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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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13 office(s), 1,400 location(s), 47,000 employees, and 10,000 new hire(s) in Fiscal Year 2023

[technical assistance](#) 

The Department of Commerce’s mission is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all communities. To increase our nation’s competitiveness, opportunity must equitably be within reach of every American.

Environmental justice results in equity and is fundamental to good commerce. America’s diversity is its competitive advantage – but only if everyone has an opportunity to fulfill their potential and fully participate.

Some examples of well-known Department of Commerce offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Economic Development Administration
- National Institute of Standards and Technology

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Department of Commerce in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less](#) ^)

\$2.6 Billion Framework to Protect Coastal Communities and Restore Marine Resources

In June 2023, the Department of Commerce unveiled a \$2.6 billion framework to invest in coastal resilience through President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. As part of the President's Investing in America agenda, this initiative will support communities and people on the frontlines of climate change, dedicating nearly \$400 million specifically for Tribal priorities and benefiting coastal and Great Lakes communities nationwide with an emphasis on environmental justice. The historic \$2.6 billion investment in climate resilience and coastal communities will help ensure communities, especially Tribes

The Minority Business Development Agency Invests in Underserved Entrepreneurs and Minority Colleges and Universities

In FY 2023, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) [launched](#) the Capital Readiness Program, a \$125 million

and vulnerable populations, have the resources and support needed to prepare, adapt, and build resilience to severe weather and climate events as well as strengthen workforce development, marine resources, nature-based solutions, conservation, regional partnerships, and Tribal priorities.

These programs include: (1)

[Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

(\$575 million): National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invests in holistic, collaborative approaches to coastal resilience at regional scales with new competitive grant program. This program is covered by the Justice40 Initiative and [technical assistance](#) helped applicants navigate federal grants systems, develop proposals and budgets, and tap climate-resilience expertise during the proposal development stages of the competition. (2)

[Tribal Priorities](#) (\$390 million):

NOAA provided funding specifically for Tribes based on priorities set through Tribal consultation. Funding supported habitat restoration, fish passage,

program to help minority and other underserved entrepreneurs grow and scale their businesses to serve local communities. The Capital Readiness Program incubates and accelerates businesses in high-growth industries like climate resilient technology and infrastructure that can help to reduce health and environmental impacts for communities

capacity building, science, fish hatcheries, and Pacific salmon. (3) [Climate-Ready Workforce](#) (\$60 million): NOAA invests in the emerging and existing needs of employers by placing workers in high quality jobs that enhance climate resilience. Funding will also aid training and support services that will help American workers advance their careers and implement climate resilience efforts within public and private sectors.

[Learn more](#) 

marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Also in FY 2023, the MBDA [announced](#) \$1.75 million in grants to seven minority-serving educational institutions as part of an expanded pilot program to support entrepreneurship for undergraduate students who will bring climate resilience and other

Census Bureau Social Science Research on Environmental Inequality

Throughout FY 2023, Census Bureau researchers had multiple ongoing projects documenting the distribution of exposure to environmental hazards and the causes and consequences of these exposures. For example, Census staff have developed the Census Environmental Impacts Frame, a confidential microdata infrastructure which allows researchers to study the distribution of exposure to environmental hazards, and the causes and consequences of these exposures.

[Learn more](#) 

National Telecommunications and Information Administration Investments for All 50 States, the District of Columbia, Five Territories, and Tribal Lands

Access to the internet and broadband is critical for

benefits to local communities through their businesses. These grantees join a cohort of four other Minority Colleges and Universities awarded in 2021. This expands the pilot program supporting inclusive entrepreneurship with seven new grantees. This program will lay the foundation for a future generation of entrepreneurial

communities with environmental justice concerns. The internet provides access to information and tools, allows communities to participate in decision-making, and connects communities with resources to improve resilience. In FY 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) [announced](#) funding allocations to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five Territories to deploy affordable, reliable high-speed internet service to everyone in America. The Internet for All initiative is a key component of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. NTIA also [announced](#) the availability of nearly \$1 billion in funding to expand Internet access and adoption on Tribal Lands. This second round of funding from the Internet for All initiative's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will make available up to approximately \$980 million available for Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities for the deployment of Internet infrastructure on Tribal lands, affordability programs, telehealth,

leaders and innovators, including in climate resilience and infrastructure.

[Learn more](#) 

and distance learning initiatives.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office Expands and Extends its Climate Change Mitigation Pilot Program

The burdens of climate change can disproportionately impact communities with environmental justice concerns. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is addressing the impacts of climate change through the recently expanded and extended [Climate Change Mitigation Pilot Program](#)

. The program expedites the examination of patent applications for technologies that reduce, remove, prevent, and/or monitor greenhouse gas emissions.

Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Department of Commerce in Fiscal Year

What is the Justice40

(FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

The Department is implementing President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative as a series of systemic changes to improve equitable distribution of the benefits of 14 Justice40 covered programs across three bureaus. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has 12 of these Justice40 covered programs and is working to increase access to funding and technical assistance to ensure that Tribal and disadvantaged communities have the resources they need to respond and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Department of Commerce has laid the foundation for programming and policies that will reach a larger and more diverse audience and address key barriers to economic success for disadvantaged communities. More information is available on the Department’s

[Justice40 Initiative webpage](#) .

Justice40 Covered Programs ([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Commerce has:

- **14** Justice40 covered program(s), including **10** Justice40 covered

Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **Department of Commerce** has:

approximately

\$1.9 billion

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.¹

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **Department of Commerce** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#), and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **14** covered program(s) at **Department of Commerce** working to deliver benefits for communities

include:

- **13** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **1** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **2** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

¹*In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).*

In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.

Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.

Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))

The Department of Commerce is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

Economic Development Administration: Establishment of the Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities Initiative

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a \$2.6 million grant to the National Association of Counties (NACo) to lead a Community of Practice, the Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities Initiative, which is designed to help communities in coal-reliant regions enact place-based, locally-driven development strategies to build thriving, resilient economies. The establishment of this multi-organizational, self-governing, knowledge-sharing community will empower local government leaders, nonprofit organizations, and other community champions to develop new ideas, approaches, and fundable projects as coal communities transform their economies.

Learn more 

NOAA's Climate Adaptation Partnerships to Help Frontline Communities Reduce Risks from Increasing Flooding and Drought

In September 2023, NOAA's Climate Adaptation Partnerships program announced eight new awards of \$3.9 million to support work in flood- and wildfire-impacted communities to help test, scale, and transfer knowledge and build adaptation capacity, with a focus on frontline communities, including in disadvantaged communities.

Learn more 

NOAA Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal

In 2023, NOAA awarded more than \$16 million in funding for 13 projects led by Tribal applicants for fish passage and to build Tribal organizational capacity. These projects support Tribes in their role as managers and stewards of Tribal trust resources for cultural, spiritual, economic, subsistence, and recreational purposes.

[Learn more](#) 

Funding Announcements

([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Commerce has:

- **11** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **Approximately \$1,569,000,000** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements²

Economic Development Administration's Assistance to Energy Transition Communities

In FY 2023, the Notice of Funding Opportunity provided specific investment assistance, including to disadvantaged communities that have been negatively impacted by a nuclear power plant, biomass facility, or coal plant or coal mine closure. The broad-based economic benefits of such transition assistance will pose direct benefit to disadvantaged communities, as these communities typically face severe economic struggle in the face of transition without assistance.

Learn more 

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

This \$240 million Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants program will help sustain fisheries, make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and help protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.

[Learn more](#) 

²Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).

Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Commerce made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

Economic Development Administration Updated FY 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance to Include Equity and Climate Considerations

The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance – which includes the Assistance to Energy Transition Communities program, a Justice40 covered program – FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity was modified to include specific language regarding the necessity of equity and climate considerations. This language advises applicants to ensure that the economic benefits of the project will be shared by all communities in the project region.

NOAA Creating a Set Aside for Tribal Communities

Through its \$45 million Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities [program](#) , NOAA set aside \$20 million specifically for projects supported by Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent Tribes.

Justice40 In Action ([show less ^](#))

The Department of Commerce is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:

NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities

In 2023, NOAA awarded nearly \$25 million in funding for

Economic Development Administration's Assistance to Energy Transition Communities

As a result of grants funded through the Assistance to Coal Communities and Assistance to Nuclear Closure Communities appropriations, grantees estimate that these communities will see the creation of 4,621 new jobs and the preservation of 896 existing jobs.

35 new projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration priorities of Tribes and underserved and disadvantaged communities. Projects support community-driven habitat restoration and help build the capacity of underserved communities to participate in restoration activities more fully. Project examples include: (1) The Kashia Band of Pomo Indians will

NOAA's Return to the River: The Upper Mattaponi Tribe Reclaim their Ancestral Lands

NOAA is supporting the rematriation of 853 acres of ancestral lands along Virginia's Mattaponi River to their original stewards, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. The site, a former sand and gravel mine, will now be connected to over 3,000 acres of previously protected land along the Mattaponi River. This linkage expands a conservation corridor protecting fish, wildlife, and plants that are culturally significant to the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. The re-acquisition effort was supported by a \$3 million investment from NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Learn more 

begin red
abalone
restoration
on their
ancestral
lands in
northern
California's
kelp forest
ecosystem.
They will
take steps
toward
establishing
a Tribal
breeding
program for
red abalone
and will train
and employ
Tribal divers
to conduct
ecological
monitoring.
(2)
Terrebonne
Parish
Consolidated
Government
with the
Grand
Caillou/Dulac
Band of
Biloxi-

