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Examples of Programs and Projects in Oregon 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 Oregon that could benefit from S. 3528:

Oregon Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Opportunities

Through the NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program, the Coastal Jobs Creation Act would authorize funding to support marine debris removal projects for Oregon’s coastal communities. These projects often involve fishermen and their vessels. For example, in 2009, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to employ Oregon off-season fishermen to remove derelict (i.e., lost or abandoned) crab pots and other fishing gear along the Oregon coast. Nearly 90 percent of the funds were used for projects that created or maintained 48 jobs. Of those, 31 were targeted for commercial fishermen impacted by the national economic downturn.¹

Oregon State University Cooperative Research Grants

Oregon Sea Grant supports a wide range of coastal/marine research involving fishermen and coastal communities² that will be eligible for funding under S. 3528. For example, in an effort to help restore the Pacific Northwest groundfish fisheries, Sea Grant is paying fishermen in Port Orford up to \$1,000 a day for scientific charters to release pregnant rockfish³ to assess the viability of this restoration approach.

Oregon Urban Waterfront Opportunities

The Coastal Jobs Creation Act would authorize direct funding for waterfront restoration efforts, such as the coastal waterfront and renovation programs that are supported through the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP).⁴ For instance, in 2005, the City of Astoria was awarded a grant through the OCMP for coastal waterfront restoration.⁵ Astoria used this grant and additional assistance to create a 4 mile river walk, which has led to resurgence in the economy of this small coastal community.⁶

Oregon Habitat Research, Preservation, and Restoration

Oregon has several habitat research, preservation and restoration projects focusing on salmon recovery that could benefit from S. 3528. Examples include the Delta Ponds Restoration project in Eugene, which removes invasive plants and constructs channels in the Willamette River wetlands, providing access to important refuge habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon;⁷ and the Gold Ray Dam Removal project in Medford, which is removing the Gold Ray Dam and opening more than 333 miles of the Rogue River to steelhead, Chinook and endangered coho salmon.⁸

In addition, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board would be eligible to receive funding from S. 3528 to support its efforts to improve rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat. These programs contribute to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Conservation Strategy.⁹

For more information, please contact:

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

¹ <http://ftp.dfw.state.or.us/news/2009/july/071609b.asp>

² <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/funding/index.html> - Oregon Sea Grant – What is a Sea Grant?

³ Oregon Sea Grant, Fishermen monitor pregnant fish to aid conservation:

<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/makingadifference/stories/HeppellSoA.html>

⁴ This fact was confirmed by a representative within the grant office for the Oregon Coastal Management Program. The office contact number is (503)-373-0050

⁵ *Ibid*

⁶ NOAA, Proceedings of Coastal Zone 07, Portland, Oregon:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/2007/Coastal_Zone_07_Proceedings/PDFs/Thursday_Abstracts/3106.Wall.pdf

⁷ <http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=678&PageID=1661>

⁸ <http://recovery.commerce.gov/featured/167-million-recovery-act-funding-coastal-restoration-projects>

⁹ The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board -

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/grant_applications_main.shtml#Eligible_Grant_Projects