



Oregon

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Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat Project Update #2

1,359 Derelict Crab Pots Recovered in 2009 Gearing Up For 2010

In July 2009, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) received nearly \$700,000 in grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. ODFW and its project partners contributed another \$135,000 of in-kind services for an overall project totaling \$835,000. Primary goals of the project are to recover about 4,000 derelict crab pots off the Oregon coast and to develop an on-going industry-led program to recover derelict crab gear. The project partnership completed the first year of this two-year project and is preparing for the second.

The project's success in the first year was due to the participation and support of many in and outside the industry. ODFW staff appreciates the efforts of all those involved and especially thank the partners and participants named on page 5 of the mailing. There are many opportunities to be involved in 2010 and we welcome your participation.

In this mailing we included:

- **Coastal Meetings Notice – May 18-20, 2010**
- **Summary of 2009 Activities and Gear Recovery Maps**
- **Partners and Participants in 2009**
- **2010 Activities: How To Get Involved**
 - **Operation CRABPOT**
 - **Upcoming Charter Vessel Bid Opportunities**
 - **Derelict Gear Hotline Reports & Magnet**

If you have questions or comments, please contact Cyreis Schmitt at 541-867-0300, ext. 265.

COASTAL MEETINGS: May 18 - 20, 2010

Oregon Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission will be available to meet with you about the derelict crab gear recovery project at the dates and times listed below. We will give a brief presentation at the start of each meeting, but feel free to drop by at any time during these meetings to discuss the project and bid opportunities.

Derelict Crab Gear Recovery topics for discussion include:

- Brief presentation of the first year's results
- 2010 Contract Opportunities – Pick up Bid Packages
- 2010 Operation CRABPOT –Volunteers
- Open Q &A

Port	Date	Time	Location
Brookings	May 18	9-11 am	Best Western Beachfront Inn 16008 Boat Basin Rd. 541.469.7779
Charleston	May 18	2-5 pm	RV Marina Center 63402 Kingfisher Rd. 541.888.9512
Newport	May 19	2-5 pm	ODFW Newport Office 2040 SE Marine Science Dr. 541.867.0300
Astoria	May 20	9-12 am	ODFW Astoria Office 2001 Marine Dr. 503.325.2462
Garibaldi	May 20	3-5 pm	Garibaldi City Hall 107 Sixth St. 503.322.3327

SUMMARY OF 2009 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Oregon Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat

During 2009, the Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat removed an estimated 150,000 pounds (over 67 metric tons) of crab gear and other marine debris from the ocean. This included 1,359 crab pots collected from Bandon to Astoria, mainly from the shore out to 40 fathoms, and nearly 8,800 pounds (36 totes) of lines, cables and buoys. This gear was recovered through three main activities in 2009: 1) a volunteer industry clean-up; 2) chartered vessels pulling and pumping buoyed pots, and 3) a sonar survey to locate pots without buoys, paired with a chartered vessel to grapple them from the ocean bottom. More detail about each of these activities is given below and is illustrated in the two color maps enclosed. One map shows the locations of pots by retrieval technique recovered along the coast. The other map identifies the sonar survey area around the Columbia River mouth, with the towlines and pots detected by sonar and the towlines of the companion grappling vessel.

In addition to the at-sea activities, commercial fish processors in each port handled the main shoreside activity. They offloaded and stored all the recovered pots until owners could pick them up. Their donation of storage space and offloading services to the project were critical and we gratefully acknowledge them on the Partners and Participants page included in this mailing. As soon as gear was brought in, the port liaisons and ODFW notified owners to pick gear up and the majority of pots were picked up before the start of the 2009-10 season.

Over two-thirds of the crabbers that fished off Oregon last season had gear recovered by the project. In all, the project recovered pots from 224 of the 324 crabbers who fished off Oregon last season. Nearly all the pots were from the 2008-09 season and in good shape, with over 98% ready to fish again. The few unusable pots and any line, cable, and other fishing debris recovered by the project were recycled for free in the "Fishing for Energy" program participating in the ports of Newport and Garibaldi.

About \$270,000 in federal funds for the project have been spent to date in coastal communities. Of this, \$242,000 went to contracted services: eight fishing vessel charters, three port liaisons, and one side scan sonar survey. Of the 25 people who directly received some employment from these contracts, 23 were from the Oregon coastal fishing industry. The names of vessels chartered, their owners, and port liaisons are listed on the Partners and Participants page included in this mailing.

