



# NFWF

## Fishing For Energy 2018 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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A marine debris team poses with a day's worth of derelict fishing nets removed from the shorelines of Midway Atoll, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. | Credit: JIMAR/NOAA PIFSC

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), on behalf of Fishing for Energy partners Covanta Energy Corporation and the NOAA Marine Debris Program (NOAA) announced a 2018 round of funding for Fishing for Energy projects. Seven new Fishing for Energy grants totaling \$1.5 million were awarded, generating \$135,403 in grantee match contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$1.6 million.

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. This year's slate of grants is estimated to remove more than 173,261 pounds of derelict gear from the environment.

The program will target 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.

*(continued)*

**Derelict Fishing Trap Removal and Effective Management Planning in Puerto Rico**

Grantee: The Ocean Foundation

FFE Award:.....\$221,862

Conduct a comprehensive removal effort of abandoned fishing traps in Puerto Rico and document the scale of unauthorized trap fishing in the territory. Project will couple a large scale derelict gear removal effort with an assessment of illegal trap fishing in collaboration with local and federal agencies and the fishing sector to improve compliance with trap fishing regulations and help transition to legal gear.

**Marine Mammal Entanglement Prevention and Habitat Restoration in Southwest Alaska**

Grantee: Island Trails Network

FFE Award:.....\$213,627

Reduce entanglement and mortality of whales, Stellar sea lions and other marine mammals and increase awareness of the impact of entangling debris. Project will engage volunteers from the general public and the commercial fishing industry in efforts to remove derelict fishing gear from prioritized locations in the Kodiak archipelago including Kodiak, Afognak, Shuyak and minor outlying islands.

**Dungeness Crab Trap Biodegradable Hinge Escape Mechanism (WA, AK)**

Grantee: College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

FFE Award:.....\$140,568

Reduce ecological and economic impacts associated with lost gear in coastal Washington and Alaska. Project will incorporate an innovative bio-hinge mechanism into Dungeness crab traps, testing an effective, inexpensive mechanism to disarm derelict traps.

**Derelict Fishing Gear Removal from Shallow Coral Reef Environments within Papahānaumokuākea (HI)**

Grantee: University of Hawaii - Manoa

FFE Award:.....\$500,000

Execute a large-scale derelict fishing gear removal effort from the remote islands and atolls within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear to critical habitats for more than 7,000 marine and avian species, and dispose up to 50 metric tons of removed derelict fishing gear.

**Reducing Right Whale Entanglement through Derelict Fixed Gear Removal in Cape Cod Bay (MA)**

Grantee: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

FFE Award:.....\$98,840

Remove fixed gear from the Massachusetts Bay Restricted Area during closed season to reduce the entanglement risk to North Atlantic right whales. Project will partner



Team member showcases some of the debris collected in Alaska. | Credit: Island Trails Network

with Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Center for Coastal Studies, and local lobstermen to identify, remove and dispose of fixed-fishing gear.

**Lost Gillnet Removal in Puget Sound to Protect and Restore Critical Marine Habitat (WA)**

Grantee: Natural Resources Consultants

FFE Award:.....\$174,913

Remove up to 30 derelict gillnets from marine waters in Puget Sound, Washington. Project will clear areas of historically high concentrations of derelict nets to protect critical habitats for listed species including, Chinook salmon, bocaccio rockfish, yellow-eye rockfish and marbled murrelet.

**Hurricane Irma Displaced Trap Retrieval in the Florida Keys**

Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FFE Award:.....\$155,000

Address the impacts of spiny lobster and stone crab traps lost during Hurricane Irma in coastal and inland areas of the Florida Keys. Project will restore sensitive habitats including mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds where derelict traps may become entanglement hazards to endangered and threatened species.