

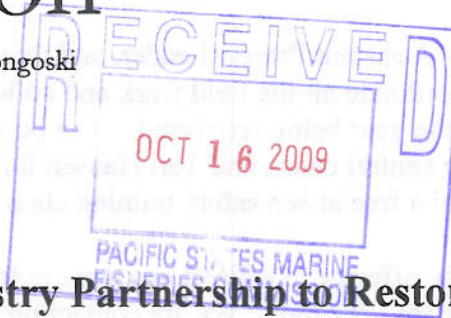


Oregon

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October 15, 2009

Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat Project Update #1

1,000 Derelict Crab Pots Recovered off Oregon So Far Please Promptly Pick Up Your Recovered Gear

On July 1, 2009, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) received nearly \$700,000 in federal (NOAA) funds for a derelict crab gear recovery project, Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat. This is our first update to you on the project's progress. Due to the tremendous work of our many project partners, contracted and volunteer fishermen, and others, we're about halfway to our target of recovering 2,000 pots this year. We have completed just over half the on-the-water work so far, so we might come close to our target. We'll repeat this effort again next year and plan to get an earlier start. Although called "derelict", most of the recovered pots were strays, lost, or left behind and are in good shape, ready to be fished again.

Operation CRABPOT

With the help of seven vessels and their crews from Astoria, Winchester Bay, Charleston and Brookings, Operation CRABPOT (Clearing Refuse And Building a Pristine Ocean for Tomorrow), the Crab Commission's (ODCC) first 'volunteer' gear recovery effort took place during the last week of September. A total of 40 lost, strayed or 'left behind' pots were brought to the dock and reunited with their owners in what the Commission hopes will become an annual industry-wide event after ODFW's NOAA-funded derelict gear removal project ends next year. Participants were paid a fuel 'stipend' thanks to a small grant from the Department of State Lands which was matched by ODCC funds.

Derelict Crab Gear Retrieval by Chartered Vessels

The captains and crew of the following chartered vessels began recovering gear on or shortly after October 1. They have completed about 36 days on the water so far and have potentially 24 more days to complete their activities this year. These vessels were chartered for varying number of days and for varying activities, such as pulling, pumping, grappling, or a combination. **Please report derelict crab gear to ODCC's Derelict Gear Hotline: 1-800-707-CRAB (2722)**

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Pots</u>
Buck N Ann	John Corbin	North Coast	225
Majestik	Dianne Hammond	North Coast	133
Last Dance	Joe Rock	Central Coast	202
Loraine C	Nathan McAvoy	Central Coast	131
Morning Star	Mike Lane	South Coast	92
Delma Ann	Al Pazar	South Coast	93
TOTAL			960

David (Wolfe) Wagman, ODFW Assistant Project Leader, and three contracted “port liaisons” are working with the captains and crew to coordinate all the field work and collect data, as well as work with the processors and others to handle the gear being recovered. The port liaisons are Doug Brown for the north coast, Corie McGranahan for the central coast, and Teri Hansen for the south coast. Curt Farrell, of the US Coast Guard, graciously provided a free at-sea safety training class for project participants.

Several processors are generously offering to offload and store pots at their plants for you to pick up. But they can’t keep storing your gear for very long. We are contacting owners of recovered gear to come by and pick it up quickly. Please do so as soon as you can.

Due to the large numbers of pots coming in, it is critical that owners pick up their gear as soon as possible. Gear is being brought to the following locations:

Astoria: Pacific Coast Seafood
Garibaldi: Port of Garibaldi Pot Yard
Newport: Pacific Shrimp and Hallmark (may be moved to International Terminal soon)
Florence: Port Dock (next to Mo’s) (may be moved to Newport or Charleston soon)
Charleston: Pacific Choice Seafood

Sonar Survey and Trawl Grappling Set to Begin Next Week

In addition, a sonar survey around the Columbia River will begin next week to detect cut-off pots. The sonar will be deployed for up to ten days from the F/V Kilchis to detect cut-off gear. Locations of cut-off pots detected by the sonar will be provided to a chartered trawl vessel (F/V Pacific Hooker). Using this information, the captain and crew will follow the sonar tracks, towing specially designed grapples to snag and retrieve pots. Given his extensive knowledge and experience in this area, Al Gann has been contracted to advise on how best to set up and operate the grappling equipment.

If you have questions or comments, our contact information is:

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