



Examples of Marine Debris and Ghost Fishing Gear Cleanup Projects that could benefit from H.R. 4914, the Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010

Marine debris and derelict fishing gear cause wide ranging environmental problems in our oceans, from damaging habitat and injuring wildlife through entanglement or ingestion to damaging vessels and causing navigational hazards. A major goal of marine debris removal programs is to encourage cooperative efforts among the fishing industry and state and federal agencies to promote the removal and potential reuse of marine debris and derelict fishing gear. Below are examples of marine debris programs currently underway.

Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program¹

In 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$4.6 million in stimulus funding to the Northwest Straits Foundation to remove approximately 3,000 derelict fishing nets and crab pots from Puget Sound. Through a competitive bidding process, the project employs roughly 38 people and will restore 645 acres of marine habitat. The Foundation found that the economic benefit² of gear removal was \$1.28 for every dollar spent for crab pot removal, and \$1.27 for every dollar spent for derelict net removal.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWC): Trap Retrieval Programs³

The FFWC's Spiny Lobster, Stone Crab and Blue Crab Trap Retrieval Programs utilize a competitive bidding process to contract commercial fishermen to remove fishable traps from State waters during closed seasons. The programs pay fishermen based on the number of retrieval trips and the number of traps retrieved.⁴ These programs are funded by commercial saltwater license revenue and by retrieval fees assessed and collected in prior years. In 2009, the Spiny Lobster and Stone Crab Trap Retrieval Program spent \$106,170 collecting 6,108 traps, and the Blue Crab Trap Retrieval Program spent \$56,930 collecting 2600 traps.⁵

Oregon Derelict Gear Recovery Project

In 2009, NOAA awarded the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) approximately \$700,000 in stimulus funding for a derelict crab gear recovery project, the Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat. The project employs off-season commercial fishermen to remove 180 metric tons of derelict gear along the Oregon coast. After just 81 days on the water they had already recovered 1,367 derelict crab pots.⁶

Information about NOAA's Marine Debris Program is available here:

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>.

For more information, please contact:

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¹ Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program: <http://www.derelictgear.org/>.

² The economic benefit here is calculated as the survey and removal costs vs. the benefit of removal of gear item (function of ex vessel value of commercial species found within gear item multiplied by length of time gear is likely to fish).

³ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), Derelict Trap Retrieval and Debris Removal Program: http://www.myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/SaltwaterTraps_index.htm.

⁴ Fishermen contracted for these programs are paid for each trap retrieved, as well as a per diem rate for each trip (\geq 8 hours) to help offset the cost of fuel and labor (rates): stone crab and spiny lobster - \$450/trip in all regions except the Marquesas Keys, where the per diem rate is \$750/trip; blue crab - \$150/trip in all regions.

⁵ Kyle Miller, FFWCC, *Florida's Derelict Trap Retrieval and Trap Debris Removal Programs: A Brief Overview*. January 25, 2010.

⁶ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat Project Update #1", October 15, 2009: http://www.psmfc.org/crab/2008-2009%20files/ODFW_10152009_DERELICT%20CRAB%20POTS.pdf .