

Oregon Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat

(NOAA Stimulus Grant—Derelict Crab Pot Recovery)

August 14, 2009

In July 2009, ODFW received \$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 a total project totaling \$835,000.

Who are the Project Partners?

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission
Oregon State Police
Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center

Bornstein Seafood, Inc.
Hallmark Fisheries
Pacific Seafood
US Coast Guard

What Will the Project Do?

The goal is to recover an estimated 4,000 derelict crab pots over two field seasons from all along the Oregon coast. The project will also enable us to estimate the amount of derelict gear that is currently off the Oregon coast and to estimate the amount that is lost each season. The majority of project activities will occur between crab fishery seasons, during the fall of 2009 and 2010. On-the water activities are planned to begin as soon as the procurement process is completed, possibly as early as mid-September.

The project will be conducted in 4 main phases:

For buoyed crab gear, locations will be determined from chartered overflights and reports to the gear reporting hotline (see below). Chartered commercial fishing vessels will pull and pump to recover these pots and associated buoys, etc.

For cut-off pots, locations will be determined around the mouth of the Columbia River during side-scan sonar surveys. A chartered vessel will tow specially designed grapples to snag and recover the cut-off pots.

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission will organize an Industry Clean-up Event, utilizing volunteers to recover buoyed pots after the crab fishing season ends each fall.

A narrated documentary will be produced about the project. It will recognize the efforts of the project partners and industry to address derelict fishing gear, educate and promote stewardship of marine resources, and recognize the benefits of stimulus funds to the fishing industry and coastal communities.

How Can You Help Now?

A toll-free hotline has been set up by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) so that anyone involved with the marine environment can report lost or derelict crab gear.

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. Contact information will be very helpful should more information be needed. However, anonymous reports will be accepted.

What are the Opportunities for Contracted Services?

About 10 commercial fishing boats will be chartered to pull, pump and tow grapples to recover derelict crab pots and associated gear. Boats of various sizes and capabilities will be needed. 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.

Three port liaisons will be needed each fall. They will go out on each gear recovery trip to record information and will be responsible for handling gear onshore. They may participate in overflights to locate derelict gear. One port liaison will cover the north coast, one will cover the central coast and one will cover the south coast.

One or more small commercial planes will be chartered each fall to conduct overflights to spot locations of derelict crab gear.

Side scan sonar equipment and an operator will be contracted to conduct a side scan sonar survey each fall near the mouth of the Columbia River to detect cut-off pots.

An expert in grappling for cut-off pots will be contracted to assist in recovering cut-off pots during the first field season.

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

How Can You Be Considered for Contracted Services?

All services for this project will be procured through the state competitive bid process. We anticipate requests for bids will be posted during August on the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/SSD/SPO/index.shtml>

Some contract bid opportunities may only be posted for as little as two weeks, so prompt attention is highly recommended.

Whom to Contact?

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