

Public Forum  
Michael Pettis

# Derelict Gear Recovery Program Problems and Solutions

All derelict gear left in the ocean has the potential to entangle whales, but not all derelict gear gets recovered equally. Most vessels participating in the post season Derelict Gear Recovery Program are smaller size with limited deck space. If a pot gets recovered that is old and is in very poor condition, it has little value to the recovering vessel. No one would buy it and the recovering vessel does not want to fish with it either. It is likely that the poor condition pot will be returned to the ocean to save the limited deck space for a higher quality pot.

An extreme example of this happened after the 2022 crab fishing season.

At the end of the 2022 season, one boat in Newport with a 300 pot permit failed to bring his pots in. Two months after the season many of the pots were still there. These were full strings of pots, easily spotted with bright colored buoys. Why were they still there? Why had no one in the derelict gear recovery program brought them to town? These pots were free for the taking. All you had to do was go get them.

The answer is that they were old pots of little value. Again, no recovery vessel thought they could sell them and no one wanted to put them in their own string of gear. The current derelict gear recovery program is ineffective at getting ALL GEAR that might entangle a whale recovered.

Solution:

All pots should have a value when recovered in the Derelict Gear Recovery program and recovery vessels are paid for each pot brought in. The owners of the recovered pots are notified where their pots can be picked up and are billed for the recovery of their pots. Each crab fisherman is required to have paid their pot recovery bill before their crab permit for the next fishing season is issued. Recovery vessels are not allowed to retain recovered pots.

Conclusion:

The current Derelict Gear Recovery Program has serious flaws and causes conflict between crab fishermen. The offered solution would cause all pots to be recovered equally and improve crab fishermen relations.

Michael Pettis crab fished 46 years

# Fairness in crab pot recovery

Prior to the start of the current “derelict gear recovery program”, it was against the law to go to sea and pick up other people’s crab pots and keep them for yourself. It was considered theft.

One crab fisherman in the Newport fleet was convicted of theft of over 100 crab pots from 40 different crab fishermen.

The current “derelict gear recovery program” allows this same crab fisherman to go to sea and do exactly what he did, that caused his conviction, only now he does it with the State of Oregon’s blessing.

We the 50 plus crab fishermen from Newport, mostly vessel owners and skippers who have signed this petition, do not think that an individual who has been convicted of theft of crab pots should be allowed to participate in the gear recovery program and keep other fishermen’s crab pots.

# A proposal for crab fishermen

I propose that no individual that has been convicted of theft of crab pots or other crab fishing equipment be allowed to participate in the "Derelict gear recovery program".

All those who agree with this proposal are invited to sign their names to the petition below.

Name	affiliation/ vessel
1). Nathan Hoover	Cape Clear
2). Joseph W. Thompson	MS - NIZANI
3). [Signature]	LPS LLC
4). [Signature]	LPS LLC
5). [Signature]	MY LEE
6). Mark J. Ramirez	RICHARD . H
7). [Signature]	KEVIN HANER SIDE SANDER
8). Huey Menden	Payton Elizabeth
9). Sam Martin	MISS TITANIC
10). Nikk Reid	FV Get er Done
11). Ryan Myn	MS NIZANI
12). Vamp Taylor	FV. Gooney Bird
13). Pat Loder Kay	
14). [Signature]	Smith Bros 2

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Name	affiliation/ vessel
1). Mike Pettis	F/V Patriot
2). <del>John</del>	CRAB DECK HAND
3). Ben Chestnut	Captain
4). B Chestnut	Captain (Prospector)
5). Brad Gnysnik	F/V Dawn Treader
6). R. S. S	Ben Crown Forever
7). Jim	F/V Miss Emmaline
8). M. WEDLER	F/V TEMPO
9). Jerry Pettis	F/V Heidi Sue
10). Ryan Burnett	F/V Big wave
11). <del>Anthony</del>	Wahoo
12). Jack	F/V Sundad Captain
13). John	F/V Monington II
14). Tony	F/V MISS EMMALINE

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Name	affiliation/ vessel
1). <del>Georgon Lapham</del>	Michele Ann
2). CLAY ARCHAMBAULT	ISLAND GIRL
3). John wagner	pacific
4). <del>Joe Rock</del>	Kyle Lynn
5). Ben White	DIVER / Fleet
6). Matt Forve	Sea Chase
7). <del>Stirling Morris</del>	NORMA M
8). <del>Ed Meyer</del>	Mandi, JM
9). <del>Clint Fendick</del>	widgen
10). ROBERT EDER	Timmy Boy
11). Wanya Taylor	Hima / Gooney Bird
12). <del>Barry Ricks</del>	TABITHA f Jernosh
13). <del>Van [unclear]</del>	EN WAHOO
14).	

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Name	affiliation/ vessel
1). <u>Wilson Beard</u>	<u>F/V Molly</u>
2). <u>Blenn Phillips</u>	<u>F/V TWO SAINTS</u>
3). <u>Corey Rist</u>	<u>F/V Kylie Lynn</u>
4). <u>Gideon Mease</u>	<u>F/V Judy</u>
5). <u>Jerald Shaffer</u>	<u>F/V Suki</u>
6). <u>Tony Applegate</u>	<u>F/V Anona Kay</u>
7). <u>Brad Benner</u>	<u>F/V Deacon</u>
8). <u>Richard Wood</u>	<u>F/V Delana Ann</u>
9). <u>Coly Cha</u>	<u>F/V MONDE UNE</u>
10). _____	_____
11). _____	_____
12). _____	_____
13). _____	_____
14). _____	_____

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1). David Dany	Owner Cap / Mystic Isk
2). Robert Clark	Owner Cap / Valor III
3). Jack Pavletich	owner cap / Gracie Arlene
4).	
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