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## **Examples of Programs and Projects in Texas 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 Texas that could benefit from H.R. 4914:

### **Cooperative Research Programs**

Texas Sea Grant cooperative research programs foster collaboration between scientists and commercial fishermen.<sup>1</sup> These programs, which will be eligible for funding under H.R. 4914, involve fishermen in innovative research efforts, such as developing an iPhone-based application as an electronic log book in the for-hire (e.g., charter boat) fisheries; identifying genetic markers for Blacknose and Finetooth sharks; and assessing discard and bycatch (capture of non-target ocean wildlife) rates in the Commercial Handline Fishery for Red Snapper.

### **Marine Debris Prevention and Removal**

The Texas Sea Grant Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program is a volunteer led program that encourages recycling and removal of fishing line through a network of line-recycling bins and drop off locations.<sup>2</sup> This community-based program could benefit from H.R. 4914.

### **Habitat Restoration Projects**

The Texas Coastal Management Program (Texas CMP) supports a variety of habitat restoration projects through the Coastal Resource Improvement Program, which will be eligible for funding under H.R. 4914. Examples of projects include:<sup>3</sup>

- Quintana County Park Beach Access Improvements
- Surfside Jetty Park Waterfront Revitalization
- Port Lavaca Causeway Fishing Pier Improvements
- Updating Long-Term Change Rates of the Texas Gulf Shoreline
- Implementation of a Seagrass Monitoring Program in Two Texas Estuaries

Additional opportunities for research and restoration that could benefit from H.R. 4914 are available through the Mission Aransas Texas National Estuarine Research Reserve, located 30 miles north-east of Corpus-Christi.

### **Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Centers**

The Texas Network of Marine Mammal Stranding Centers runs programs that could benefit from H.R. 4914. For example, in 2009, the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network received \$100,000 to support the response, treatment, and data collection from living and dead marine mammals stranded along the Texas coast.<sup>4</sup>

## Ocean Observing Systems

H.R. 4914 authorizes funding for integrated ocean observations systems, such as the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS). 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. GCOOS is currently playing a critical role in oil spill-response support on many fronts, including using high frequency radar to measure surface current speed and direction in near real time to help track and predict the path of the oil. GCOOS is also integrating and coordinating information to support response efforts.<sup>5</sup>

### **For more information, please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> Texas Sea Grant, *Sustainable Fisheries*: <http://web.vims.edu/adv/fisheries/sustainfish.html?svr=www>.

<sup>2</sup> Texas Sea Grant, *Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program*. <http://mrrp.tamu.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> Texas Coastal Coordination Council, *Coastal Management Program Grant Programs*:  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> NOAA Fisheries *Office of Protected Resources, Prescott Grant Proposals*:  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/prescott/proposals/received/2010.htm#tx>

<sup>5</sup><http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/features/may10/ioos-deepwater.html>