



# NFWF

## Fostering Outreach on Marine Debris

### NFWF CONTACT

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### FUNDING PARTNERS



The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries’ educational web series outlines the steps that recreational lobstermen should take to help prevent marine debris. | Credit: MA Division of Marine Fisheries Youtube

### 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

1133 15th Street NW  
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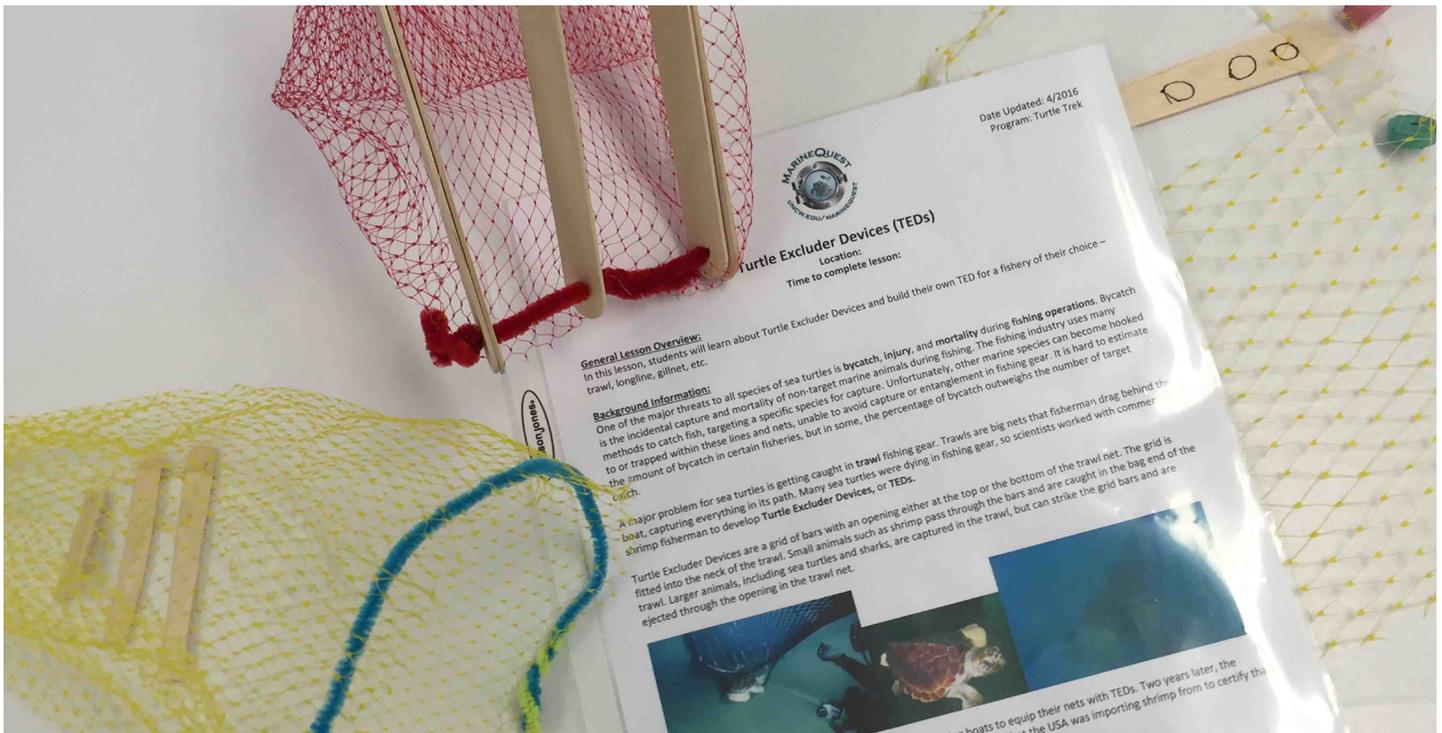
### OVERVIEW

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.

While derelict gear removal and disposal is critical to reduce the threat of entanglement, entrapment and habitat scarring, real conservation gains are also made in working to prevent the threat of marine debris through education. Over the past several years, the Fishing for Energy grant program has solicited proposals to support outreach and education strategies to reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear by informing current and future generations of recreational boaters, fishermen and coastal communities.

The following eleven projects highlight some of the investments made in educating the public and the fishing sector to encourage positive stewardship and changed behavior to reduce marine debris and derelict gear. To date, more than 2 million people have been educated on marine debris issues through these grants.

