

A Collaborative Solution to Lost Fishing Gear

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Support From: *Laurel Foundation
*NFWF, Fishing for Energy;
*CFR West;
*NOAA Marine Debris Program (pending)



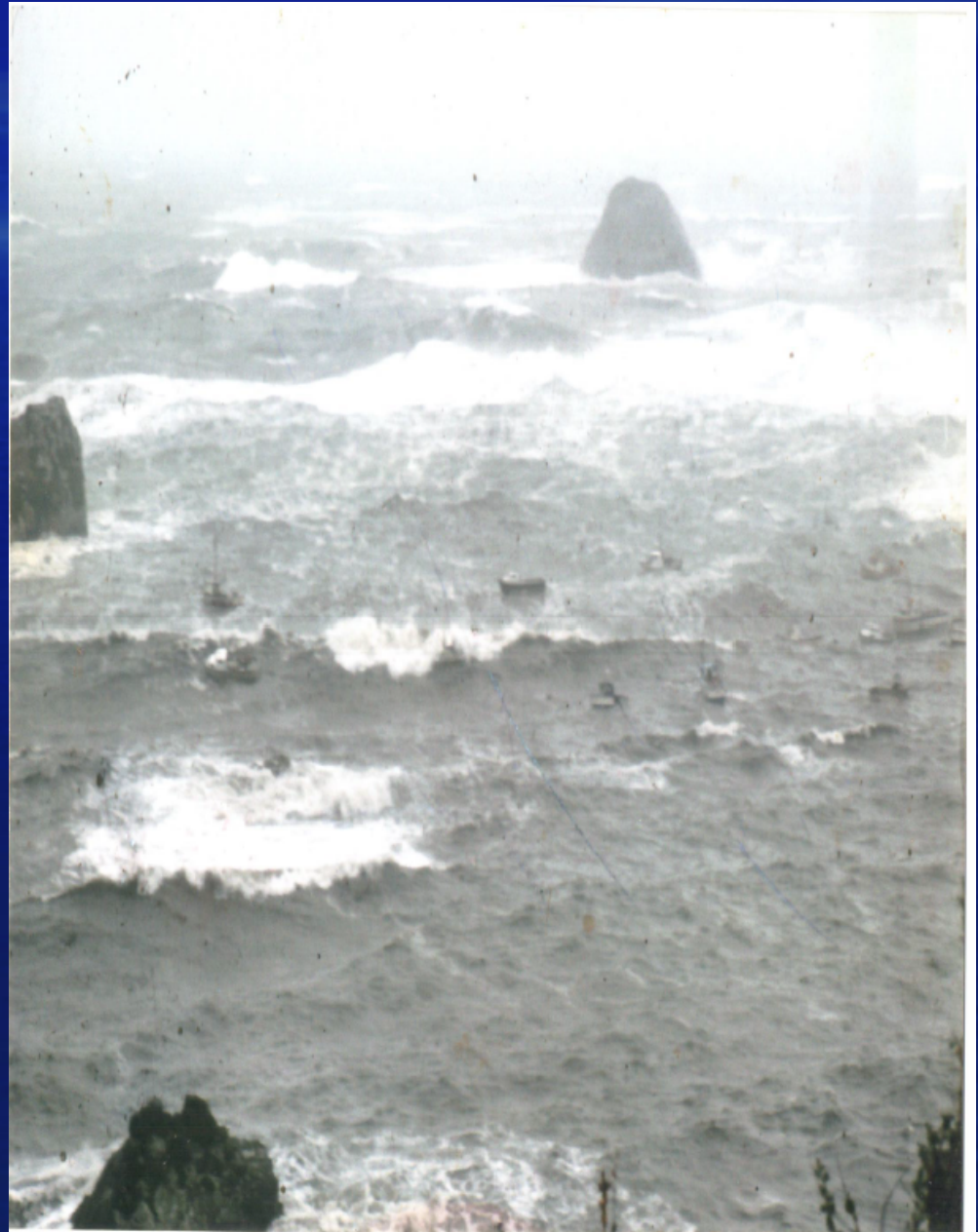
How it all started...



- Reports from salmon trollers, crab fishermen, halibut fishermen, wardens, boaters
- Model of gear recovery built over 7 years of collaboration with local fishermen
- One man's efforts led to another...
- Fishermen are developing and leading effort

Lost Dungeness Crab Gear: The Problem

- Large ocean swells
- Boat traffic
- Kelp
- Storage
- Vandalism
- Everyone loses gear!
- Not cost effective to look for 5 scattered traps



Why Does Lost Crab Gear Need To Be Cleaned Up?

- Navigational hazard
- Old gear can entangle newly set gear
- Interferes with other fisheries
- Ghostfishing
- Lines can entangle large cetaceans

Understanding the co-occurrence of large whales and commercial fixed gear fisheries off the west coast of the United States. ~Saez et al



Methods

- 3 boats selected to recover gear
- Paid \$50/pulled trap, \$75/pumped trap
- Fuel reimbursed
- Locations of gear reported by charter vessels and sport fleet
- Gear sold back to owner for same price
- Free disposal for all unwanted fishing gear



Northern California Crab Gear Retrieval Program Results

- Trinidad = 6 days , Craig Goucher
- Eureka = 4 days, Kevin Pinto
- Crescent City = 10 days, John Beardon
- 323 traps pulled
- 343 traps pumped
- 77 buoys and line
- Total = 666 traps recovered
- Representing 65 different boats



Financials

- Total grant \$109,000
- HFMA subawarded \$50,000 for gear retrieval costs, storage, hoist/forklift, fuel, etc.
- \$25,805 earned through trap buyback



Successes and Lessons Learned

- Feedback from fishing community has been positive
- Effectively cleaned the majority of the Humboldt and Del Norte County coastline
- Positive feedback from other fisheries
- Full participation essential



What now?



- Expanding program to Bodega Bay, San Francisco, and Half Moon Bay.
- Modifying methods: 1 trap price, no fuel reimbursement, no observer in ports that participated last year. All gear sales will be handled by fishermen.
- DCTF voted almost unanimously to develop a permanent Gear Retrieval Program.
- DCTF Executive Committee will be working to develop this permanent Gear Retrieval Program.



Thank you!

The F/V Second
Wind:
Captain Craig
Goucher, Adam
Hughes, Travis
Velas

Thank You!



F/V Stormy II: Captain John Beardon, Carl Wakefield,
Bob Banks

Thank You!

The F/V Seaisla:
Captain Kevin
Pinto, Andrew
Pimentel

