



# Stockton University Awarded NOAA Funding to Expand Community-Based Marine Debris Removal and Prevention Program

Lost Crab Traps to Be Recovered from Atlantic Coastal Bays Behind the Barrier Islands from Ocean County to Cape May County This Winter

***For Immediate Release; Click for [photo](#)***

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**Galloway Township, NJ** Sunken crab traps severed from their buoy lifelines, often called ghost pots, slowly corrode in the saline waters and haunt the muddy floors of Atlantic coastal bays as they continue to trap sea life and pose threats to boaters.

After a successful two-year, NOAA-funded marine debris removal project to recover ghost pots, NOAA has awarded Stockton University additional funding to expand the project and provide sonar training to local crabbers to prevent further losses of crab traps over the next two years.

ghost pots, weighing in at 7.89 metric tons, from the Mullica River Great Bay Estuary from 2012 to 2014.

The debris removal and prevention program beginning this November. About half of the total was granted by NOAA with the other half being an in-kind match by Stockton.

Field station in Port Republic and assistant director of academic labs, and Peter Straub, interim dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and professor of Biology, are leading the initiative. The Stockton team is partnering with Fred Akers, administrator for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, and Melanie Reding, education coordinator at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**-more-**



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recipients across the nation, and

marine debris [blog](#), which announces all of the grant  
[We Crab NJ](#).

**Photo Caption:** Stockt

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