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Examples of Programs and Projects in North and South Carolina that would benefit from H.R. 4914, the Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010

The Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4914) is new legislation that will create jobs for fishermen and coastal communities as fish populations rebuild. The following are examples of key programs in North and South Carolina that could benefit from H.R. 4914:

Cooperative Research

The North Carolina Fishery Resource Grant Program (FRG)¹ would be eligible for funding under H.R. 4914. Administered by North Carolina Sea Grant, FRG encourages cooperative research among commercial fishermen, recreational anglers, seafood businesses and university researchers. Examples of recent FRG projects include:

- Testing the coastal movements of spiny dogfish overwintering off the Outer Banks.
- Long-term tagging study on spotted sea trout.
- Survey of deepwater reef fish populations.
- Testing a modified Turtle Excluder Device (TED) in the summer flounder ocean trawl fishery.

South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium also has several cooperative research programs underway that could benefit from H.R. 4914, such as:²

- Tagging horseshoe crabs in partnership with fishermen to determine the short and long-term effects of using horseshoe crabs for biomedical research.
- Studies to determine the effect of drought on blue crab landings in South Carolina.
- Development of genetic testing for red drum and cobia.

Marine Debris Prevention and Removal³

Through the NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program, H.R. 4914 would authorize funding to support marine debris projects for North and South Carolina coastal communities. Examples of past projects include:

- Removal of “ghost” (discarded) crab pots in North Carolina and examination of their effects on Diamondback Terrapin populations.
- Assessment, monitoring, and reduction of the causes and impacts of marine debris in the South Atlantic Bight.
- Debris Accumulation, Removal and Impact Assessment (DARIA), a comprehensive baseline assessment of underwater marine debris in North Carolina.
- Employing divers to recover and dispose of ghost Black Sea Bass traps.
- South Carolina Abandoned Vessel Project, run by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, which identifies the best ways to address abandoned vessels and navigational hazards.

Habitat Restoration

H.R. 4914 would increase funding for important habitat restoration initiatives in North and South Carolina. For example, North Carolina Sea Grant runs several projects that could benefit from H.R. 4914, including the North Carolina Urban Stream Restoration project.⁴ This initiative has helped restore a number of creeks and streams across the state, including Yates Mill in Raleigh, Pine Valley Golf Course in Wilmington, and a shellfish habitat in Carteret County known as

“Jumping Run.” The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium dune restoration⁵ project, which restores dunes by erecting fences and planting vegetation, would also be eligible for funding.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS),⁶ which includes the North Carolina NERR and two NERRs in South Carolina (ACE Basin and North Inlet-Winyah), would be eligible for funding under H.R. 4914. The ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina protects 134,710 acres of habitat for many endangered or threatened species, such as shortnose sturgeon, wood storks, loggerhead sea turtles and bald eagles. North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina protects more than 12,327 acres of habitat, including marshes, oyster reefs, beaches, inland forests and open waterways. Finally, the North Carolina NERR, which includes sites located near Corolla (Currituck Banks), Beaufort (Rachel Carson) and Wilmington (Masonboro Island and Zeke's Island); protects 10,000 acres of barrier islands, inlets and estuaries, where ninety percent of the commercial seafood species caught in the state spend at least part of their lives.

Working Waterfront Initiatives

There are several working water front efforts underway in North and South Carolina that would benefit from H.R. 4914. These include the North Carolina's Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund, which is managed by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and focuses on improving public docking facilities, boat ramps, fishing access and other marine industries; as well as the Clean Marina Programs in both North and South Carolina. In addition, programs that improve public access to the coast could also benefit from H.R. 4914, such as the beach access improvement programs implemented in Georgetown County and Cities of Folly Beach and North Myrtle Beach.⁷

Ocean Observations

H.R. 4914 authorizes funding for integrated ocean observations systems, such as the Carolina Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction System (Caro-COOPS)⁸ and the Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEACOOS).⁹ Funding for integrated ocean observation technologies will enhance real-time forecasting to improve maritime safety for recreational and commercial vessels, and will increase efforts to protect important marine resources.

For more information, please contact:

Lee Crockett, Director of Federal Fisheries Policy, Pew Environment Group, (202) 552-2065, lcrockett@pewtrusts.org.

Please also visit our website for more resources at www.endoverfishing.org

¹ <http://www.ncseagrant.org/home/research/fishery-research>

² <http://www.scseagrant.org/Content/?cid=419>

³ See generally <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

⁴ <http://www.ncseagrant.org/home/coastal-connections/ecosystems-and-habitats/habitants-restoration>

⁵ http://www.scseagrant.org/oldsite/text_version/pubs/library/isg_win_04.htm

⁶ <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/ReservesMap.aspx>

⁷ http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/outreach/grants_win.htm

⁸ <http://carolinascoos.org/>

⁹ <http://www.seacoos.org/>