Dungeness crab was the main species recovered in the pots, averaging about four crabs per pot. In total, 5,200 legal crabs were returned to the sea. Other species were less common and included mainly red rock crabs, starfish, anemones, sand dollars, and a few fish.

Operation CRABPOT: Industry Volunteer Program

The 2009 field season began in September with Operation CRABPOT (Clearing Refuse And Building a Pristine Ocean for Tomorrow), a volunteer clean-up effort coordinated by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) in what they hope will become an annual volunteer clean-up event. Seven vessels

and their crews (listed on the page 5) worked from 4 coastal ports and recovered 40 buoyed pots in this effort. While the ODCC and Department of State Lands provided a fuel stipend for the vessels, captains and crews volunteered their time in this collaborative effort to retrieve derelict gear. To help document the location of derelict gear in the ocean, the ODCC maintained a derelict gear hotline: 1-800-707-CRAB (2722).

Recovery of Buoyed Crab Pots

In addition to the volunteer effort, the project funded charters for six vessels and three port liaisons to conduct at-sea crab pot recovery of buoyed gear during October and early November, 2009. The primary goal was to retrieve as many crab pots as possible. Vessels were chartered for varying numbers of days and operated out of the major ports. Few bids were received and none competitive, so no vessels were chartered out of Brookings for the extreme southern coast. Some chartered vessels were equipped to pump out and retrieve gear buried by sand deposition, but most focused on retrieving pots that could simply be hauled on board, like normal crab fishing.

During a total of 51 vessel-days at sea, these vessels and their crews retrieved 1,234 pots and 17 totes of line and buoys. The general area covered and numbers of pots recovered by each vessel are listed on the Partners and Participants page of this mailing.

Finding and Recovering Cut-off Crab Pots

The area outside the Columbia River is an area of known derelict gear concentration, especially of crab pots cut off from their buoys. A specialized recovery effort was required for cut-off gear. Two frequencies of side-scan sonar were tested from a chartered fishing vessel. Both clearly detected targets, believed to be pots, and sometimes pieces of attached line, on the bottom. Over seven square nautical miles were mapped with sonar and 474 targets were detected. Although the density of pots varied among the areas surveyed, preliminary analyses indicate the sonar detected an overall average of about 50 pots per square mile in the surveyed area.

To recover this gear, a second chartered vessel used the sonar location information and towed specialized grappling gear to snag lines and pots. This gear was rigged with 8 grapples attached at intervals along a groundline towed along the bottom between trawl doors. A total of 115 pots and 19 totes of line, cables, and other fishing debris were recovered during nine days on the water. Preliminary results show that the grappling vessel was quite effective. It covered about 21% of the sonar survey area and recovered about three-quarters of the detected pots in this smaller area.



PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN 2009

Oregon Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat

PROJECT PARTNERS

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Pacific Seafood	Hallmark Seafood
Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission	Bornstein Seafood	US Coast Guard
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Oregon State Police	Hatfield Marine Science Center

OPERATION CRABPOT VOLUNTEERS

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Crew</u>	<u>Port</u>
Apache	Tom Nowlin	Chris Hanson	Charleston
Cascade	Kevin Ward	Joe Fiorucci	Winchester Bay
Columbian	Rod Mills	Nicholas Mills	Charleston
Buck & Ann	John Corbin	Kaleb Thoreson	Astoria
Pisces	Daryl Bogardus	Sally Bogardus	Charleston
Panda	Bernie Lindley	Matt Long	Brookings
Silver Eagle	Garee McGuinness	Justin McGuinness	Charleston

RECOVERED BUOYED CRAB POTS

<u>Chartered Vessel</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Area</u>
Buck N Ann	John Corbin	North Coast
Majestik	Dianne Hammond	North Coast
Last Dance	Joe Rock	Central Coast
Loraine C	Nathan McAvoy	Central Coast
Morning Star	Mike Lane	South Coast
Delma Ann	Al Pazar	South Coast

LOCATED OR RECOVERED CUT-OFF CRAB POTS

<u>Chartered Vessel</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Area</u>
Pacific Hooker	Pacific Fishing LLC	Off Columbia River
Kilchis (sonar platform)	Doug Brown	Off Columbia River

David Evans & Associates Mike Hill, Nick Lesnikowski Side Scan Sonar Operations

SHORESIDE GEAR UNLOADING/STORAGE

<u>Processor & Port</u>	<u>Area</u>
Pacific Coast Seafood	Warrenton
Port of Garibaldi Pot Yard	Garibaldi
Pacific Shrimp, Hallmark	Newport
Port Dock	Florence
Pacific Choice Seafood	Charleston

