

The John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance
Grant Program

Program Report FY 2016–2020

A 5-Year Review of Federal Grant Support to the
Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement
Networks to Respond to and Conserve Entangled
and Stranded Marine Mammals



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Cover photo: Release of rehabilitated and satellite-tagged California sea lion into waters of the Pacific Ocean. Credit: Atlantic Marine Conservation Society

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Executive Summary

In 2000, Congress mandated the [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#) (Prescott Grant Program) under the authority of Title IV of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Title IV of the MMPA had been established by Congress 8 years earlier in 1992, and formalized the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP). Since 2001, Congress has appropriated up to \$4.0 million annually to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to fund eligible members of the National Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement Networks (Network) through grants and cooperative agreements for the response to or treatment of marine mammals, the collection of data from living or dead stranded or entangled marine mammals for health research, and the support of facility operation costs, for organizations working with species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. Over the first 20 years of the Program, from 2001 through 2020, the MMHSRP awarded more than \$63.9 million in funding through 739 competitive grants to Network members in 26 states, two tribes, two territories, and the District of Columbia. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries sets aside a portion of Prescott Grant Program funds for emergency assistance with unforeseen stranding events, and provided \$2.7 million in emergency funds from [2001 to 2020](#).

The first 20 years of Prescott Grant funding has enabled Network members to expand marine mammal response coverage, enhance response capabilities and data collection, and build and upgrade rehabilitation facilities. As a result, NOAA Fisheries and our Network partners operate a comprehensive nationwide health and emergency response program that aids stranded or entangled marine mammals in distress, and monitors and assesses the health of cetacean (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) and pinniped (seals and sea lions) populations. Previous reports summarized Network activities supported by Prescott Grants from [2001–2010](#) and [2011–2015](#). This report provides an updated overview of regional stranding and entanglement response in the ensuing 5 years from 2016 to 2020, and contains summaries provided by Prescott Grant recipients highlighting their many accomplishments using Prescott funding. Using funds appropriated in 2016–2020, the Prescott Grant Program awarded more than \$15.6 million in funding through 187 competitive grants to Network members and collaborators in 24 states and two tribes. Additionally, from 2016 to 2020 the Prescott Grant Program awarded \$418,316 in emergency funds to assist the Network in 10 emergency events that required extra support.

Introduction

History

In 1992, Congress formally established the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP) under Title IV of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Public concern about the health of wild marine mammal populations guided the development of this program. The primary goals of the MMHSRP are to: (1) correlate marine mammal health with available data on physical, chemical, environmental, and biological parameters; (2) coordinate effective responses to unusual mortality events; and (3) facilitate collection and dissemination of reference data and assess health trends of wild marine mammals. Understanding marine mammal health is important because the animals can serve as indicators of ocean health and give insight into larger environmental issues.



In 2000, Congress established the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program (Prescott Grant Program) under the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act of 2000, which was an amendment to Title IV of the MMPA. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) Office of Protected Resources administers the MMHSRP and the Prescott Grant Program for marine mammals under our jurisdiction (all cetaceans and pinnipeds, excluding walrus). NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the National Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement Networks (Network) through grants and cooperative agreements for the response to and treatment (i.e., rehabilitation) of marine mammals, data collection from living or dead marine mammals for scientific research on the health of marine mammal populations, and facility operations dedicated to those purposes.



A necropsy team from the University of Hawai'i Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Lab examines a stranded dolphin at their necropsy facility on Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. Credit: University of Hawai'i Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Lab

20 Years of Investing in the Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement Networks

Since 2001, Congress has appropriated up to \$4.0 million annually to the Prescott Grant Program. In the first 15 years of the program (2001–2015), NOAA Fisheries awarded more than \$48.2 million in funding through 552 competitive grants to Network members in 24 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia. As required under the MMPA, these competitive awards were distributed equitably across the five NOAA Fisheries Regions. In addition, NOAA Fisheries provided \$2.3 million in emergency funds during this time period to help reimburse Network members with costs incurred from unforeseen emergency events. In the ensuing 5 years (2016–2020), the focus of this report, the Prescott Grant Program awarded more than \$16.0 million in funding through 187 competitive grants to Network members in 24 states and two tribes, and an additional \$418,316 in emergency funds. In total from 2001 through 2020, the Prescott Grant Program has awarded more than \$63.9 million in funding through 739 competitive grants to Network members in 26 states, two tribes, two territories, and the District of Columbia, and provided an additional \$2.7 million in emergency funds.

Prescott Grants provide valuable support for Network members but are not the sole source of funding for the organizations that receive awards. The MMPA requires a 25 percent match from Prescott Grant Program recipients, which increases the impact of the projects and ensures the Program leverages funds. Organizations use Prescott Grants as seed money to raise additional funds through donations, as well as in-kind donations of volunteer hours, veterinary services, laboratory services, etc. Therefore, these grants can have an outsized impact from the initial investment.

Overview of 20 Years of Accomplishments

Since its inception, the Prescott Grant Program has provided significant support to the primarily volunteer stranding and entanglement networks along the U.S. coast. Consistent funding is important for the maintenance of basic operational needs and the continued success of the Network. Work funded through Prescott Grants must meet at least one national or regional priority, which are described in the annual Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity. These priorities are developed by NOAA Fisheries Regional and Headquarters staff under the statutory requirements of enhancing basic response capabilities, collecting data from living and dead stranded animals, and supporting facility operations. Priorities are reviewed and may be revised annually, to respond to changing needs with marine mammal health and network dynamics. Prescott funding that has met these priorities has enabled Network members to:

- Expand entanglement and stranding response coverage over wider geographic areas.
- Enhance response capabilities and data collection.
- Screen animals to examine the prevalence of diseases in wild marine mammal populations, including influenza, morbillivirus, leptospirosis, and West Nile virus.
- Upgrade rehabilitation facilities to meet the NOAA Fisheries Standards for Rehabilitation, including purchase and use of state-of-the-art instruments, diagnostic tools, and quarantine pools.
- Conduct post-release monitoring of rehabilitated animals to evaluate survival.
- Improve and develop diagnostic tests for a more complete evaluation of tissue, blood, and other samples.
- Hire trained staff for organizations previously operated solely or mostly by volunteers.
- Increase understanding of the causes of illness and death in wild marine mammals.

In addition to these improvements, the Prescott Grant Program has provided many intangible benefits. Specifically, Prescott funding has:

- Enabled and encouraged collaborations among Network organizations.
- Trained Network members in basic and advanced skills for marine mammal stranding response, rehabilitation, and health research.
- Increased staff and volunteer morale by providing much needed resources for response activities and diagnostic sampling.
- Provided safer Network operations for animals and people alike.
- Increased entanglement response capabilities nationwide.
- Increased veterinary capacity.

John H. Prescott (1935–1998)



John. H. Prescott. Credit: New England Aquarium

John. H. Prescott was a conservationist, marine biologist, congressional advisor, teacher, explorer, world-renowned whale expert, and pioneer whose achievements are recognized both nationally and internationally. He began his career as a commercial tuna fisherman in California. Mr. Prescott was a biologist, curator, and General Manager at Marineland of the Pacific. At Marineland, Mr. Prescott and his colleague, Ken Norris, were the first to document echolocation by bottlenose dolphins.

