



Examples of Working Waterfront Programs that could benefit from H.R. 4914, the Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010

Water-dependent commercial and recreational activities are at the heart of many coastal communities. These activities depend on coastal access, port and marina facilities and support facilities in order for the coastal communities to retain their economy and culture. The following are a few examples of existing state and local working waterfronts programs that could receive funding under H.R. 4914.

North Carolina: Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund¹

The State of North Carolina established the WAMI Fund in 2007 to retain, enhance and provide public access to working waterfronts and coastal waters through cooperative state and local partnerships. The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries manages the WAMI Fund, and revenues are generated from certificates of participation – a form of lease revenue bond that is enacted by statute and therefore does not require voter approval. The program focuses on public docking facilities, public boat ramps, fishing access and other marine industry facilities, such as high ground gear storage, ice, fuel, sewage pump-out, access to processing infrastructure, dry-stack storage, harbors of refuge, haul-out repairs and sales, concessions, restrooms and informational kiosks.²

Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program: City of Apalachicola

The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program, within the Florida Department of Community Affairs, designates selected communities to receive technical support and limited financial assistance through grants to revitalize their working waterfronts. Communities with a coastal planning element in their comprehensive plans are eligible for technical support and startup grant funding on a two-year application cycle. The program is designed to empower local communities to develop and implement revitalization plans with technical planning support and grants for discrete revitalization projects. For example, the City of Apalachicola has received \$12.5 million through this program since 2003 for waterfront renovations, including construction of a 420-foot boardwalk/pier to create new space for commercial vessels to offload their catch.³

Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR): Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program (WWAPP)⁴

Under this program, Maine DMR provides funds to commercial fishing businesses, cooperatives and other interested parties to purchase property or development rights to preserve properties dedicated to commercial fishing uses. For example, the Bremen Lobster Cooperative, serving 24 lobster boats and providing income for 34 local families, received a grant for \$300,000 to remove a derelict vessel and expand their lobster storage capacity with a new re-circulating cold water tank system.⁵ In 2007 the Port Clyde Lobstermen's Co-op received a WWAPP grant for \$250,000 to build a new wharf that would also accommodate the local groundfishing boats.

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The Co-op leveraged an additional \$250,000 through the sale of a covenant that ensures that the property will continue to operate as a commercial working waterfront. The upgraded fishing facility now supports 28 lobster boats with an annual catch of more than 600,000 pounds (an estimated value of over \$2 million) and about a dozen groundfishing boats that land 1.5 million pounds of shrimp and fish each year.

Maryland: Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF)

The Maryland WIF provides grants and/or loans for a variety of waterfront capital improvement projects on publicly-owned lands as well as services for the boating public. The purpose of the grants is to improve and promote the recreational and commercial capabilities, conditions and safety of Maryland's waterways for the benefit of the general boating public. Projects eligible for funding include:

- Construction and maintenance of public marine facilities for the general boating public.
- Improvements, reconstruction, or removal of bridges, drawbridges or similar structures that delay, impede or obstruct the boating public.
- Installation of boat sewage pump-out stations.
- Construction of facilities and acquisition of vessels and equipment for State and local marine firefighting, police, first aid and medical assistance to promote public boating safety.

California's Department of Boating and Waterways: Boat Launching Facility Grants⁶

The California Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating) provides annual grants to public entities throughout the state for construction of launch ramps, boarding floats, shoreside or floating restrooms, shoreline protection, vehicle and trailer parking and other recreational boating facilities. The facilities constructed with Cal Boating grants must minimize environmental impacts, be economically feasible and remain open to all boaters at reasonable prices. In return for this funding, grant recipients are responsible for operating and maintaining the project for a minimum of 20 years at no additional cost to the state.

For more information, please contact:

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¹ North Carolina Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund Request for Proposals, July 31, 2009: <http://www.ncfisheries.net/download/WAMI/WAMI%20RFP-Southern%20District-5.pdf>.

² North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund": http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/Waterfront_Access.htm.

³ Florida Department of Community Affairs, *Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program: Case Studies*, pp. 9-11: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/waterfronts/Files/CommunityCaseStudies.pdf>.

⁴ Maine Department of Marine Resources: Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program (WWAPP): <http://www.wwapp.org/index.cfm>.

⁵ WWAPP, "Awarded Projects": <http://www.wwapp.org/projects.cfm>.

⁶ California Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating), "Facility Grants and Loans": <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Funding/Facilities.aspx#BLFG>.