Fishing For Energy 2019 Grant Slate

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FUNDING PARTNERS

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

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Blue crab

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), on behalf of Fishing for Energy partners Covanta and the NOAA Marine Debris Program (NOAA) announced a 2019 round of funding for Fishing for Energy projects. Ten new Fishing for Energy grants totaling $1,157,788 were awarded. The 10 awards announced generated $1,117,327 in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of $2,275,115.

Fishing for Energy seeks to provide a cost-free solution to fishermen to dispose of old, derelict or unusable fishing gear and to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in and around coastal waterways. By assisting in prevention and removal of derelict fishing gear, Fishing for Energy restores the quality of marine and coastal habitats and supports the communities and industries that rely on these resources.

The 2019 Request for Proposals targeted areas in U.S. coastal waters that have identified and prioritized derelict fishing gear reduction in state or regional plans, such as state marine debris action plans. In 2019, there was a greater priority given to several specific locations including, the Gulf of Maine in areas that are identified as priority for northern right whales, the Chesapeake Bay with targeted benefits to blue crab, the Puget Sound to benefit killer whales and Chinook salmon, and in Hawaii within the borders of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

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Derelict gear collected through the Fishing for Energy program

Engaging Citizens and Watermen in Removal of Derelict Blue Crab Traps in the Chesapeake Bay (VA, MD)
Grantee: College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Grant Amount:.....$187,395
Matching Funds:.....$30,015
Total Project Amount: $217,410
Engage citizens and commercial watermen through the use of a marine debris app for focused derelict gear removal efforts in the Chesapeake Bay. Project will increase derelict gear "sightings" information, provide economic and ecological benefits from the direct removal of derelict traps, and communicate removal progress to the public through an online interactive map.

Developing a Lost Gear Recovery Program to Align with California State Regulations
Grantee: Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust
Grant Amount:.....$19,956
Matching Funds:.....$12,950
Total Project Amount: $32,906
Modify existing gear retrieval program in Monterey Bay to comply with new California state regulations. Project will engage local fishermen and partner organizations to coordinate a voluntary gear retrieval program that removes lost or abandoned crab gear prior to entanglement with marine animals.

Removal of Derelict Fishing Gear from Cape Cod Bay Right Whale Critical Habitat (MA)
Grantee: Center for Coastal Studies
Grant Amount:.....$258,214
Matching Funds:.....$231,073
Total Project Amount: $489,287
Identify, recover, document and dispose of derelict fishing gear from the Cape Cod Bay Right Whale Critical Habitat. Project will conduct side-scan sonar and collaborate with lobster, aquaculture and mobile gear fishermen to identify hot spots, increase proper disposal and remove gear from critical whale habitat.

Establish a Derelict Net Removal and Tracking Program for the Quinault Nation (WA)
Grantee: Quinault Indian Nation
Grant Amount:.....$69,338
Matching Funds:..... $0
Total Project Amount: $69,338
Develop a program to reduce derelict nets from coastal riparian corridors and properly dispose of them to prevent their entry into the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

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Project will inform fishermen and the community of the ecological effects of abandoned and lost derelict gear, conduct clean-ups, and develop a new gear tracking system to improve management.

Removing Derelict Crab Pots to Reduce Marine Wildlife Entanglement (CA)
Grantee: Marine Life Studies
Grant Amount:. $90,013
Matching Funds:. $30,000
Total Project Amount: $120,013
Remove derelict crab and spawn prawn pots from the seafloor and in the water column of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Project will reduce potential entanglements of endangered marine wildlife and increase navigational safety for recreational and commercial boaters.

Removing Derelict Fishing Gear from Artificial Reefs in the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (FL)
Grantee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Grant Amount:. $59,300
Matching Funds:. $91,392
Total Project Amount: $150,692
Remove derelict fishing gear from artificial reefs in Charlotte Harbor. Project will properly remove and recycle gear and coordinate with local counties and volunteer divers to monitor the reefs.

Assessing and Removing Derelict Lobster Gear in Long Island Sound (CT, NY)
Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
Grant Amount:. $133,697
Matching Funds:. $86,402
Total Project Amount: $220,099
Remove 3,640 derelict lobster pots from Long Island Sound using a specialized grapple system. Project will implement a program with local lobster fishermen to remove abandoned gear to reduce debris in the sound and ghost fishing impacts to the depleted Southern New England lobster stock.

Marine Debris Removal in Kauai (HI)
Grantee: Malama Na Apapa
Grant Amount:. $58,850
Matching Funds:. $311,356
Total Project Amount: $370,206
Locate and remove debris from the reefs and adjacent shorelines along the north and east shores of Kauai associated with lost drift nets and derelict fishing gear and from washouts caused by two major flooding events in 2018. Project will survey and clear debris from nine priority sites in cooperation with the Division of Aquatic Resources.

Potter's Angelfish on Hawaiian coral reef

Removing Marine Debris from Kanapou on Kaho'olawe (HI)
Grantee: Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
Grant Amount:. $76,025
Matching Funds:. $134,139
Total Project Amount: $210,164
Detect, assess and remove derelict fishing gear and debris from Kanapou Beach on the island of Kaho'olawe. Project will remove damaging debris to conserve coral reefs and test their use in reducing erosion in upland habitats.

Partnering with Lobster Fisherman to Reduce Entanglement of North Atlantic Right Whales (ME)
Grantee: Sea Mammal Education Learning Technology Society
Grant Amount:. $205,000
Matching Funds:. $190,000
Total Project Amount: $395,000
Test and evaluate ropeless lift bag fishing gear with lobster fishermen and NOAA gear experts to reduce vertical lines that can entangle endangered North Atlantic right whales. Project will test effectiveness and integration of new gear innovation and begin to socialize with lobster fishermen and enforcement in the Gulf of Maine to evaluate feasibility.