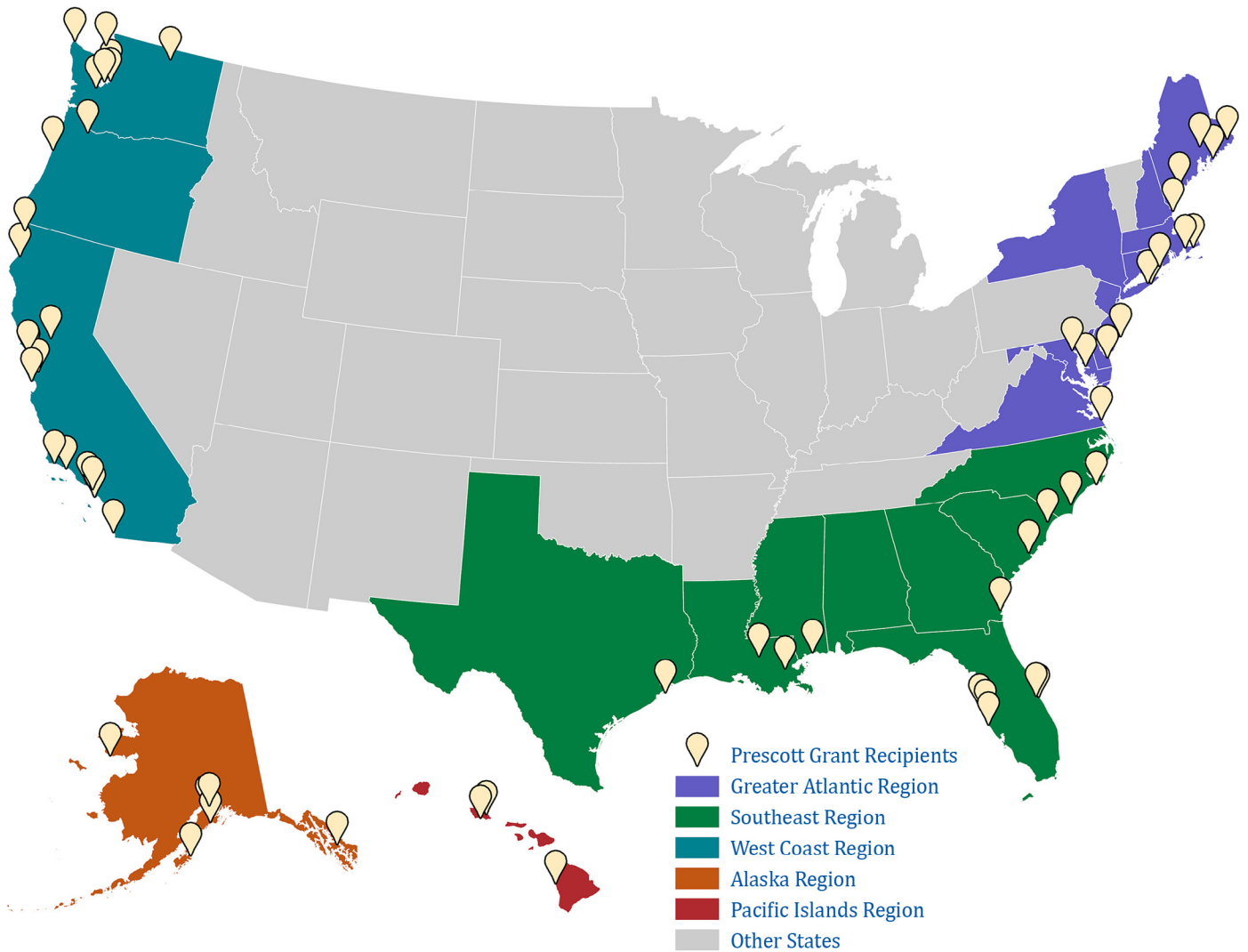
From 1972 to 1994, Mr. Prescott was the Executive Director of the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the guiding force behind the transformation of the Aquarium from a Boston waterfront attraction to a world-class institution in education, research, and conservation. The New England Aquarium became the model for aquariums around the world and influenced the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to shift its focus away from entertainment and attractions to conservation. Mr. Prescott also founded the Marine Animal Stranding Network at the New England Aquarium. The Aquarium became a center for marine animal rescue and rehabilitation and paved the way for the creation of many similar groups. In 1988, Mr. Prescott led the first successful rehabilitation and release of three pilot whales that had stranded on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

John H. Prescott was chairman of the Marine Mammal Commission's Scientific Advisory Group and headed the National Humpback Whale Recovery Team. He served for five years as a member of the U.S. delegation to the International Whaling Commission and was on the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee from 1988 to 1993. In 1997, Mr. Prescott was awarded the Marlin Perkins Award for Professional Excellence by the AZA for his contributions to husbandry, zoological display, research, conservation, and public education.

Mr. Prescott passed away in 1998 at the age of 63. His legacy lives on in the grant program that bears his name.

Prescott Grant Recipients

From 2016 to 2020, Prescott funding was awarded to 61 different recipients in 24 states. These applicants were authorized participants or researchers in the Network.



The locations of all Prescott Grant award recipients from 2016 to 2020. Credit: NOAA Fisheries

Organizations with Stranding Agreements

NOAA Fisheries maintains Stranding Agreements¹ with institutions and individuals who have appropriate facilities and training to assess and care for stranded marine mammals. Organizations with Stranding Agreements include non-profits, for-profits, academic institutions, museums, aquaria, and governmental agencies. Federal, state, tribal, or local government officials also participate in stranding response activities in accordance with Section 109(h) of the MMPA. For responses to live, entangled marine mammals, depending upon the particular circumstances of the entanglement, response may be conducted by organizations operating under their Stranding Agreement, by 109(h) responders, or under the authority of a scientific research and enhancement permit issued to the MMHSRP.

These partner organizations work to accomplish the goals of the MMHSRP by responding to live or dead marine mammal strandings and entanglements to investigate the causes of illness or mortalities, provide humane care to animals that are suffering, and improve our scientific knowledge about marine mammal and ocean health, as well as the impacts of climate change on marine mammal populations.

Types of Activities Funded by the Prescott Grant Program

Dead Animal Response

Dead animal response may include beach assessment, collection of a carcass, necropsy (animal autopsy), carcass disposal, and/or retention of parts and specimens. Investigating the causes of mortalities is vital to understanding health trends in marine mammal populations, and is especially critical when endangered species are impacted. Marine mammal populations are important sentinels of ocean health and critical to understanding the health of the entire ecosystem. By investigating marine mammal mortalities, the Stranding Network serves as an invaluable monitoring system for changes in ocean health, including assessing impacts from climate change, and marine mammal populations, especially for threatened and endangered species, and provides information integral to informing and evaluating conservation and management efforts. Investigating the causes of mortalities is also vital when there is evidence of human interactions, to help mitigate future threats and to inform/support law enforcement investigations.

¹ A Stranding Agreement is an official written agreement between NOAA Fisheries and a Network participant that authorizes the participant to respond to stranded marine mammals under section 112(c) of the MMPA.



Staff from the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society assisted by police and fire emergency personnel respond to a live stranded minke whale in Hampton Bays, NY. Credit: Atlantic Marine Conservation Society



Two Hawaiian monk seals are caged and ready for transport to Kuaihelani (Midway Atoll) after gaining more than 100 pounds in rehab. Photo taken under NMFS Permit No. 18786. Credit: The Marine Mammal Center

Live Animal Response

Live animal response may include beach assessment, capture, relocation, and transport to a rehabilitation facility, entanglement response, euthanasia, and/or release back to the wild. Stranding Agreement holders may also operate marine mammal rehabilitation facilities to treat sick or injured animals in need of round-the-clock veterinary care. By responding to live animals, the Network provides humane care to animals in distress, and gathers valuable marine mammal health data. Knowledge and expertise can often be applied across taxa, so the skills gained from meeting the challenges of response and rehabilitation for one species can benefit others. This is especially important for threatened and endangered marine mammal species, as disentangling, rehabilitating, and releasing individual animals can have a measurable impact on their conservation. Investigating the causes of live strandings is also vital when there is evidence of human interactions, to help mitigate future threats and to inform/support law enforcement investigations.

