

Southeast New England Marina Trash Skimmers Project



Grant Donor: 11th Hour Racing

Grantee: Clean Ocean Access

Year: 2018-2019

Grant Value: \$96,447

Grant Overview:

Clean Ocean Access has performed over 550 coastal cleanups around Aquidneck Island with the impact of removing over 110,000 pounds of marine debris from the coastline. With this historical performance, Clean Ocean Access now aims to focus on a comprehensive approach of marine debris removal and prevention. The aim of this project, Southeast New England Marina Trash Skimmers (SNEMTS), is to identify partners and operators to install, maintain, and operate three marina trash skimmers at high impact high value locations across Southeast New England, (Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). This project will build upon the accomplishments and lessons learned with of the three existing marina trash skimmers located in Newport Harbor in partnership with the City of Newport in 2016, Portsmouth in partnership with New England Boatworks in 2017, and at Fort Adams State Park in partnership with Sail Newport in 2017. These devices operate 24-hours a day collecting marine debris, oil sheens, and improving water quality by trapping the unwanted marine waste.

Expected Impact:

The expected impact of installing three additional marina trash skimmers in high-value locations will be to reduce the amount of marine debris, which will bring awareness to the types of re-accumulating debris, promote environmental stewardship, and encourage implementation elsewhere. This aligns with Clean Ocean Access's goal of eliminating marine debris from the shoreline and changing human behavior to improve ocean health long term. With the plan to partner with the marine community and showcase the results of the skimmers, this will engage a larger audience to change behaviors to impact this solvable problem of marine debris. Additionally, part of the project is to obtain partners for each skimmer, which will create a consulting aspect to ensure this program becomes self-sustaining. This will achieve the outcomes of maintaining our existing trash skimmer units on Aquidneck Island and generate revenue to expand the marina trash skimmer initiative.