



NFWF

Fishing for Energy Closeout Report

FUNDING PARTNERS

- ReWorld
- Radius Recycling
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Testing 'smart' buoys to reduce the amount of derelict gear in the ocean

OVERVIEW

The Fishing for Energy program was established in 2008 under a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, ReWorld (formerly Covanta) and Radius Recycling (formerly Schnitzer Steel Industries). The Fishing for Energy program provided commercial fishermen with no-cost solutions to dispose of retired, unusable or lost in the marine environment, otherwise known as “derelict” fishing gear, and offered competitive grants to reduce the impacts of this gear on coastal waterways. By helping to prevent and remove derelict gear, Fishing for Energy restored the quality of marine and coastal habitats and supported the communities and industries that rely on these resources.

Fishing for Energy Objectives Included:

- **Disposal:** Provide collection bins at strategic ports for proper gear disposal
- **Management:** Work with managers to address impediments of derelict fishing gear removal
- **Innovation:** Identify, test and deploy innovations to address gear loss from storms or interaction with wildlife and to reduce the effectiveness of gear once lost
- **Outreach:** Educate the public about the impacts of derelict fishing gear and Fishing for Energy initiatives to make measurable change

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation’s largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 22,100 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1625 Eye Street, NW
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\$5.03 million

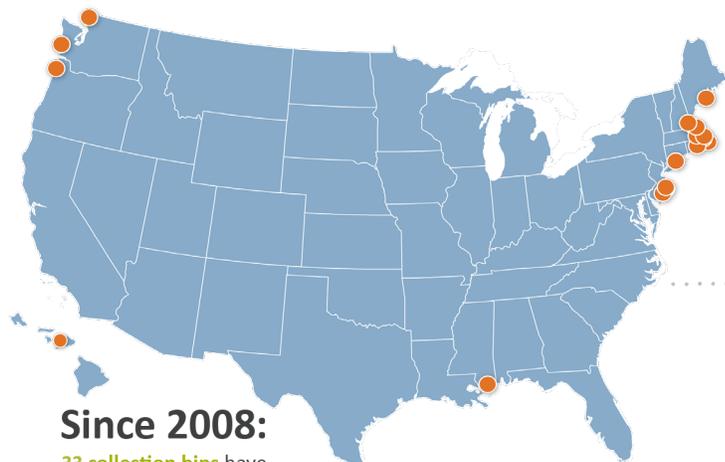
Total Fishing for Energy Fund grant awards (2009-2021)

\$3.41 million

Total grantee matching contributions

\$8.45 million

Total conservation impact



Fishing for Energy supports **communities** to establish gear recycling and removal. These **communities** are critical to success and benefit from the results.

Since 2008:
33 collection bins have been installed across **13 states**

Fishing for Energy collected more than **4 million pounds** of old fishing gear



Fishing for Energy produced enough energy to power more than **2,500 average American homes**



NFWF's core objective was to increase opportunities for fishermen to properly dispose of retired or derelict fishing gear. The gear was then processed by Fishing for Energy partners and converted to energy for nearby communities. Through this effort the program partnered with more than 30 different locations across the country to place collection and recycling bins. Some local groups and even ports themselves have elected to continue providing this service in many of the communities that were initially started by this program.

The program awarded 56 grants from 2009 – 2021 to achieve the objectives of the program and to foster research, innovation and awareness in this space by reducing both the quantity and the impacts of marine debris. These grants touched all corners of the coastal United States, fostering collaborations with state management entities, innovators and fishermen. Projects were selected based on their ability to reduce impacts to threatened and endangered marine wildlife and the habitats they depend on, in addition to a demonstrated connection to management and activities to raise awareness around the impacts of marine debris.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Lost Gillnet Removal in Puget Sound to Protect and Restore Critical Marine Habitat

This project in Washington removed 30 derelict gillnets from marine waters in Puget Sound, clearing areas of historically high concentrations of derelict nets to protect critical habitats for listed species including Chinook salmon and marbled murrelet.

Restoring Coastal Estuaries through Gear Removal and Community Engagement in Florida

This project engaged a diverse group of stakeholders, including recreational boaters, fishermen, students, and watershed groups in training and sponsored events to detect and remove marine debris along Florida coastlines. Over the course of the grant, volunteers removed 107,305 pounds of derelict fishing gear, helping to improve important coastal habitats.

Removal and Interception of Derelict Fishing Gear from Cape Cod Bay

This project conducted sonar surveys to identify targets and work with lobstermen and other fishermen to grapple, recover, inventory, document and properly dispose of derelict fishing gear in Cape Cod Bay. The efforts built upon partnerships with the lobster industry to successfully intercept more than 30,000 pounds of derelict gear before it could negatively impact marine resources and habitat.



56

Grants awarded

27

Square miles of sea floor cleared of debris

379

Tons of marine debris removed

420

Tons of fishing gear recycled or converted to energy

FISHING FOR ENERGY GRANTEES



Retired fishing gear collected in Washington.

PARTICIPATING COLLECTION ENTITIES

Borough of Barnegat Light
 City of Gloucester Harbormaster
 City of Newport (RI)
 City of Portland (ME)
 Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey
 Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
 Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute
 Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United
 New Bedford Harbor Development Commission
 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
 Port of Astoria
 Port of Belford
 Port of Bellingham
 Port of Boston
 Port of Brookhaven
 Port of Garibaldi
 Port of Grays Harbor
 Port of Harpswell
 Port of Newport (OR)
 Port of Pt. Judith
 Port of Wesport
 Stockton University
 The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
 Town of Cape May
 Town of Chatham
 Town of Newburyport
 Town of Provincetown
 Town of Rockport
 Town of Sandwich
 Town of Seabrook

Town of Scituate
 Town of South Thomaston
 Town of Wellfleet

GRANTS

Blue Ocean Gear
 Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
 Blue Planet Strategies
 Center for Aquatic Sciences
 Center for Coastal Studies
 College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
 Island Trails Network
 Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
 Mālama Nā `Apapa
 Marine Life Studies
 Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
 Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust
 National Aquarium in Baltimore
 National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
 Natural Resources Consultants
 Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation
 Ocean Aid 360
 Provincetown Public Pier Corporation
 Quinault Indian Nation
 ReelCycle
 Sea Mammal Education Learning Technology Society
 Sea Research Foundation
 Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
 Smithsonian Institution
 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
 Stellwagen Alive! Friends for our National Marine Sanctuary
 The Bay Institute
 The Ocean Foundation
 U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water
 University of California, Davis
 University of Florida
 University of Hawaii
 University of Mississippi
 University of North Carolina – Wilmington
 Wildcoast