Scientific Research Projects

Scientific research projects use data from living and dead marine mammals to test hypotheses about marine mammal health, strandings, or rehabilitation practices. Some research is broad, looking at a variety of species in many locations, while other projects may focus on a single disease, species, or basic biology. Research projects funded by Prescott Grants have been essential for increasing our knowledge about marine mammal biology, anatomy, health, and population structure, and have provided valuable insights into the cause(s) of marine mammal strandings, supported law enforcement investigations, and served as ways to validate and improve methods of treatment for individual animals and populations when needed.

Total Amount of Prescott Grant Funding by State: 2016–2020

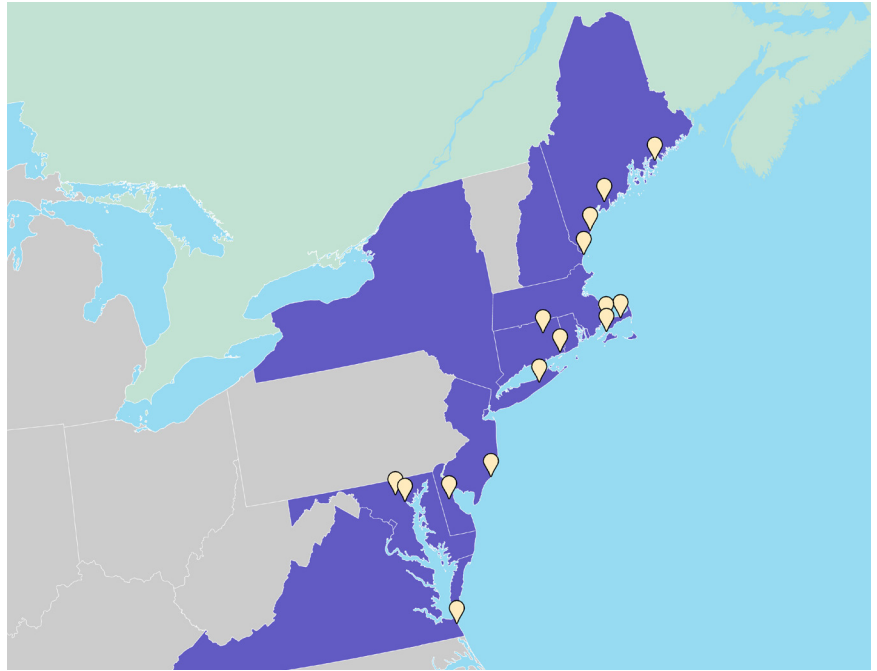
Region	State	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Greater Atlantic	ME	\$195,537	\$199,754	\$164,061	\$286,030	\$199,704	\$1,045,086
	NH	\$47,654	\$0	\$33,112	\$35,617	\$44,687	\$161,070
	MA	\$114,914	\$195,018	\$113,480	\$195,761	\$273,830	\$893,003
	CT	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$99,996	\$499,996
	NY	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$70,025	\$210,964	\$480,989
	NJ	\$62,656	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62,656
	DE	\$0	\$0	\$48,940	\$52,260	\$54,589	\$155,789
	MD	\$0	\$78,449	\$38,097	\$133,927	\$62,239	\$312,712
	VA	\$0	\$0	\$99,621	\$122,047	\$98,142	\$319,810
	Total		\$620,761	\$573,221	\$697,311	\$995,667	\$1,044,151
Southeast	NC	\$97,649	\$199,338	\$190,586	\$99,979	\$199,353	\$786,905
	SC	\$77,737	\$0	\$96,650	\$138,391	\$114,803	\$427,581
	GA	\$0	\$76,380	\$0	\$93,510	\$0	\$169,890
	FL	\$246,892	\$353,717	\$154,475	\$391,057	\$299,483	\$1,445,624
	AL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	MS	\$95,565	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,565
	LA	\$99,999	\$0	\$99,999	\$0	\$99,263	\$299,261
	TX	\$99,364	\$94,391	\$97,249	\$100,000	\$133,637	\$524,641
	IL	\$0	\$0	\$99,945	\$0	\$99,873	\$199,818
	Total		\$716,206	\$723,826	\$738,904	\$822,937	\$946,412
West Coast	CA	\$660,949	\$723,170	\$324,914	\$769,228	\$536,895	\$3,015,156
	OR	\$198,646	\$199,950	\$199,980	\$199,952	\$199,996	\$998,664
	WA	\$222,128	\$215,130	\$428,745	\$296,999	\$497,519	\$1,660,521
	Total		\$1,081,723	\$1,138,250	\$953,639	\$1,266,179	\$1,234,410
Alaska	AK	\$99,991	\$196,514	\$240,957	\$295,743	\$285,008	\$1,118,213
Pacific Islands	HI	\$199,730	\$198,951	\$177,702	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$976,383
Total Competitive Awards	-	\$2,718,411	\$2,830,762	\$2,808,513	\$3,580,526	\$3,709,981	\$15,649,333
Emergency Funding	-	\$195,922	\$74,083	\$54,631	\$79,118	\$14,564	\$418,318
Grand Total	-	\$2,914,333	\$2,904,845	\$2,863,144	\$3,659,644	\$3,724,545	\$16,607,651

Greater Atlantic

NOAA Fisheries' Greater Atlantic Region contains a varied coastline from Maine to Virginia, and the Regional Stranding and Entanglement Coordinators are located in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Between 2016 and 2020, the Greater Atlantic Region had 16 Stranding Agreement holders or government responders and 15 Prescott Grant recipients. Throughout the region, there were seven facilities authorized to rehabilitate marine mammals, primarily pinnipeds. During this period, the Greater Atlantic Network responded to 8,187 strandings (6,009 pinnipeds and 2,178 cetaceans).

Approximately 34.0 percent (n=2,814) of responses were to live stranded marine mammals, and 306 of these animals were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. During this time the Greater Atlantic Network supported law enforcement activities by providing data associated with injuries and wounds caused from vessel and fishery interactions. These data aid in investigating non-compliance with vessel speed restrictions and fishing gear requirements in place to conserve protected large whale species. Additionally, the Network assisted in numerous cases of MMPA violations, such as illegal harassment and pick up of seals by the public.

One of the priorities during the time covered by this report was supporting more timely and more extensive investigations into strandings, including responses to endangered North Atlantic right whales. Another Prescott Grant funding priority for the Greater Atlantic Region was to further increase capacity to respond to large whale stranding events, which have increased throughout the region due to Unusual Mortality Events for three large whale species (North Atlantic right whales, humpback whales, and minke whales) that were ongoing during the time covered by this report. The following grantee is an example of a proposal submitted meeting these priorities.



Network partners in the Greater Atlantic Region that received Prescott Grant funding from FY 2016–2020. The region received a total of \$3,931,111 in Prescott Grant funding during this time.

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: The Atlantic Marine Conservation Society

The Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMSEAS) was formed in the fall of 2016 in response to a gap in marine mammal stranding coverage in the New York area. The primary focus for AMSEAS was to increase response capacity for large whale strandings within the State of New York and the surrounding area. The increase in large whale strandings in New York led to a collaborative initiative among stranding responders, state agencies, and federal government partners. AMSEAS partnered with NOAA Fisheries and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to develop and implement the Long Island Sound Large Whale Response Plan. Through the continued operation of the Specially Trained Animal Response Team, AMSEAS has also worked with agencies at the federal (NOAA Fisheries), state (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), and local level to manage large-scale and/or more complex marine mammal responses through the Incident Command System. The Prescott Grant Program provided funding in 2017 for AMSEAS to expand response capabilities and enhance regional large whale stranding response collaborations through network partnership within the Greater Atlantic Region.

Prescott awards have provided valuable support for AMSEAS to continue to strengthen its collaborative training initiative and provide effective marine mammal responses through its mortality and entanglement investigations programs. Since 2017, AMSEAS has responded to more than 60 large whale strandings within the New York Bight and Long Island Sound. Mortality investigations for more than 300 pinnipeds and 135 cetaceans have provided marine mammal health data and facilitated the collection of data for ongoing Unusual Mortality Events (UMEs). Large whale mortality investigations have provided data for 33 humpback whales, 20 minke whales, and two endangered North Atlantic right whales. These responses have included 14 live large whales comprising seven minke and seven humpback whales, which engaged multiple agencies collaborating for an effective and safe response.



