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 and funding for gear innovation to benefit the North Atlantic right whale is provided by Shell Oil Co.

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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**

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Lobster traps

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Covanta and the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced a 2020-year round of funding for Fishing for Energy projects. Four new marine conservation grants totaling $643,579 were awarded. The four awards announced generated $226,521 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $870,100.

The Fishing for Energy program broadly 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. This is done through two separate prongs, the bin program and the grant program. By assisting in prevention, innovation, and management 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 2020 grant program 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 2020, there was priority given to projects that (1) developed innovation in gear technology and (2) implemented elements of a comprehensive derelict fishing gear management strategy.

(continued)

Fishing gear in Astoria

Test and Implement Commercial Grade Biodegradeable Hinges on Dungeness Crab Traps (VA, WA, AK)
Grantee: College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Grant Amount: $130,579
Matching Funds: $26,399
Total Project: $156,978
Employ commercial-grade biodegradable hinges on Dungeness crab traps to minimize adverse impacts when the traps become derelict. Project will test the durability of the hinges in both the active fishery utilizing watermen and in a simulated derelict trap mode to ensure they work as needed to be functional for fishermen and protect marine ecosystems.

Reducing Entanglements of Critically Endangered Marine Life with Gear Tracking Technology (ME)
Grantee: Blue Planet Strategies
Grant Amount: $231,000
Matching Funds: $65,816
Total Project: $296,816
Develop an innovative gear tracking technology to be tested in the New England groundfish fishery designed to track gear anchored at the sea floor to surface buoys. Project will reduce entanglement of critically endangered marine life, reduce the amount of derelict gear and advance gear tracking technology.
Funding partners for this grant include Shell Oil Company.

Implementing a Comprehensive Marine Debris Management Program (FL)
Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Grant Amount: $162,000
Matching Funds: $13,438
Total Project: $175,438
Build capacity for marine debris conservation and implement key elements of a comprehensive marine debris management program in Florida. Project will develop and implement multiple state marine debris plan activities and develop a marine debris website to facilitate statewide and regional marine debris prevention, removal, research, education and outreach

Restoring Coastal Estuaries through Gear Removal and Community Engagement (FL)
Grantee: Ocean Aid 360
Grant Amount: $120,000
Matching Funds: $120,868
Total Project: $240,868
Mobilize diverse entities including boaters, anglers, watershed groups, industry, students and government through training and sponsored events to detect and remove marine debris along Florida coastlines. Project will remove roughly 30,000 pounds of derelict fishing gear from estuary habitat.