiscal year through February 1, 2024, or until funds are exhausted. All receipts for reimbursement of eligible, approved project expenses must be submitted in advance of March 31, 2024.

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.