

# Marine Debris

## PACIFIC

### Oregon Derelict Gear Recovery

This project complements the FY06 Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee (OFCC) derelict gear removal project, as well as pending marine debris work proposed by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership.

The first objective of this project is to remove lost crab traps from two locations of heavy commercial crabbing. These are sites that were swept one year prior, as part of the OFCC effort. The outcomes of the first objective are that gear will be removed that was lost during the peak crabbing season, and the

rate at which lost crab traps re-populate areas of active crab fishing will be assessed. Every season, several thousand crab traps are lost off the Oregon Coast.

The second objective is to hold a public demonstration and media event in conjunction with one of the 'sweeps.' This second objective serves to generate more attention for marine debris recovery and prevention, increase public awareness of marine debris as a problem, give credit to the commercial fishing industry for their efforts at habitat protection, and stimulate technology transfer to other regions facing similar derelict gear problems.



Off-loading recovered gear. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

### WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

Marine debris is any manufactured or man-made solid material that enters the coastal or marine environment. It may enter directly when it is lost or dumped from a ship, or indirectly when debris washes out to sea via rivers, streams, and storm drains.

### MARINE DEBRIS SOURCES

Sources of marine debris include land-based sources, such as littering, dumping, and industrial losses. Ocean-based debris can come from fishing vessels, cargo ships, stationary platforms, and other vessels.

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## MANDATES

Mandates supporting NOAA's marine debris efforts include the following:

- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006, S.362
- U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, (Title II) 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.

## PARTNERS

- Oregon Fisherman's Cable Committee
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Reduce negative impact to marine biota
- Reduce economic impact to coastal fishing communities
- Improve science and natural resources education

## CONTACTS

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High school students assist in off-loading gear and identifying marine biota. *Photo courtesy of NOAA.*

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