



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 13, 2013

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Commercial Fishermen Needed to Remove Marine Debris

MANTEO – The N. C. Coastal Federation is accepting applications for fishermen to help get marine debris out of the water this winter.

In January 2014, the federation and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will begin a pilot project to remove abandoned fishing gear from northeastern North Carolina waters. With a grant from NOAA and North Carolina Sea Grant, commercial watermen will be employed to help N.C. Marine Patrol during the period when the wire mesh crab pots are supposed to be out of the water, typically from Jan. 15-Feb. 7. This project is intended to improve habitat and water quality and support commercial watermen in northeastern North Carolina.

A [story](#) about the project appeared today in Coastal Review Online, the federation's online news service.

The collection will take place from the Currituck Sound southward to Oregon Inlet, including parts of the Albemarle Sound. Local fishermen with knowledge of these waters will be given preference. Side-scan sonar will be used on a limited number of boats to detect abandoned gear underwater.

To qualify, fishermen must have filed at least one commercial landing trip ticket with the division's Trip Ticket Program within the past year. Fishermen will receive \$300 per day, and their mates will receive \$100 per day. Three days of work are guaranteed with acceptance to the program. About 12 fishermen will be accepted, and volunteers are also needed.

Applications are due on Oct. 15. Participants will be notified of acceptance by Nov. 1.

[more](#)

For more information and an application, contact Ladd Bayliss at 252-473-1607 or laddb@nccoast.org.

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