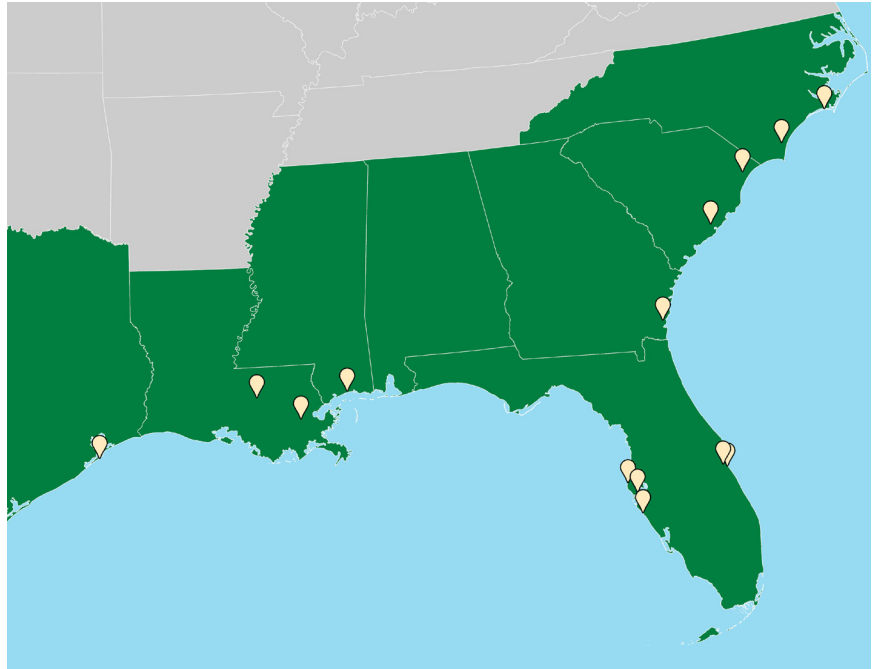
Kimberly Durham and Robert DiGiovanni from the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society oversee initial stages of the mortality investigation for “Snake Eyes,” a North Atlantic right whale, in Hempstead, New York. Photo taken under NOAA Permit No. 18786. Credit: Atlantic Marine Conservation Society

2016–2020 Greater Atlantic Region Prescott Grant Recipients

Prescott Grant Recipient	Location	Total Awards	Total Amount
College of the Atlantic	Bar Harbor, ME	5	\$449,918
Marine Mammals of Maine	Harpwell, ME	5	\$444,380
University of Maine System	Orono, ME	1	\$64,396
Acadia Wildlife Services	Mt. Desert, ME	1	\$86,392
Seacoast Science Center	Rye, NH	4	\$161,070
International Fund for Animal Welfare	Yarmouth, MA	5	\$435,343
National Marine Life Center	Buzzards Bay, MA	6	\$457,660
Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium)	Mystic, CT	5	\$499,996
Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation	Lewes, DE	3	\$155,789
Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation	Riverhead, NY	2	\$145,404
Atlantic Marine Conservation Society	Hampton Bays, NY	4	\$335,585
Marine Mammal Stranding Center	Brigantine, NJ	1	\$62,656
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	Annapolis, MD	3	\$214,966
National Aquarium in Baltimore	Baltimore, MD	2	\$97,746
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation, Inc.	Virginia Beach, VA	4	\$319,810
TOTAL 15 Organizations Funded		51 Grants Awarded	\$3,931,111

Southeast

NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region covers the coastline from North Carolina to Texas and includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The NOAA Fisheries Regional Stranding Coordinator is located in Miami and the Regional Stranding Administrator is located in St. Petersburg, Florida. Between 2016 and 2020, the Southeast Region had 46 Stranding Agreement holders (including six designee organizations) and 15 Prescott Grant recipients. Eight of the stranding organizations had rehabilitation capabilities, primarily for small cetaceans.



Network partners that conducted activities in the Southeast Region and received Prescott Grant funding from FY 2016–2020. The region received a total of \$3,949,285 in Prescott Grant funding during this time.

During this period, the Southeast Network responded to 4,024 strandings (31 pinnipeds and 3,993 cetaceans). Approximately 13 percent (n=523) of responses were to live stranded marine mammals, and five of these animals were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Additionally, during this time the Southeast Network assisted with law enforcement investigations, including incidents when carcasses of bottlenose dolphins were recovered with evidence of being intentionally harmed (e.g., shot or impaled).

One regional priority that was met during the time covered by this report was for stranding responders in the Southeast Region to use Prescott Grant funding to support more in-depth stranding responses and data collection, including thorough necropsy investigations and diagnostic sample analyses. The following grantee is an example of a funded project addressing this priority. Other Prescott Grants priorities during this time supported monitoring cetaceans post-rehabilitation and release, responding to animals that are out of habitat (e.g., miles up a river or canal), and disentangling cetaceans.

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: University of North Carolina Wilmington

The Marine Mammal Stranding Program (MMSP) at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) started in 1995. Since that time, the MMSP has trained hundreds of undergraduate students as well as 28 graduate students and two post-doctoral fellows in stranding response, necropsy techniques, and data collection. Many of these students have used data and/or samples from marine mammal strandings in their graduate or honors thesis research.

From 2016 to 2020, the MMSP received three Prescott Grants, during which nine undergraduate honors students, seven masters students, and one on-going PhD student successfully carried out their research and 17 papers based on strandings data and samples were published. In 2015, the MMSP saw the end of the 2013-2015 Bottlenose Dolphin UME. The cause of this UME was an outbreak of Morbillivirus, an infectious disease. From 2016 onward, Prescott Grants helped the MMSP to continue to sample all high-quality bottlenose dolphin strandings for post-UME surveillance, and the MMSP was able to provide samples and data from more than 130 strandings from North Carolina to colleagues working on a large-scale, post-UME Morbillivirus study, as well as a second study of the evolution of this virus.

In 2016, Tiffany Keenan's Master's research,² which was partially funded by a Prescott Grant, helped to develop specific markers that could be used to accurately determine species identification in the *Kogia* genus, which has historically been difficult to accomplish during a stranding response. In 2017, UMEs for humpback whales as well as the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale were declared. Similarly, a minke whale UME investigation was opened in 2018. Despite the increase in strandings related to these UMEs, the MMSP has maintained continuous response efforts to stranding events involving these species across North Carolina and the entire Atlantic coast.

In 2017, the results of a new collaboration with microbiology colleagues at UNCW were published³ identifying the first data for *Kogia* gut microbiomes in the world. In 2018, the MMSP received a Prescott Grant to build upon this important work to determine if this microbiome could be used as an indicator of animal health. Also in 2018, the MMSP experienced a beaked whale stranding event during Hurricane Florence in which at least 12 individuals of multiple species stranded along the North Carolina coastline. The investigation of these events, which had to be undertaken facing the hazards left by this destructive hurricane, took the concerted efforts and dedication of the MMSP and its partners. In 2019, a review of 70 North Atlantic right whale mortalities between 2003 and 2018 was published,⁴ which demonstrated that there were no documented causes of adult mortality other than entanglement and/or vessel strikes, highlighting how human activities are impacting this critically endangered species.

² Keenan-Bateman, T.F., McLellan, W.A., Harms, C.A., Piscitelli, M.A., Barco, S.G., Thayer, V.G., Lovewell, G.N., Clark, K.L., Doshkov, P.K., Rotstein, D.S., Potter, C.W., and D.A. Pabst. 2016. Prevalence and anatomic site of *Crassicauda* sp. infection and its use in species identification in kogiid whales from the mid-Atlantic United States. *Marine Mammal Science*. 32(3): 868–883. DOI: 10.1111/mms.12300.

