



Fishing for Energy

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FUNDING PARTNERS

Major funding for the Fishing for Energy partnership is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Covanta Corporation. Additional in-kind support is provided by Schnitzer Steel Industries.



ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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An abandoned crab pot in Florida

A PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS

Fishing for Energy launched in 2008 through a partnership between Covanta, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, and Schnitzer Steel Industries. Fishing for Energy gives coastal communities and fishermen a way to manage and dispose of old, unusable or derelict (lost in the marine environment) fishing gear to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in and near coastal waterways.

OUR STRATEGY

Fishing for Energy supports four strategic initiatives that restore marine and coastal habitats and support the communities and industries that rely on these resources.

- **Disposal of Old and Unusable Gear:** Provide collection bins at high volume ports for commercial fishermen to dispose of gear.
- **Derelict Gear Removal:** Support large-scale removal of derelict gear from priority habitats to reduce marine wildlife entanglements and protect sensitive areas such as coral reefs from damage.
- **Technological Innovation:** Identify, test and deploy innovations to reduce accidental introduction of derelict fishing gear into the marine environment and to reduce the impact of gear if lost.
- **Community Awareness:** Increase public awareness about the environmental and economic harm caused by derelict gear in the marine environment and how Fishing for Energy - and initiatives to reduce marine debris - can provide measurable benefits for coastal habitats and communities.

(continued)



More than 4 million pounds of fishing gear have been collected at bins placed in 56 communities



● Active Fishing Gear Bins
● Inactive Fishing Gear Bins

HELPING FISHING AND MARINE COMMUNITIES

The NOAA Marine Debris Program has identified derelict fishing gear as one of the major types of debris impacting the marine environment. Derelict gear can have significant environment and economic impacts and can hinder safe navigation of US coastal waters navigational safety. Studies show that inactive or derelict fishing gear continues to “fish” commercially valuable species targeted by fishermen and cansnag on active fishing gear, creating high costs to fishermen in both time and money.

Derelict gear also catches non-target species, including vulnerable species such as marine mammals and sea turtles that are protected under federal law. Marine habitats, which are smothered when derelict nets sink from the weight of their catch, are further damaged when nets scour the ocean floor as they shift during storms.

GENERATING NEW ENERGY FROM OLD GEAR

Fishing for Energy partners work closely with state and local agencies, community groups, and local ports to install bins at convenient and strategic locations where fishermen can easily dispose of gear. When these bins are filled, the gear is collected and transported to a recycling or waste-to-energy facility, in many cases material travels to a Schnitzer Steel facility where the metal (i.e. crab pots, gear rigging) is pulled for recycling, and rope or nets are sheared for easier handling for disposal. In many cases, the non-metal material is brought to a Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility where it is used in the production of electricity for local communities.

RESULTS TO DATE

Fishing for Energy demonstrates that partnerships can be the source of solutions to problems that once appeared insurmountable, through:

- More than \$5.1 million leveraged to tackle marine debris.
- The removal of more than 4 million pounds of derelict fishing gear across the United States.
- New technology that makes it five times easier for crabs to escape derelict pots.
- More than 1,000 fishermen directly engaged as environmental stewards.
- Supporting state managers reevaluate outdated regulations and implement new policies to reduce gear loss and streamline removal efforts.
- Programs that educate recreational fishers and boaters to avoid gear interactions.
- Increased visibility on the impacts of derelict fishing gear and marine debris through support of new exhibits, web-based games and interactive educational programs, reaching more than 4 million people in ten years.

Fishing for Energy seeks to improve the lives of fishermen and coastal communities as well as the health of the marine environment. Thanks to this public-private partnership, there is a greater national understanding of the problems associated with derelict fishing gear.