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Contact:

Jennie Lyons, 202-603-9372, jennie.lyons@noaa.gov

Rob Blumenthal, 202-857-0166, rob.blumenthal@nfwf.org

NFWF, NOAA announce record \$136 million for coastal resilience

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law strengthens and protects communities, enhances natural habitats

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 6, 2022) – NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) today announced a record investment in projects that will help communities prepare for increasing coastal flooding and more intense storms, while improving thousands of acres of coastal habitats. The funding, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and private sector partners, provides more than \$136 million to support 88 natural infrastructure projects in 29 states and U.S. territories.

The grants awarded through NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund will leverage more than \$94 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$230 million. When combined with eight grants announced earlier this year, the new grants will push the fund's total amount awarded to more than \$144 million in 2022. Together, these 96 coastal resilience grants will leverage more than \$97 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$241 million.

This year's awards include \$93.7 million provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Additional federal agency funding comes from NOAA and the Department of Defense, and private funding is provided by Shell USA, TransRe and Oxy, with additional funding from the Bezos Earth Fund.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law unleashes a historic opportunity for NOAA and our partners to make sure our coasts, and the communities and economies that depend on them, are ready and resilient in a changing climate," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing conservation opportunities that help protect lives and livelihoods along our nation's coasts."

The natural infrastructure projects provide a buffer for communities against increasingly intense storms and flooding, while also improving crucial habitats for fish and wildlife species. The projects will restore and create more than 16,000 acres of coastal habitats, including coastal dunes in Texas and California, saltmarshes in Louisiana and Virginia, oyster reefs along the Atlantic seaboard, and living shorelines to protect military facilities in Mississippi and Florida, among others. Twenty-eight of these grants will fund construction activities for resilience

projects, and 60 of them – 29 for planning and 31 for engineering and design – will advance community initiatives, with the ultimate goal of becoming shovel-ready resilience efforts.

“This funding allows communities to invest in keeping their coasts healthy for generations to come and helps build a Climate-Ready Nation,” said NOAA administrator, Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. “NOAA values the contributions of our partners to scale up efforts to help communities address climate-related risks.”

This year, with significantly increased funding from Congress through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the fund supported even larger efforts by coastal communities to plan, design and implement resilience projects that will reduce risks from rising sea levels and more intense storms. Recent devastating storm events from Alaska to Puerto Rico and Florida demonstrate the significant need for these types of investments that help communities build resilience to increasing flooding and erosion.

“As communities recover from devastating storm events, it is vital we support nature-based solutions that help communities not only protect against destructive flooding, but also enhance the coastal habitats that are so important to people and wildlife,” said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF. “These grants will provide the critical resources that communities need to prepare for, rebound from, and adapt to the more destructive storms that are impacting our coasts.”

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership between NFWF, NOAA, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Shell USA, TransRe and Oxy, with additional funding from the Bezos Earth Fund. NFWF launched the National Coastal Resilience Fund in 2018, in partnership with NOAA and joined initially by Shell USA and TransRe.

“The seven National Coastal Resilience Fund projects receiving DOD funding protect critical Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy training missions across eight strategically important installations,” said Mr. Paul Cramer, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment. “Through the National Coastal Resilience Fund, DOD partners are leveraging \$15 million in Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program funding coupled with nearly \$7 million in NOAA funding to enhance installation resilience to sea level rise, storm surge, and other coastal climate change impacts. By supporting National Coastal Resilience Fund projects, DOD can promote interagency collaboration and develop new mutually beneficial partnerships to meet shared mission priorities.”

“We have a long history of working with the community when it comes to protecting and restoring our Working Coast,” said Colette Hirstius, Shell’s senior vice president, Gulf of Mexico. “With strong partners such as NFWF, we can take meaningful action in the places where we live and work.”

“TransRe is proud to support projects that help communities most affected by extreme weather events,” said Ken Brandt, TransRe’s Chairman, President and CEO. “We are committed to lending a helping hand to support those communities’ own efforts as they build sustainable and resilient protections for themselves.”

“Protecting our coastal communities—its shorelines, wildlife, and people—is essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem and quality of life,” said Kimberly Mendoza-Cooke, Director of Policy & External Affairs for Oxy. “We are honored to proactively partner with NOAA and NFWF to improve resilience for these important communities.”

A short video about the NCRF can be found [here](#). A list of the 2022 grants made through the National Coastal Resilience Fund in December is available [here](#).

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About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org.

About NOAA

NOAA is celebrating 50 years of science, service, and stewardship in fulfilling a mission to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and our other social media channels. Visit our [news and features page](#).

About U.S. DOD REPI Program

The Department of Defense (DOD)’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program fosters multi-agency initiatives and collaboration to preserve compatible land uses and promote resilience around military installations and ranges. These efforts preserve and enhance Department of Defense (DOD) assets and capabilities in support of military readiness through the creation of unique cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations. The REPI Program is administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Learn more at <https://www.repi.mil/>.

About Shell USA, Inc.

Shell USA, Inc is an affiliate of Shell plc, a global group of energy and petrochemical companies with operations in more than 70 countries. In the U.S., Shell operates in 50 states and employs more than 12,000 people working to help tackle the challenges of the new energy future.

About TransRe

Established in 1977, TransRe is the brand name for Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries (including Transatlantic Reinsurance Company). TransRe is a reinsurance organization headquartered in New York with operations worldwide. TransRe offers its clients the capacity, expertise and creativity necessary to structure programs across the full spectrum of property, casualty and specialty risks. Visit <http://www.transre.com> for additional information.

About Occidental

Occidental is an international energy company with assets primarily in the United States, the Middle East and North Africa. We are one of the largest oil producers in the U.S., including a leading producer in the Permian and DJ basins, and offshore Gulf of Mexico. Our midstream and marketing segment provides flow assurance and maximizes the value of our oil and gas. Our chemical subsidiary OxyChem manufactures the building blocks for life-enhancing products. Our Oxy Low Carbon Ventures subsidiary is advancing leading-edge technologies and business solutions that economically grow our business while reducing emissions. We are committed to using our global leadership in carbon management to advance a lower-carbon world. Visit oxy.com for more information.