³ Erwin, P.M., Rhodes, R.G., Kiser, K.B., Keenan-Bateman, T.F., McLellan, W.A. and Pabst, D., 2017. High diversity and unique composition of gut microbiomes in pygmy (*Kogia breviceps*) and dwarf (*K. sima*) sperm whales. *Scientific reports*, 7(1), pp.1–11.

⁴ Sharp, S.M., McLellan, W.A., Rotstein, D.S., Costidis, A.M., Barco, S.G., Durham, K., Pitchford, T.D., Jackson, K.A., Daoust, P.Y., Wimmer, T. and Couture, E.L., 2019. Gross and histopathologic diagnoses from North Atlantic right whale *Eubalaena glacialis* mortalities between 2003 and 2018. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, 135(1), pp.1–31.

2016–2020 Southeast Region Prescott Grant Recipients

Prescott Grant Recipient	Location	Total Awards	Total Amount
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	Wilmington, NC	3	\$289,366
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Raleigh, NC	5	\$497,539
Coastal Carolina University	Conway, SC	4	\$344,479
Lowcountry Marine Mammal Stranding Network	Charleston, SC	2	\$83,102
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Waynesboro, GA	2	\$169,890
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Clearwater, FL	1	\$66,611
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Saint Petersburg, FL	3	\$242,139
Florida Institute of Technology	Melbourne, FL	3	\$249,936
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute	Melbourne Beach, FL	5	\$499,772
Mote Marine Laboratory	Sarasota, FL	5	\$387,166
Institute for Marine Mammal Studies	Gulfport, MS	1	\$95,565
Audubon Nature Institute, Inc./Audubon Commission	New Orleans, LA	1	\$99,263
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Baton Rouge, LA	2	\$199,998
Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network	Galveston, TX	6	\$524,641
Chicago Zoological Society	Chicago, IL	2	\$199,818
TOTAL 15 Organizations Funded		45 Grants Awarded	\$3,949,285



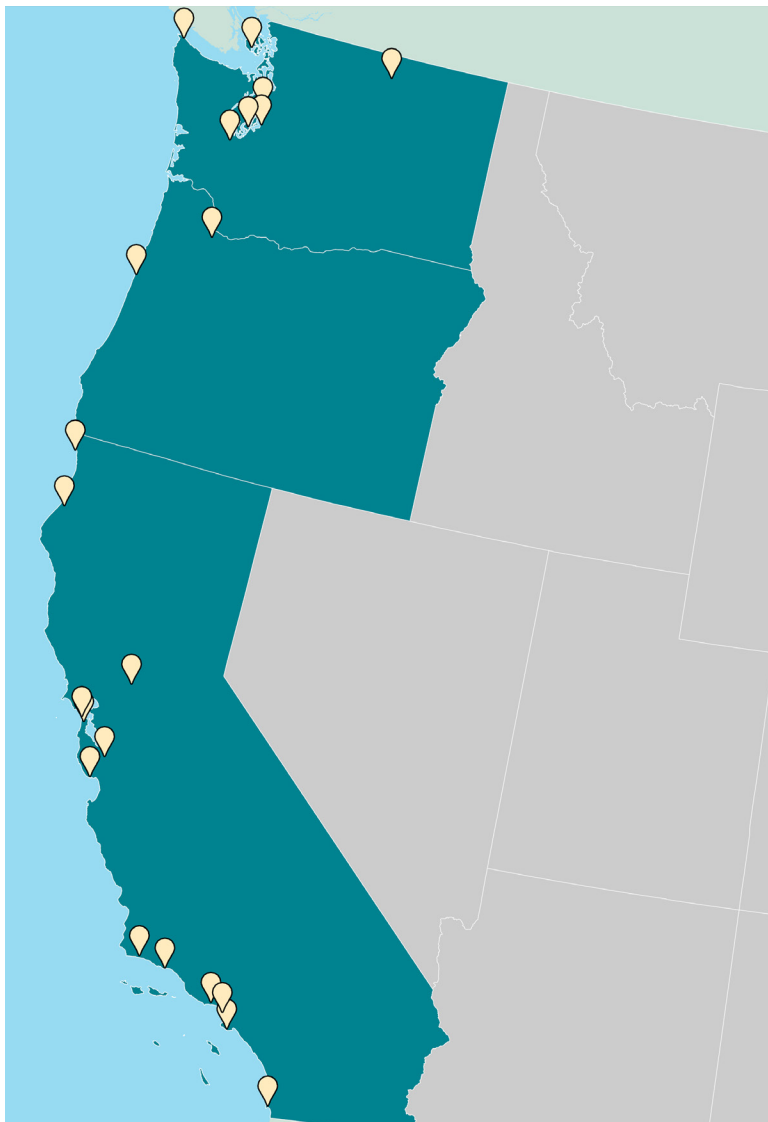
Marine Mammal Stranding Program students just having donned full personal protective equipment for necropsy in the Oriole Burevitch Lab. Prescott Grant support has been critical for training the next generation of marine mammal scientists. Credit: Marine Mammal Stranding Program University of North Carolina Wilmington

West Coast

NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region includes the coastal states of Washington, Oregon, and California. The NOAA Fisheries Regional Stranding Coordinators are located in Seattle, Washington (coordinating responses in Washington and Oregon) and Long Beach, California (coordinating responses in California). Between 2016 and 2020, the West Coast Region had 36 Stranding Agreement holders/government responders (including two designee organizations) and 23 Prescott Grant recipients. Eleven of the stranding organizations had rehabilitation capabilities.

During this period, the West Coast Network responded to 18,365 strandings (16,912 pinnipeds and 1,453 cetaceans). Approximately 54 percent (n=9,893) of the responses were to live stranded marine mammals, and 4,794 of these animals (mostly pinnipeds) were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Additionally, during this time the West Coast Network assisted with numerous law enforcement investigations, including illegal pickup cases of young pinnipeds, animals that were shot, incidents of ship strikes, and harassment of stranded animals.

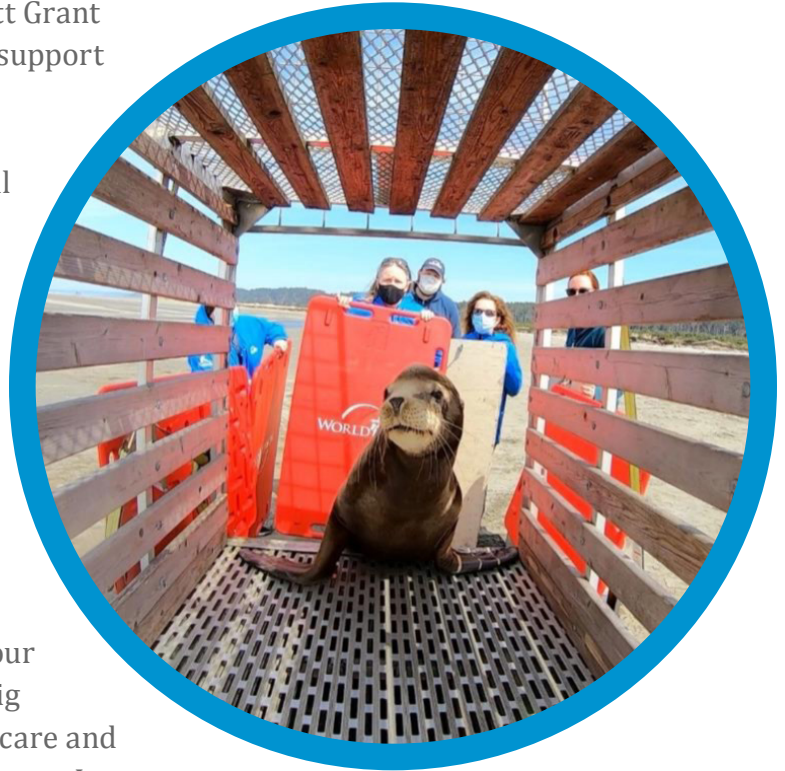
Some West Coast regional priorities established in the annual solicitations for Prescott Grants included the development of protocols to enhance data collection during stranding and vessel strike responses, and conducting post-release monitoring of rehabilitated animals. Other Prescott Grant priorities that were addressed by recipients in this Region included providing coverage for basic (referred to as Level A) data collection in areas where coverage is sporadic or unknown, and establishing or maintaining veterinary capabilities to humanely euthanize live stranded marine mammals, especially large whales. The following grantees are examples of projects that helped address this priority.



