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Fishing for Energy Marks 10 Years, 4 Million Pounds of Marine Debris Collected

Innovative marine conservation partnership celebrated at Port of Garibaldi, Oregon

Garibaldi, OR (July 30, 2019) — Since its inception in 2008, a conservation partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the NOAA Marine Debris Program, Covanta and Schnitzer Steel Industries called “[Fishing For Energy](#)” has collected, recycled and converted to energy more than 4 million pounds of derelict fishing gear with the potential to pose dangers to marine wildlife and boaters along the U.S. coastline.

Over the past decade, the Fishing for Energy partnership has worked directly with 55 fishing communities in 12 states by offering no-cost solutions to recycle and recover energy from derelict and retired gear. Through the installation of collection bins at strategic ports, local communities have been able to responsibly dispose of fishing traps, lines and nets that are no longer in use, thus preventing them from entering U.S. waterways and coastlines.

The Port of Garibaldi, Oregon, was identified as a model program that made an impact in keeping our oceans cleaner and protecting marine life. Since installing a collection bin in 2009, over 240,000 pounds of obsolete fishing gear has been collected and processed. This success, along with the 10-year anniversary of the partnership, will be celebrated on July 30 at the Garibaldi Pier, and on July 31 at Covanta’s Marion County Energy-from-Waste facility in Brooks, Oregon.

“Derelict nets, pots and other fishing gear often continue to capture fish and marine wildlife after they are lost, damaging critical populations and valuable natural resources,” said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF. “In the 10 years since the Fishing for Energy partnership was launched, our public- and private-sector partners have come together to institute innovative and effective solutions to this ‘ghost fishing’ problem.”

Fishing for Energy [collection bins](#) can be found on both the east and west coasts. The program’s success would not be possible without support from community partners that help increase awareness about the program through word-of-mouth, on-site signage, outreach through fishing cooperatives or marine supply stores, and digitally through newsletters, newspapers and social media.

“Marine debris is a complex problem that requires creative solutions. Fishing for Energy is one



such solution that fishermen do at the local level. The NOAA Marine Debris Program is proud to be part of this partnership, and to support its accomplishments,” said Nancy Wallace, Chief, NOAA Marine Debris Program.

Local communities play a key role in Fishing for Energy’s success. The partnership has directly engaged more than 1,000 fishermen in recycling and converting unwanted gear into energy.

“Fishermen and local community groups are essential to our success,” said Paul Gilman, Covanta’s senior vice president and chief sustainability officer. “With their active participation, we are able to recycle valuable metals and recover renewable energy from the remaining material. Over the past ten years, we have been able to generate enough electricity from derelict gear and marine debris to power over 44,000 homes for one year.”

“As a Portland company we are excited to be here at Garibaldi to celebrate our 10-year anniversary as a corporate sponsor of Fishing for Energy. We are gratified that our services can help to improve our natural environment,” said Michael Kirschman, Schnitzer Steel’s Regional Director.

To learn more about this and other efforts under the Fishing for Energy program, please visit our [website](#).

Watch this video to learn more about the Fishing for Energy partnership: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/fishing-for-energy-ocean-debris-turned-into-fuel-in-florida-1216326211651>

About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and generated a conservation impact of more than \$5.3 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org.

About Covanta

Covanta is a world leader in providing sustainable waste and energy solutions. Annually, Covanta’s modern Energy-from-Waste facilities safely convert approximately 21 million tons of waste from municipalities and businesses into clean, renewable electricity to power one million homes and recycle approximately 600,000 tons of metal. Through a vast network of treatment and recycling facilities, Covanta also provides comprehensive industrial material management services to companies seeking solutions to some of today’s most complex environmental challenges. For more information, visit covanta.com.

About NOAA

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.



The NOAA Marine Debris Program, within the Office of Response & Restoration, is the federal lead on marine debris. For more information visit: www.marinedebris.noaa.gov.

About Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of recycled metal products in North America with operating facilities located in 23 states, Puerto Rico and Western Canada. Schnitzer has seven deep water export facilities located on both the East and West Coasts and in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The Company's integrated operating platform also includes auto parts stores with approximately 5 million annual retail visits. The Company's steel manufacturing operations produce finished steel products, including rebar, wire rod and other specialty products. The Company began operations in 1906 in Portland, Oregon.

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