PORT LIAISONS

<u>Observer</u>	<u>Area</u>
Teri Harris	South Coast
Corie McGranahan	Central Coast
Doug Brown	North Coast

OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Oregon Department of State Lands	Port of Siuslaw	Port of Newport
Darus Peake, Port of Garibaldi	Covanta Energy	Schnitzer Steel
Scott McMullen, Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee	Mark Barnhart	Tom Harris
National Fish & Wildlife Fdn. Fishing For Energy Program	Bob Browning	Susan Chambers

2010 ACTIVITIES: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Oregon Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat

➤ **Report locations of derelict gear to reporting hotline**

A toll-free hotline has been set up by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) for anyone involved with the marine environment to report lost or derelict crab gear. Please display the enclosed magnet in a prominent location on your vessel, for easy reference. The hotline will continue after this project ends.

REPORT DERELICT GEAR LOCATIONS TO ODCC'S GEAR REPORTING HOTLINE: 1-800-707-CRAB (2722)

Record and report as much information as you can, including:

Location: GPS Latitude/Longitude coordinates (preferred) or LORAN C coordinates, depth, distance from nearby landmarks and/or common names for the area. Be as specific as possible.

Gear Details: Number of pots and strings of pots; buoy colors and/or buoy numbers, etc.

Other Details: Date of sighting, how seen (from boat, from shore, snagged while fishing)

Contact Information: your name and phone number, address or email address.

➤ **Volunteer for Operation CRABPOT 2010**

Operation CRABPOT (Clearing Refuse And Building a Pristine Ocean for Tomorrow), is the volunteer clean-up component of the project, coordinated by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) in what they hope will become an annual volunteer clean-up event. ODCC and Department of State Lands are prepared to provide participants with a fuel stipend to the vessels that volunteer their time in this collaborative effort to retrieve derelict gear. If you would like more information regarding the volunteer effort please contact:

Nick Furman or Hugh Link
Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission
541-267-5810, www.oregondungeness.org

➤ **Bid for contract opportunities in 2010**

1. Gear retrieval vessel contracts - 8-10 commercial fishing boats will be chartered to pull, pump and/or tow grapples to recover derelict crab pots and associated gear. Boats of various sizes and capabilities will be needed and not every chartered boat will need to be able to do all activities. Boats will be needed for work on the north, central, and south coasts.

2. Side scan sonar platform contract – 1 commercial fishing boat will be chartered to deploy and retrieve side scan sonar equipment in coordination with a contracted survey operator to locate cut off pots. All work performed by this vessel will be conducted offshore of the Columbia River.

3. Specialized grappling vessel contract – 1 commercial trawl vessel, in coordination with the side scan sonar platform vessel, will be chartered to tow specially designed grapples to retrieve pots. All work performed by this vessel will be conducted offshore of the Columbia River.

4. Side Scan Sonar Survey contract – side scan sonar equipment and operator will be contracted to conduct a side scan sonar survey offshore of the Columbia River to detect cut-off pots.

5. Aircraft contract – 1 or 2 small commercial aircraft will be chartered to conduct aerial surveys along the entire coast to detect and report locations of derelict crab gear to guide gear recovery efforts.

6. Documentary contract - a film production company will be contracted to produce a narrated documentary of the project for permanent display and other outreach and education activities.

➤ **Vessel Charters Bidding: Opens in mid-May**

All vessel charter contracts will be procured through the state competitive bid process. Requests for bids will be posted on the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/SSD/SPO/index.shtml>.

EXPECTED POSTING: May 17, 2010
EXPECTED DUE DATE: July 19, 2010

For actual dates and copies of the bid packages, please check the ORPIN website, pick one up at a derelict crab gear meeting (see page 2) or contact one of the following ODFW offices during normal working hours:

<u>ODFW Offices</u>		
Astoria	2001 Marine Drive, Room 120	(503) 325-2462
Newport	2040 SE Marine Science Drive	(541) 867-4741
Charleston	63538 Boat Basin Drive	(541) 888-5515
Brookings	16217 Hoffeldt Lane	(541) 412-7364

Return completed bids by the due date to:

Cyreis Schmitt
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365
Phone: (541) 867-4741
FAX: (541) 867-0311

You may submit completed bid packages electronically on the ORPIN website by the deadline, or by mail, hand delivery or FAX to Cyreis Schmitt so that they are **RECEIVED** by this deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.