Network partners in the West Coast Region that received Prescott Grant funding from FY 2016–2020. The region received a total of \$5,674,201 in Prescott Grant funding during this time.

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: World Vets

World Vets was a first-time recipient of a Prescott Grant in 2020. This award was used to strengthen the support for the health needs of stranded and entangled marine mammals in Washington State. The organization serves as a veterinary and technical resource for marine mammal stranding cases throughout the State, and responds at the request of other stranding response organizations in Washington. World Vets' response area covers more than 1,500 miles of shoreline of the Salish Sea and the Pacific Coast, and this award helped World Vets provide on-call veterinary support for other stranding organizations by conducting hands-on responses as well as assisting via remote consultations. World Vets also maintains a 24-hour marine mammal urgent care center, located in Gig Harbor, Washington, which provides short-term care and stabilization, primarily for sick and injured seal pups. In addition to referral cases from across the state, World Vets assumed primary stranding response coverage for Vashon and Maury Islands, which was previously a low-coverage area.



World Vets veterinarians use crowder boards and a transfer cage to capture a sick and emaciated California sea lion for a medical evaluation on the Washington coast. Credit: Cathy King, World Vets

In the first year of the award, World Vets' two primary veterinarians have responded to more than 100 cases involving harbor seals, California sea lions, northern elephant seals, harbor porpoise, Steller sea lions, humpback whales, gray whales, dwarf sperm whales, and a sei whale. Approximately half of these responses (n=42) required the use of one of World Vets' three boats to access animals floating at sea and landing on remote islands to examine beached animals. To supplement veterinary capacity, World Vets has also trained 24 veterinarians throughout Washington State to be authorized to respond as contractors to assist with basic marine mammal responses, such as initial health assessments.

During this award period, World Vets has also conducted outreach and education to the local community about their work with marine mammals, and have published a study on antibiotic resistance in marine mammals.⁵

⁵ Norman, S. A., Lambourn, D. M., Huggins, J. L., Gaydos, J. K., Dubpernell, S., Berta, S., & Scott, A. (2021, March). Antibiotic Resistance of Bacteria in Two Marine Mammal Species, Harbor Seals and Harbor Porpoises, Living in an Urban Marine Ecosystem, the Salish Sea, Washington State, USA. In *Oceans* (Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 86–104). Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute. Link to full article: <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-1924/2/1/6/pdf>

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: The Northcoast Marine Mammal Center

The Northcoast Marine Mammal Center (NMMC) in Crescent City, California, received four Prescott Grant Awards between 2016 and 2020. In addition to providing the funding to rescue, rehabilitate, and release 42 pinnipeds, the 2019 Prescott award gave the NMMC the ability to make critical improvements to their facility. Specifically, Prescott Grant funding allowed for the expansion of the Center’s perimeter fencing.

The expanded area provided space for new quarantine pens. The funding from the Prescott Grant Program allowed the NMMC to construct two new quarantine pens that are separated from all other pens by cement block walls. The new quarantine pens do not share a walkway with other pens and have dedicated drainpipes that eliminate the possibility of contaminated backflow into other pens outside the quarantine area.

The expanded fence line along with a new electronic entrance gate enhances security for volunteers and staff while parking their cars and entering the building. The area also provides space for the NMMC whale disentanglement boat that, prior to the expansion, had to be stored offsite. Lastly, this award allowed NMMC to purchase specialized large-whale entanglement response equipment, as well as a secure, weather-tight storage shed that is large enough to store all entanglement response gear.



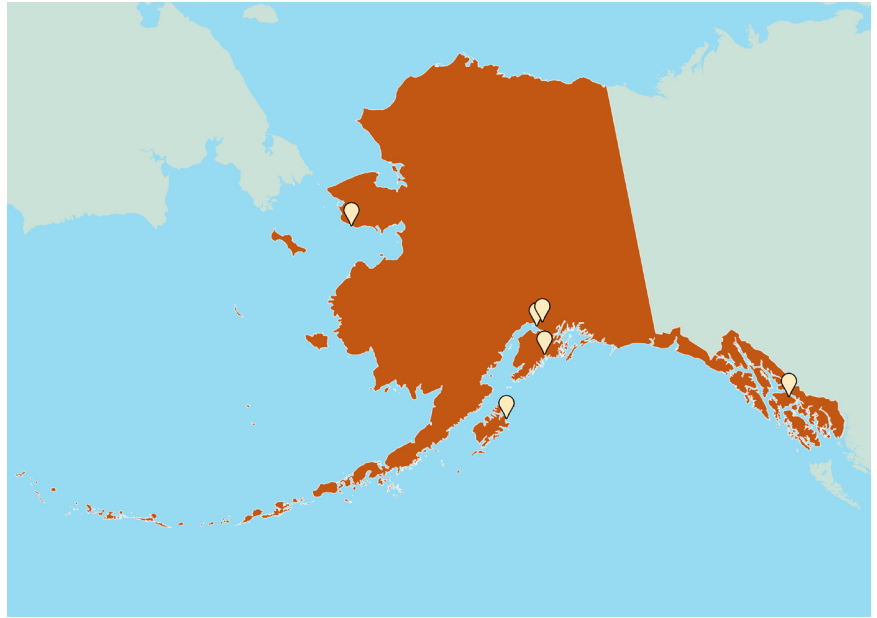
The new quarantine pens and large-whale entanglement response boat and equipment storage at Northcoast Marine Mammal Center. Credit: Karen Helms, Northcoast Marine Mammal Center

2016–2020 West Coast Region Prescott Grant Recipients

Prescott Grant Recipient	Location	Total Awards	Total Amount
Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	Friday Harbor, WA	1	\$41,635
World Vets	Gig Harbor, WA	1	\$99,999
The Whale Museum	Friday Harbor, WA	5	\$456,085
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Olympia, WA	5	\$494,045
Sno-King County Marine Mammal Response	Seattle, WA	1	\$26,656
SR3 Sealife Response, Rehab and Research	Des Moines, WA	2	\$194,497
Makah Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation	Neah Bay, WA	1	\$48,086
Cascadia Research Collective	Olympia, WA	3	\$299,518
Portland State University	Portland, OR	5	\$498,675
Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	5	\$499,989
Northcoast Marine Mammal Center	Crescent City, CA	4	\$283,611
Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs	Arcadia, CA	2	\$169,471
The Marine Mammal Center	Fort Chronkite, CA	3	\$286,703
The Regents of the University of California, Davis	Davis, CA	4	\$384,025
California Academy of Sciences	San Francisco, CA	7	\$516,378
San Jose State University Research Foundation	San Jose, CA	1	\$91,458
The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz, CA	4	\$322,216
California Wildlife Center	Malibu, CA	1	\$91,356
Channel Islands Cetacean Research Unit	Santa Barbara, CA	2	\$164,587
Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute	Santa Barbara, CA	5	\$405,476
The Regents of the University of Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	1	\$99,875
MAR3INE (on behalf of Marine Mammal Care Center/Fort MacArthur)	Fort MacArthur, CA	1	\$100,000
National Marine Mammal Foundation	San Diego, CA	1	\$100,000
TOTAL 23 Organizations Funded		65 Grants Awarded	\$5,674,341

Alaska

NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Region covers 33,904 miles of coastline and includes the Pribilof Islands, Kodiak, and the Aleutian Islands. The NOAA Fisheries Regional Stranding Coordinator is located in Juneau. Between 2016 and 2020, the Alaska Region had 18 Stranding Agreement holders/government responders throughout the region. There is only one facility with rehabilitation capabilities, the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. The region had six Prescott Grant recipients during this period.