Chitimacha-
Choctaw
Tribe, the
Pointe-au-
Chien Indian
Tribe, and
the Jean
Charles
Choctaw
Nation will
restore
coastal
wetlands on
or near
sacred and
culturally
significant
sites. (3)
Buffalo
Niagara
Waterkeeper
will work
toward
restoring
habitat in the
highly
impaired
Scajaquada
Creek
watershed. A
Community
Advisory
Group will
play an

active role in creating a restoration plan and advancing restoration efforts.

[Learn more](#) 

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work at the Department of Commerce has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice

([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Department of Commerce in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) NEPA [procedures](#) contain general information about considering environmental justice in the NEPA process. NOAA's line and regional offices have practices that involve considering environmental justice in all levels of NEPA review, partnering with other agencies on environmental justice analyses, and translating NEPA-related materials into other languages.

Additionally, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has a formal Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy that contains some information regarding the NEPA process. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) continues to perform its own environmental reviews to identify any adverse environmental impacts associated with its project investments, as required under NEPA. EDA's environmental review process provides an opportunity to evaluate the full environmental impact of an EDA-funded

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

project to ensure that the project complies with all applicable environmental laws and regulations and to identify any potential disproportionate and adverse environmental or health effects on communities with environmental justice concerns. As part of this effort, applicants are required to complete an [Environmental Narrative](#) , which among other items, requires the applicant to discuss environmental justice.

Training

- **5** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **64** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, the learning objectives of NOAA NEPA training include greater awareness when writing and reviewing NEPA documents, and when completing the design, scoping, and public input phases of the NEPA process.

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships

with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at the Department of Commerce in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

As part of the development and rollout of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy, there were numerous engagements with partners and communities across the NMFS regions. NMFS has put equity and environmental justice principles into practice by centering engagement with communities with environmental justice concerns during research, policy development and education, and fishery stock assessments.

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center implemented a Community Engagement Protocol, requiring scientists to (1) reach out to potentially affected communities at least six months prior to planned research to discuss the project with potential affected communities; (2) check for overlaps with any ongoing subsistence activities in the region and mitigating action, if needed, in response to community concerns; and (3) provide regular updates while research activities are taking place and timely follow-up with preliminary results so that local communities are the first to hear what is happening in their backyard.

Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^)

- **3** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities Applicant Webinars

In September 2023, the Office of Habitat Conservation provided technical assistance through multiple live webinars for Tribal and underserved communities applying for the Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants.

[Learn more](#) 

How to Apply for Federal Grants Training in U.S. Territories

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), and Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC) jointly hosted six "How to Apply for Federal Grants" training workshops in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa with a total of 348 participants. The workshops were designed to increase the accessibility of federal funding opportunities for communities in the territories.

Public Processes ([show less ^](#))

- **3** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions, including:

NOAA Alaska Salmon Research Task Force

Alaska Fisheries Science Center is supporting work of the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force to bring Indigenous community voices and Indigenous and Local Knowledge into the discussion and inform development of a collaborative science plan for sustainable management of salmon in Alaska.

Learn more 

NOAA Request for Information: Advancing Equity and Environmental Justice in the Southeast Through the Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources

In July 2023, NOAA issued a public request for information to solicit stakeholder input to inform the operationalization of NOAA Fisheries' Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy in the Southeast Region.

Outreach to Advance Equity and Environmental Justice in Alaska Through the Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources

Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Alaska Regional Office conducted nine telephone town halls with Tribal Councils and Tribal organizations in Alaska to build relationships and support regional implementation of the national Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy.

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of Commerce, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has established policies and guidance to provide for meaningful and timely input from Federally Recognized Tribes into NOAA's decision-

making process on policy matters that have Tribal implications. In July 2023, NOAA released a revised Consultation Handbook and associated NOAA Administrative Order, as well as published an Indigenous Knowledge Guidance. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) follows the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy when conducting a consultation.

- **13** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice

Economic Development Administration's Design and Implementation of Two Programs Authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022

The Economic Development Administration sought consultation on design and implementation of the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs) and specific consultation on the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program on an issue where the statutory dataset for Tribes does not exist. Consultation led to program design changes such as 100% grant rate to extend eligibility and supported Tribal Sovereignty by allowing Tribes to self-certify the required information.

