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Examples of Programs and Projects in New Jersey that would benefit from S. 3528, the Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010

Senators Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) and nine original cosponsors introduced S. 3528, the “Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010,” on June 24, 2010. The Coastal Jobs Creation Act will create jobs for fishermen and coastal communities as fish populations rebuild. The following are examples of key programs in New Jersey that could benefit from S. 3528:

New Jersey Marine Debris Prevention and Removal

The Cape May Fishing For Energy program¹ is a public-private partnership eligible for funding under S. 3528. Implemented through the NOAA Marine Debris Removal program, Fishing For Energy funds the removal and collection of derelict fishing gear in ports where marine debris is a significant problem. The partnership works with the fishing community to install bins at convenient locations where fishermen can easily dispose of gear. When these bins fill up, the gear is collected and converted into clean electricity for local communities. To date, the port town of Cape May has converted roughly 48 tons of derelict gear into electricity for the community.

Cooperative Research

New Jersey has several cooperative research programs underway that could benefit from S. 3528. For example, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Fisheries Science Center provides support for fishermen and scientists to conduct research into bycatch (capture of non target wildlife) in squid fisheries.² New Jersey Sea Grant also supports cooperative research, using fishermen to collect data on the relationship between fish population size and reproductive success and other key fisheries issues.

Habitat Research, Preservation, and Restoration

New Jersey has several habitat research, preservation and restoration projects that could benefit from S. 3528. For example, the Lincoln Park Wetland Restoration project in Jersey City is restoring 30 acres of a larger 80-acre coastal wetland in the industrialized area of the Hackensack River basin.³ Another example includes the Batsto River Fish Passage Restoration project in Washington Township, which has installed a fish ladder to provide access to at least 13.2 miles of river to migratory fish.⁴

In addition, the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC)/ New Jersey Sea Grant (NJSG) center would be eligible for funding under S. 3528.⁵ NJMSC/NJSG assists local municipalities with coastal resource protection issues, including salt marsh and eel grass habitat restoration. S. 3528 would also benefit the preservation and restoration of the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary and the Jacques Cousteau Reserve, which are both part of New Jersey’s National Estuarine Research Reserve System.⁶

Working Waterfront Revitalization

S. 3528 would provide support for programs that revitalize working waterfronts, such as the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.⁷ Created through the New Jersey Coastal Management program, the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway connects Union Dry Dock to the Hoboken Terminal through a series of trails, benches, bike racks, and parking.

The New Jersey Clean Marina Program⁸ could also benefit from S. 3528. This program protects critical habitat areas, including the Atlantic coastline and the Delaware River and Bay, by reducing nonpoint source pollution from sewage facilities, fueling operations, fish and solid waste management, and boat cleaning.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center⁹

S. 3528 would support programs such as the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine. The center houses the only marine mammal stranding facility in New Jersey. Since 1978, the Center has responded to over 3,450 strandings of whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles.

Ocean Observation

S. 3528 would provide support for ocean observation systems, such as the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA).¹⁰ MACOORA collects and analyzes data to provide weather forecasts critical for coastal and ocean-related businesses, including the tourist industry, shipping and maritime trade, recreational fisheries, and the insurance industry. Additionally, fishermen and fisheries managers rely on ocean information for navigational safety and identifying important fisheries habitats.

For more information, please contact:

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Please also visit our website for more resources at www.endoverfishing.org

¹http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&CONTENTID=15650&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm

²<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/StateFedOff/coopresearch/>

³<http://recovery.commerce.gov/featured/167-million-recovery-act-funding-coastal-restoration-projects>

⁴http://seahorse2.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcrpdb_app/class/rcdb_abstracts.jsp?PROJECT_ID=1021

⁵http://www.njmsc.org/Sea_Grant/SeaGrant_Research.htm#PastResearch

⁶<http://marine.rutgers.edu/pt/>

⁷http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cmp/czm_hudson.html

⁸<http://www.njcleanmarina.org>

⁹<http://www.marinemammalstrandingcenter.org/main.htm>

¹⁰<http://www.macoora.org/>