Network partners that received Prescott Grant funding to conduct work in the Alaska Region from FY 2016–2020. The region received a total of \$1,118,213 in Prescott Grant funding during this time.

From 2016 to 2020, the Alaska Network responded to 1,528 strandings (834 pinnipeds and 694 cetaceans). Approximately 10 percent (n=150) of responses were to live stranded marine mammals, and 16 of these animals were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Additionally, during this time the Alaska Network assisted with numerous law enforcement investigations, including collection of bullets/bullet fragments and radiographs; identification of bones and other parts of species for enforcement actions; and identification of injury and cause of death during necropsies to determine if ship strike, illegal killing, or other unauthorized take has occurred. Further, the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement has assisted the Alaska Network in responses by providing boat transport, conducting entangled large whale assessment, acting as bear guards during responses and necropsies, and distributing Do Not Feed/Do Not Shoot signs and other outreach materials in coastal communities throughout Alaska.

Stranding responders in the Alaska Region have used Prescott Grant funding to meet 2016–2020 regional priorities, which included improvements to sample tracking and archiving, salvage of beach-cast animals in the Bering Sea, development of outreach materials and workshops, and rehabilitation program support of animal husbandry, transport, and post-release monitoring of rehabilitated animals. The grantee highlighted in the next section also met Prescott Grant regional priorities for the Alaska Region to increase community involvement in the Alaska Network, and developing capacity for effective collection of Level A data in areas of Alaska where response capacity had been lacking, intermittent, or low.

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: The Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak

The Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak is one of the 10 federally-recognized Alutiiq tribes of the Kodiak Archipelago. The Alutiiq people have lived along the shores of the Alaska Peninsula, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak Archipelago for at least the past 8,000 years, and were the original stewards of the lands, waters, and resources of the Kodiak Archipelago before the arrival of the Russians and Americans, and the creation of the State of Alaska. With nearly 2,000 members, the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak represents the largest Native community in the western Gulf of Alaska. A central focus of the Tribe is to safeguard and enhance the lands, waters, and natural resources that sustained their ancestors—and to this day continue to sustain their people and the communities of Kodiak who all rely on the same resources for economic support, subsistence opportunities, and cultural identity.

Subsistence has special meaning for Alaska Natives and refers to a way of living that emphasizes the importance of respecting the land and its resources, as well as acknowledging a connection to the natural world.

In 2018, the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak joined the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network to fill a gap in marine mammal stranding response in the Kodiak Archipelago. The previous Stranding Network partner in Kodiak had left the Stranding Network, so the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak requested training and authorization to collect information from stranded marine mammals in order to address questions from their members throughout the Kodiak region, many of whom are subsistence harvesters. The addition of the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak as a Stranding Network partner greatly increased the Stranding Network’s ability to respond quickly and gather information from stranded marine mammals in the Kodiak Archipelago. As a major Prescott funding priority, the Alaska Region has been enhancing coastline coverage, particularly in remote areas; the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak was awarded their first Prescott Grant in 2019.

The Prescott Grant has allowed the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak to build capacity and infrastructure for marine mammal stranding responses and supported outreach with tribal members and the communities throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. In 2019 and 2020, 62 strandings were documented within the area covered by the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak. In addition to more routine stranding responses, a gray whale UME was declared in 2019. Prescott funds have supported collection of Level A data and samples from gray whale carcasses stranded in the Kodiak Archipelago. In addition to responding to reported strandings, Sun’aq biologists and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement officers have participated in numerous coastal surveys for gray whale carcasses, flying with the USCG along the coast of Kodiak Island and some of the smaller islands in the archipelago. During 2019–2020, 93 gray whales reported in Alaska, 28 of which were stranded in the Kodiak Archipelago, were included in the UME. Like much of Alaska, Kodiak is a remote and sparsely populated region, and the contributions of the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak have ensured more complete coverage and understanding of stranded and entangled marine mammals in this vast area.

2016–2020 Alaska Region Prescott Grant Recipients

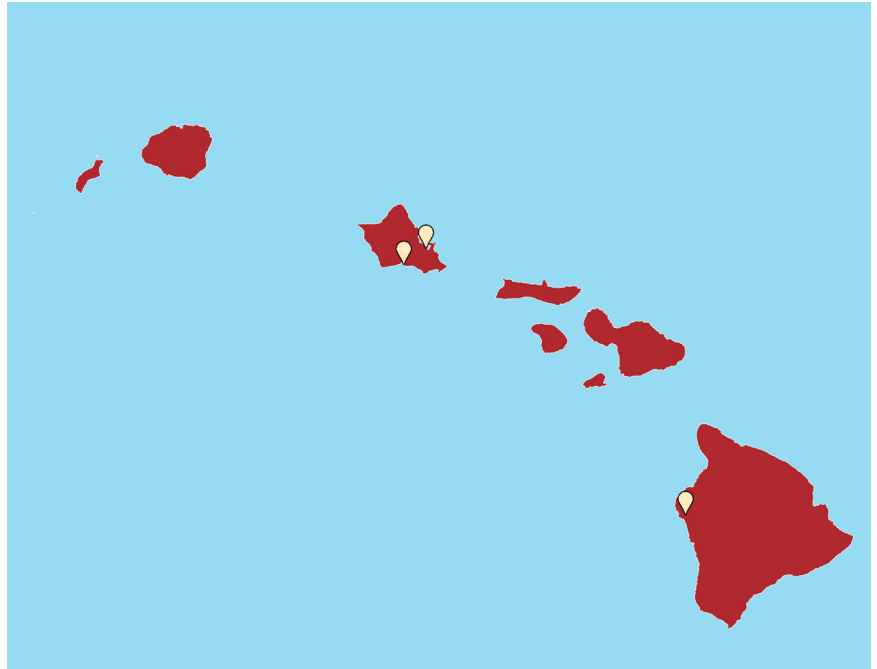
Prescott Grant Recipient	Location	Total Awards	Total Amount
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game	Juneau, AK	1	\$100,000
Alaska Whale Foundation	Petersburg, AK	1	\$20,389
Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science (Alaska SeaLife Center)	Seward, AK	5	\$422,102
University of Alaska, Anchorage	Anchorage, AK	3	\$274,985
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Fairbanks, AK	3	\$203,705
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	Kodiak, AK	2	\$97,032
TOTAL 6 Organizations Funded		15 Grants Awarded	\$1,118,213



Photograph of a gray whale carcass taken during U.S. Coast Guard supported helicopter carcass surveys conducted by Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak biologists and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, along the coastline of the Kodiak Archipelago during the ongoing gray whale UME. Credit: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

Pacific Islands

NOAA Fisheries’ Pacific Islands Region includes Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and seven small islands of various jurisdictions, making up a total 1,905 miles of coastline and covering 1.5 million square nautical miles. The NOAA Fisheries Regional Stranding Coordinator is located in Honolulu, Hawaii. From 2016 to 2020, the Pacific Islands Region had four stranding agreement holders/government responders throughout the region, and two of those stranding agreement holders were facilities with rehabilitation capabilities. The region had three Prescott Grant recipients between 2016 and 2020.



Network partners that received Prescott Grant funding to conduct work in the Pacific Islands Region from FY 2016–2020. The region received a total of \$976,383 in Prescott Grant funding during this time.

