



# HAYSTACK

## MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF CRAFTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and Maine Sea Grant Receive Major Grant from NOAA's Marine Debris Program**

**Deer Isle, Maine** — Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and Maine Sea Grant are pleased to announce the awarding of a significant grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program. This grant will fund the Maine Marine Debris Community Action Coalition, a community education and research development initiative aimed at developing new materials and uses from ghost traps in the Gulf of Maine.

“We’re embarking on a groundbreaking partnership with the University of Maine to explore the potential of experimental materials made from marine debris, and we’re incredibly excited about the new chapter this project represents for the Haystack Fab Lab,” says James Rutter, Haystack’s Technology Director.

The Maine Marine Debris Community Action Coalition is a partnership between four primary partners -including Haystack- and eight collaborating organizations from the education, research, and community sectors, with additional members to be recruited through project activities. The coalition’s objectives are to identify and develop improved methods and technological designs for processing and refabricating marine debris, such as ghost lobster traps and derelict aquaculture farming gear, into products; to develop new educational programs and opportunities for high school students and professionals; and to create a robust and connected community.

“I’m really excited about this project. Working with Haystack has opened so many opportunities for practical and innovative work toward reducing marine debris, and to use those activities as material

for some very creative educational programs,” says Dana Morse, Senior Extension Program Manager and Aquaculture Lead at Maine Sea Grant. “It aligns nicely with Sea Grant’s goals, and takes advantage of our collective talents.”

The \$299,707.00 grant will support this initiative for two years, marking a crucial step forward in Maine’s fight against marine debris, and the awarding of this grant reflects the significance and relevance of this project for our community. For more information on the NOAA Sea Grant, including links to the other funded projects, please visit the project’s website [here](#).

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Haystack Mountain School of Crafts is an international craft school located on the Atlantic Ocean in Deer Isle, Maine. Connecting people through craft, Haystack provides the freedom to engage with materials and develop new ideas in a supportive and inclusive community. Serving an ever-changing group of makers and thinkers, we are dedicated to working and learning alongside one another, while exploring the intersections of craft, art, and design in broad and expansive ways.

Founded in 1950 as a research and studio program in the arts, Haystack offers one and two-week studio workshops to participants of all skill levels as well as the two-week, *Open Studio Residency* program, conferences, tours, auctions, artist presentations, and shorter workshops for Maine residents and high school students. Haystack also functions as a ‘think-tank’ in looking at craft—publishing annual monographs and organizing a variety of conferences and symposia that examine craft in broader contexts. These include collaborations with other institutions such as the MIT Center for Bits and Atoms and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution. The award-winning campus was designed by noted American architect, Edward Larrabee Barnes, and opened in 1961 when the School relocated to Deer Isle.

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