

## Experiential Environmental Education Program



**Grant Donor:** The Amgen Foundation

**Grantee:** Clean Ocean Access

**Year:** 2018-2019

**Grant Value:** \$10,000

### **Grant Overview:**

The project aims to address the problem of marine debris, impaired water quality, habitat loss, and restrictions on the ability for the public to enjoy the shoreline by implementing three marina trash skimmers in southeast New England and integrating our Experiential Environmental Education project to foster environmentally responsible behaviors. The objectives for the Experiential Environmental Education project will rely on integrating: (1) the proven solutions and success of our four marina trash skimmer implementations that focus on marine debris removal via technology and innovation combined with prevention via education and outreach, with our (2) existing and expanding education and outreach efforts for improving water quality, protecting and preserving shoreline access, and addressing the environmental justice issues facing our communities. The issue of marine debris is a solvable problem and starts with individuals making better decisions on land. It is easy to understand, but overwhelming with the ever-increasing amount of single use material in our lives. By putting this in context with technology, innovation, and hope, actions can be inspired to make impactful changes to reduce material that can become litter or marine debris.

### **Expected Impact:**

Clean Ocean Access aims to break down the barriers of seemingly different environmental issues by leveraging interest and awareness of each issue to be a catalyst of change across the entire spectrum. The marina trash skimmers are a highly effective tool at removing floating surface debris from the waterways and is an excellent educational opportunity to inspire and empower the community to make better choices to prevent litter from becoming marine debris. Clean Ocean Access expects to engage hundreds of students in the Experiential Environmental Education project, including marina trash skimmer education along with public outreach to connect with the larger community. This will continue into 2019 to achieve the goal of reaching students and the larger community by leveraging partnerships through the Aquidneck Island community. Clean Ocean Access hopes this can become a model for other organizations to combine marina trash skimmers with the Experiential Environmental Education project's hands-on learning activities.