During this period, the Pacific Islands Network responded to 248 strandings (147 pinnipeds and 101 cetaceans). Approximately 57 percent (n=142) of responses were to live stranded marine mammals, and 23 of these animals were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Additionally, during this time the Pacific Islands Network assisted with numerous law enforcement investigations. Enforcement cases involved Hawaiian monk seal harassment cases by beachgoers and cases involving human-caused trauma, which is categorized as “intentional killing.” The Pacific Islands Regional Office’s Protected Resources Division (PRD) also developed a “human interaction report form” that is filled out by network responders and sent to PRD, who then either forwards the report as an enforcement referral to the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement or assigns a PRD staff member to conduct education and outreach to ensure that the human interaction does not occur again.

Stranding responders in the Pacific Islands Region have used Prescott Grant funding to address regional priorities, including increasing necropsies, training, and community outreach, obtaining health and disease data for endangered Hawaiian monk seals, and to improve the region’s ability to efficiently respond to dolphin and small-whale strandings. One other Prescott Grant priority for the region was maintaining the capacity to rehabilitate monk seals in need of medical attention and nutritional supplementation; the following summary details the work of one grantee to meet this identified need.

Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: The Marine Mammal Center's Ke Kai Ola

Between 2016 and 2020, The Marine Mammal Center was awarded Prescott funding annually for animal care at its center on Hawai'i Island, Ke Kai Ola, the only hospital in the world dedicated solely to treating endangered Hawaiian monk seals. As of 2023, there are fewer than 1,500 individuals left, and every monk seal returned to the wild is critical to the survival of the species.

Prescott funds ensured that 19 Hawaiian monk seals that would likely have died without intervention received exceptional veterinary and rehabilitative care, including treatment of the longest surviving Hawaiian monk seal patient with toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is a leading threat to the species, and the Center's work is advancing knowledge needed to mitigate this and other threats. Funds also supported the costs of a digital x-ray machine, which is available for use by the entire Pacific Islands Region Marine Mammal Response Network and is extremely valuable for assessing monk seal hookings in the field and making other medical diagnoses.

During this time, the Center expanded its enrichment program for patients in long-term care at Ke Kai Ola. These enrichment tools enhance the quality of care by providing mental stimulation and help younger patients learn critical foraging skills. These enhanced foraging skills are needed for when they are returned to the wild, giving the seals a better chance of survival post-release. Additionally, the Center's team at Ke Kai Ola successfully cared for four young monk seals for an entire year during the COVID-19 pandemic with no exhibited behaviors typical of habituation to humans.

The Center is a lead partner with NOAA Fisheries and the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program. NOAA Fisheries' collaborative work with the Center and other partners has slowed the decline of the Hawaiian monk population and is shedding new light on their behavior, threats, and life history. In addition to providing long-term rehabilitative care, the Center's veterinary experts also provide life-saving interventions for monk seals across the Hawaiian Islands and has actively supported other critical work, including the wild vaccination efforts against morbillivirus, a disease that could devastate the population. Finally, Prescott funds ensured that biological samples from each patient were collected and archived for future retrospective studies, which will improve overall understanding of monk seal health, disease threats, and how to provide the best care for this endangered species.



Hawaiian monk seal pup, Sole, interacting with an enrichment device at the Center's Hawai'i hospital, Ke Kai Ola. Photo taken under NMFS Permit No. 18786-05. Credit: The Marine Mammal Center

2016–2020 Pacific Islands Region Prescott Grant Recipients

Prescott Grant Recipient	Location	Total Awards	Total Amount
Hawai'i Pacific University	Honolulu, HI	1	\$100,000
The Marine Mammal Center	Kailua Kona, HI	5	\$486,383
University of Hawai'i	Manoa, HI	4	\$390,000
TOTAL 3 Organizations Funded		10 Grants Awarded	\$976,383



University of Hawai'i Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Lab biologist gathers morphometric data on a deceased neonatal humpback calf. Credit: University of Hawai'i Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Lab

Emergency Prescott

The Prescott Grant Program sets aside a portion of appropriated funds for emergency assistance to help support Network members when unforeseen or catastrophic events occur. This program is operated in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. These emergency funds allow organizations to provide immediate response to events such as mass strandings, out-of-habitat animals, and natural disasters that might otherwise be impossible to respond to without financial assistance. Emergency funding has provided assistance for a number of events, including increased stranding response during the 2013–2016 California sea lion UME and the ongoing Northeast pinniped UME. From 2016 to 2020, the Prescott Grant Program awarded \$418,318 in emergency funding.

Emergency Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: Increased Stranding Response During the 2013–2016 California Sea Lion UME

In 2016, an Emergency Prescott Grant provided funding to implement a coordinated management effort to provide support for response efforts during the 2013–2016 California Sea Lion UME. The award was issued to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, in coordination with Robert DiGiovanni of AMSEAS as the Principal Investigator for the Specially Trained Animal Response Team (START), to manage response efforts across multiple facilities in the region for the UME.

To help coordinate this event, the START used the Incident Command System to bring together resources from the National Marine Mammal Foundation, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, zoos, and aquariums around the country. START's management of the event focused on identifying regional rehabilitation capacity, coordinating logistical support, establishing operational briefings, and developing and distributing public messaging. Resources, including trained personnel and supplies, were effectively mobilized for response and rehabilitation facilities along the California coast based on where the need was highest. This coordinated effort allowed the Stranding Network to maintain a high standard of care and facilitated the collection of data, including post-rehabilitation monitoring of released animals.



A typical day when Marine Mammals of Maine was responding to harbor and gray seal strandings during the height of the UME, with dead stranded carcasses covering the beach. Credit: Marine Mammals of Maine

Emergency Prescott Grant Recipient Highlight: Increased Stranding Response During the 2018–2019 Northeast Pinniped UME

In July 2018, Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) responded to an elevated number of live and dead marine mammals in southern Maine, which became the epicenter of an UME for harbor and gray seals. The UME was due to an outbreak of phocine distemper virus that led to a decline in pinniped health, an increase in the number of stranded animals, and an overall increase in mortality. MMoME received an emergency Prescott Grant in response to this event, which helped MMoME respond to a record number of strandings (1,039, which was 259 percent above the average number of annual responses) and perform 75 necropsies. Emergency funding helped to cover costs surrounding increased staff time, hiring of additional staff to support sampling processing, and depletion of animal care resources and equipment. The greater volume of sick animals required a higher level of care including more blood tests, intravenous medication supplies, and euthanasia drugs. The dramatic increase in blood testing led to the breakdown of critical diagnostic instruments, including MMoME's primary centrifuge. Emergency funding helped purchase and replenish critical supplies and equipment needed to maintain an elevated level of response during the UME, as well as continue disease surveillance after the stranding numbers decreased.

2016–2020 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients

State	Applicant	Purpose	Funding
2016 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients			
CA	Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Institute	Emergency Aid to Respond to a Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties	\$95,922
CA	Pacific Marine Mammal Center	California Sea Lion Unusual Stranding Event Support 2016	\$100,000
2017 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients			
CA	Northcoast Marine Mammal Center	Northcoast Marine Mammal Center Emergency Funding to Support Response and Rehabilitation of Northern Elephant Seal Weaners	\$11,660
NY	Atlantic Marine Conservation Society	Marine Mammal Stranding Response in New York: Filling Gaps in Coverage	\$62,423
2018 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients			
AK	Alaska SeaLife Center	Critical Care of Stranded, Endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale	\$54,631
2019 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients			
MA	Marine Mammal Rescue Nantucket	Marine Mammal Rescue Nantucket	\$33,812
ME	Marine Mammals of Maine	Northeast Pinniped Unusual Mortality Event	\$45,306
2020 Emergency Prescott Grant Recipients			
NY	Atlantic Marine Conservation Society	Rescuing Marine mammal Samples from Imminent Thaw: Securing the Future of UME Sample Archive	\$14,564
TOTAL	7 Organizations Funded	8 Grants Awarded	\$418,318

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