*(continued)*



An example of an educational lesson about Turtle Excluder Devices. | Credit: University of North Carolina - Wilmington

**2016**

**Youth Education and Student-Engineered Solutions to the Problem of Derelict Fishing Nets (NC)**

Grantee: University of North Carolina - Wilmington  
 Grant Award:..... \$70,631  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$70,893  
**Total Amount:..... \$141,524**

Travel to schools in five coastal North Carolina counties to deliver interactive STEM curriculum focused on ghost nets and their impacts on marine habitats and organisms, such as the North Atlantic right whale. Project will increase student knowledge of ghost nets, improve understanding of their impacts, and inspire students to take action to mitigate the problem through student-engineered solutions as proposed technological innovations.

**Building Community Awareness of the Positive Role of Industry Investments in Conservation (PA)**

Grantee: Center for Aquatic Sciences  
 Grant Award:..... \$24,172  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$25,722  
**Total Amount:..... \$49,894**

Educate the public on the issue of marine debris through youth-lead programming to promote positive stewardship behavior. Project will engage underserved youth in STEM learning, increase visitation of the Philadelphia area's Adventure Aquarium, and highlight the role of industry as a partner in conservation.

**Bay Area Film and Lecture Series on Derelict Fishing Gear (CA)**

Grantee: The Bay Institute  
 Grant Award:..... \$10,762  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$11,251  
**Total Amount:..... \$22,013**

Inform the surrounding community about the concerns around derelict fishing gear in the coastal waters off San Francisco Bay and actions that can reduce and prevent further loss of fishing gear in the marine environment. Project will create an analysis and action agenda for addressing derelict fishing gear in the San Francisco Bay Area and implement a variety of education and outreach activities such as a film and lecture series.

**2015**

**Reducing Derelict Gear through Educational Tools for Recreational Pot Fishermen (MA)**

Grantee: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
 Grant Award:..... \$26,099  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$3,664  
**Total Amount:..... \$29,763**

Create a series of educational videos for recreational pot fishermen in New England. Project will demonstrate Best Management Practices for recreational fishermen and provide the education tools needed to reduce the incidence of derelict fishing gear.



Teens monitoring water quality of local Camden waterways.  
Credit: Cheronda Frazier, Center for Aquatic Sciences

**Reducing Derelict Crab Trap Generation in South Carolina through Engagement of Recreational Boaters and Commercial Crabbers**

Grantee: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Grant Award:..... \$42,865  
Matching Funds: ..... \$14,964  
**Total Amount:.....\$57,829**

Characterize crab trap float losses in South Carolina as a result of vessel strikes and engineer solutions to reduce the rate of annual derelict fishing gear accrual. Project will engage both recreational boaters and commercial crabbers to reduce the probability of severing crab trap floats when a boat collision cannot be avoided.

**Preventing Commercial Fishing Debris by Educating Recreational Boaters Nationwide**

Grantee: The Boat U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water  
Grant Award:..... \$98,950  
Matching Funds: ..... \$281,943  
**Total Amount:..... \$380,893**

Educate recreational boaters nationwide about specific means of preventing entanglement with fixed fishing gear and provide best practices to explain how to responsibly respond when entanglements occur. Project will explore the user conflicts between recreational boaters and the commercial fishing community and develop effective practices and messages to enhance debris prevention efforts through formal and informal boater education.

**2013**

**Toolkits for Sustainable Oceans (CT)**

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation  
Grant Award:..... \$31,793  
Matching Funds: ..... \$23,776  
**Total Amount:.....\$55,569**  
Develop ten toolkits and supplemental resources to increase public awareness and knowledge about derelict fishing gear and to enlist their help in reducing marine debris.

**Impact of Marine Debris:**

**Educating National Zoo Visitors (DC)**

Grantee: Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute  
Grant Award:..... \$76,390  
Matching Funds: ..... \$0  
**Total Amount:.....\$76,390**  
Educate Zoo visitors on hazards of marine debris. Project will install new interpretive displays and an interactive game at the pelican and sea lion viewing areas, along with outreach by docents.

**Preventing Fishing Gear Impacts through Education (CA)**

Grantee: The Bay Institute  
Grant Award:..... \$71,959  
Matching Funds: ..... \$92,785  
**Total Amount:..... \$164,744**  
Educate a minimum of 10 percent of the more than 5.5 million annual visitors to PIER 39's famous sea lions about the impacts derelict fishing gear and other marine debris have on marine mammals.

**Toolkits for Sustainable Oceans (CT) - II**

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation  
Grant Award:..... \$25,177  
Matching Funds: ..... \$15,714  
**Total Amount:.....\$40,891**  
Build upon a previously funded project to tailor, replicate, and export key marine debris activities and resources to best fit public outreach efforts in port communities nationwide.

**National Aquarium Marine Debris Outreach Initiative (MD)**

Grantee: National Aquarium in Baltimore  
Grant Award:..... \$44,197  
Matching Funds: ..... \$4,800  
**Total Amount:.....\$48,997**  
Achieve a significant increase in public awareness of the environmental threats associated with marine debris, via strategic exhibit content and educational outreach at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.