NOAA Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Harvest Specifications Consultation

In February 2023, NOAA Fisheries held Tribal consultation with several Alaska Native Tribal government representatives to discuss the impacts of salmon declines in Western/Interior Alaska subsistence communities.

Through the [North Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)

, harvest specifications are set annually. The Council and NMFS are committed to continued improvements in bycatch management.

NOAA Federal Subsistence Management Program

In October 2022, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hosted a listening session and three Tribal and Alaska Native corporation consultation sessions on how to improve the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

- **Over 81** Tribal listening sessions and other engagements related to environmental justice

For example, NOAA helped facilitate the Department of Commerce signing Joint Secretarial Order 3403, which was announced at the November 2022 White House Tribal Leaders Summit. After Inflation Reduction Act consultations in March 2023, 17 additional engagements occurred with Tribal representatives. In July 2023, NOAA Ocean Exploration staff spent over a week engaging and teaching more than 75 campers at the 26th Annual Camp Qungaayux. In September 2023, NOAA and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes co-hosted the Workshop for Building Drought Resilience in a Changing Climate with Upper Columbia and Missouri Basin Tribes. The Economic Development Administration held an informational webinar to introduce the Recompete Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity to Indigenous communities with a targeted approach to relay information and answer questions about the program. The webinar led to a better understanding of eligibility and clarification on the different ways in which to apply.

Training

- **5** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and

Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

- **464** employees trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, in December 2022, NOAA held a workforce training webinar entitled, “NOAA and Native Peoples: Perspectives on Indian Country, who it includes, and where NOAA fits in.” In July 2023, the NOAA Tribal Team created a community of practice for Indigenous engagement, partnerships, and Indigenous Knowledge to provide a platform for NOAA practitioners to share ideas, concerns, resources, and tools and to potentially develop common solutions. The second event was held in September 2023. The EDA Tribal Communities meeting is facilitated by the Tribal Engagement Coordinator and the agendas are designed to provide information about Tribal policy, issues, and initiatives (e.g., Executive Order 13175), and provide a space to answer questions related to Tribal engagement. It is also a space for participants to share experiences/learnings about working with Tribes with other participants.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Department of Commerce including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#) , in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

In FY 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed an Administrative Order for Environmental Justice.

- **127** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **1** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

Training

- **14** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **742** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

For example, in November 2023, the National Ocean Science Office of Response and Restoration’s Assessment Restoration Division, through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, hosted an “Environmental Justice 101”

NOAA Restoration for Fish, Wildlife and Communities Coming to Seven Polluted Waterways

In 2023, NOAA and partners helped to recover over \$92.8 million from polluters to restore

training webinar for all staff, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less ^](#))

- **Has** issued or updated policy, guidance, or directives related to environmental justice (internal or external)

NOAA Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy

In May 2023, NOAA Fisheries released its first-ever national [Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy](#) to guide the agency as it focuses on serving all communities more equitably and effectively. This national strategy addresses equity and environmental justice (EEJ) and applies to all NOAA Fisheries program offices and regions. It identifies six core areas of EEJ to be addressed and provides actions, metrics, and resource needs.

[Learn more](#) 

seven waterways in six states following oil spill and industrial pollution incidents. These restoration efforts will benefit fish, wildlife, and disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

NOAA Native Hawaiian Engagement Guide

NOAA works toward its mission through six major line offices. The NOAA Native Hawaiian Engagement Guide was a cross-office initiative with the Department of the Interior and Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan pursuant to [Executive Order 14096](#)

Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources ([show less](#) ^)

- **5** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

NOAA Fisheries Social Indicators for Coastal Communities Toolbox

NOAA Fisheries developed social indicators to characterize community well-being for coastal communities engaged in fishing activities. The toolbox includes 14 social, economic, and climate change indicators that characterize community vulnerability to disturbances (regulations, extreme weather, oil spills, sea level rise, etc.). Users can analyze environmental justice and climate vulnerability of over 4,600 coastal communities in 24 states.

Learn more 

Office of Response and Restoration: Environmental Response Management Environmental Justice Layers

The Environmental Response Management Application is an online mapping tool that incorporates layers for users to visualize different populations impacted by environmental justice issues. Data is incorporated from the Environmental Protection Agency's EJScreen, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and others.

Learn more 

Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees

([show less](#) ^)

- **19** new or strengthened internal agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice
- **20** new or existing federal advisory committee(s) related to environmental justice

Interagency Collaboration ([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Commerce participates in the [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#) (IAC), which President Biden established in 2021 and expanded in 2023 through executive orders on tackling the climate crisis and environmental justice.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology participates in the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee, launched in 2023 as provided by President Biden's executive order on environmental justice. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee is to address the need for a coordinated federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice.

[Return to top](#)

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