**Project Overview**

- Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey received a $109,619 FY15 NOAA Marine Debris Program Community-Based Marine Debris Removal Grant.
- The two year project is working with local watermen to locate and remove more than 1,000 derelict crab pots from Barnegat Bay, NJ.
- The project is surveying the commercial and recreational fishing community to gather information on the percentage of pots lost annually and to help develop a long-term reporting system for lost pots.
- All salvageable pots retrieved by the project are returned to their owners or made available to local crabbers.
- Non-salvageable pots will be broken down and converted to energy at the Covanta waste-to-energy facility.
- The project is also providing presentations for the local community and local schools and is developing a lesson plan which will be used at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science and included in Terrapin Education KIT modules which are utilized by educators across the east and Gulf coasts.

**Project Partnerships**

- The project is collaborating with the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, Monmouth University, Stockton University, ReClam the Bay, and the local recreational and commercial fishing community to identify, retrieve, and inventory the derelict crab pots. These partners are also helping to develop print materials and decals to distribute messaging on the impacts of marine debris and specifically derelict crab pots.
- The project is a WeCrab partner. WeCrab is a project led by the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve/Rutgers University and Stockton University and is supported by a NOAA Marine Debris Program Prevention through Education and Outreach Grant to educate and train recreational crabbers, teachers and students, and shore and bay users to prevent derelict fishing gear and other debris from ending up in New Jersey’s marine and coastal waters.
- Covanta, a Fishing for Energy partner, is providing a partial match for this project and will haul and dispose of the retrieved gear.
- Spencer’s Marina, Waretown, is providing the secure space for the crab pots and a collection bin. The Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation is providing space at Trader’s Cove to receive crab pots and a collection bin.

**NOAA Marine Debris Program Community-Based Marine Debris Removal Grants**

- The NOAA Marine Debris Program offers a nationwide, competitive funding opportunity to support locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects. These projects benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife including migratory fish.
- In FY15, the NOAA Marine Debris Program awarded nearly $1.4 million to 13 groups across the country as part of the annual Community-based Marine Debris Removal grant competition.

**Fishing For Energy Partnership**

- Fishing for Energy is placing two new collection bins at Waretown and Mantoloking, New Jersey.
Fishing for Energy was launched in 2008 and is a partnership between Covanta, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

The program provides a no-cost solution to fishermen to dispose of old, damaged, and derelict fishing gear.

Over 3 million pounds of gear has been collected to-date from bins placed in 41 communities throughout the U.S.

Collected gear is transported to a nearby Schnitzer Steel facility where the metal is recovered for recycling, and rope or nets are sheared for easier disposal. From there it is brought to a nearby Covanta Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility where the gear is converted into clean, renewable electricity for local communities.

About the Partners

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. The NOAA Marine Debris Program supports community-based removal projects across the country to help benefit coastal habitat, waterways and wildlife including migratory fish. To learn more about current and past projects visit the program’s Marine Debris Clearinghouse. For more information visit: www.marinedebris.noaa.gov.

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF) of New Jersey’s mission is to preserve rare and imperiled species of wildlife that live and breed in, and migrate through New Jersey. CWF looks, and works, towards a future where New Jersey is home to greater numbers of rare species, stronger populations and enough good habitat to support them.

Covanta is a world leader in providing sustainable waste and energy solutions. Annually, Covanta’s modern Energy-from-Waste facilities safely convert approximately 20 million tons of waste from municipalities and businesses into clean, renewable electricity to power one million homes and recycle approximately 500,000 tons of metal. Through a vast network of treatment and recycling facilities, Covanta also provides comprehensive industrial material management services to companies seeking solutions to some of today’s most complex environmental challenges. For more information, visit: www.covanta.com.

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of recycled metal products in the United States with operating facilities located in 24 states, Puerto Rico and Western Canada. Schnitzer has seven deep water export facilities located on both the East and West Coasts and in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The Company’s integrated operating platform also includes auto parts stores and steel manufacturing. With an effective annual production capacity of approximately 800,000 tons, the Company’s steel manufacturing business produces finished steel products, including rebar, wire rod and other specialty products. The Company began operations in 1906 in Portland, Oregon.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation’s wildlife and habitats. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private contributions. NFWF works with government, nonprofit and corporate partners to find solutions for the most intractable conservation challenges. Over the last three decades, NFWF has funded more than 4,000 organizations and committed more than $2.9 billion to conservation projects. Learn more at www.nfwf.org.

The New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NJCWRP) is an innovative public-private initiative aimed at restoring, preserving, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitats throughout New Jersey. Bringing together corporations, federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia, the NJCWRP allows participants to contribute in a fundamental way to crucial projects involving New Jersey’s coastal and island wetlands and aquatic habitats.