

## **Video Message on Coastal Habitat Recovery Projects**

**Dr. Jane Lubchenco**

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Hello, this is Jane Lubchenco.

I'm excited to speak with you today about a milestone achieved this week for NOAA's habitat restoration efforts.

On Tuesday, I visited the Magnolia Wetlands Restoration Project in Huntington Beach, California. The site is one of 50 habitat restoration projects NOAA is undertaking with states, tribes and conservation organizations, as part of the 167 million dollars we received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

These restoration projects, which will support more than 5,000 jobs, span the country from New England's salt marshes, to the shores of the Great Lakes, to the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands.

NOAA received more than 800 proposals, vetted by a team of 200 NOAA technical reviewers. Among those we selected 50, based on three criteria: high ecological value, the potential for swift job creation, and shovel-readiness. You may find a complete list of projects at <http://www.noaa.gov/recovery>.

Let me give you just a snapshot of what this funding means for conservation:

- It means restoring more than 8,900 acres of damaged wetlands and protecting more than 11,750 acres of coral reefs.
- It means removing unsafe or obsolete dams to reopen more than 700 miles of streams for spawning fish.
- It means building sustainable oyster reefs and shellfish habitats.
- And, when complete, we will have removed more than 850 metric tons of marine debris.

These efforts are also making good on NOAA's and the administration's promise to provide Americans with green jobs now.

Because our coastal areas generate nearly half of the nation's gross domestic product and support more than 28 million jobs. The health of our coasts and the health of our nation's economy are irrevocably linked.

These critical restoration efforts are spread over 22 states and two territories. They will employ Americans in areas with some of the highest rates of unemployment, such as California, Oregon and Michigan.

Laborers, ecologists, landscape architects, nursery workers, crabbers, fishermen, and others will be called upon to protect our coastal environments from the threats they are facing from climate change and sea-level rise.

I hope you'll take time to learn more about NOAA's "Coastal Restoration at Work" by visiting <http://www.noaa.gov/recovery>.

Of the site's many features, you'll find an interactive "Restoration Atlas," complete with images and video, where you can track the progress of all 50 restoration projects.

In closing, I wish you a safe and relaxing Fourth of July holiday.

Signing off, this is Jane Lubchenco.