

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
1ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

October 22, 2009

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Brook Davis
Acting Director of Legislative Affairs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Hoover Building, Room 5221
Fourteenth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Director Fugate,

I am writing to express my support for the FY2010 Community-based Marine Debris Removal Project Grants submitted by Coastal Steward to aid in the dismantling and removal of 1,800 abandoned lobster pots and over 50 miles of line. These derelict lobster pots are a danger to local boaters and are also negatively impacting the local marine environment by damaging an already fragile ecosystem.

This grant will allow the Coastal Steward to continue their work in cleaning and preserving the Long Island Sound. The Coastal Steward has been operating for nearly 20 years and in that time they have removed over 150 tons from our beaches and the surrounding waters. With over a thousand volunteers, Coastal Steward is an irreplaceable boon to our community. Preserving our waterways for future generations is a great concern of mine and I consider the Coastal Steward a strong ally in those efforts.

Coastal Steward has extensive experience in directing efficient and safe marine environment cleanup efforts. With federal support, their expertise will help clean and preserve our waterways. I appreciated the opportunity to express my support for Coastal Steward's grant application. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Richard Wrase in my District Office at (631) 696-6500.

Sincerely,



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress