



# Sea Pact | United for a Sustainable Future

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## SEA PACT ANNOUNCES NEW GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Rancho Dominguez, CA**, March 17, 2014 -- Sea Pact announces that grant money will be distributed this month to two organizations doing work in seafood sustainability. The two new grant recipients are a Brazilian lobster FIP and a unique project designed to help improve sustainability of the Maine soft shell clam through predator exclusion and other methods.

Panulirus argus (red lobster) and Panulirus laevicauda (green lobster), represent the most important fishing resources of northern and northeastern Brazil. The fishery exports mainly to the US market, and provides a livelihood for more than 15,000 fishermen. This FIP was launched two years ago, triggered by a UNEP study about supply chains in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. UNEP entered in a partnership with CeDePesca, which is coordinating the improvement work in the field with local industry and fishermen. An MSC-pre-assessment was conducted and revealed a variety of problems, with the most crucial being the widespread use of illegal fishing gear. Sea Pact funding will be used to implement a traceability system paired with a branding project that highlights legally trap-caught lobsters. The hope is this will encourage fishermen to organize and work together to build a legal, verified, and branded product that will gain better US market recognition and will encourage other fishermen to move towards legal (and more sustainable) fishing methods.

Funding is also being used to support a project in Freeport, ME, designed to engage soft-shell clam (*Mya arenaria*) harvesters in active management projects that will demonstrate the efficacy of various methods to enhance natural clam populations. The practical goal is to increase clam harvests so that supply can grow with demand for this product, however a more long-term goal is to create a “new mindset” amongst clambers and local clam stewardship committees to see beyond traditional conservation schemes. New efforts focusing on predator (green crab) exclusion and habitat modification that will result in the enhancement of wild and cultured “spat”.

### **About Sea Pact:**

Albion Fisheries, Fortune Fish & Gourmet, Ipswich Shellfish Group, Santa Monica Seafood, Seacore Seafood and Seattle Fish Co. are the founding members of Sea Pact and share an active progressive approach to their sustainability commitments. In addition to the founding members, the group includes Stavis Seafood, JJ McDonnell and A.C. Covert. Sea Pact works with New Venture Fund and receives sustainability counsel from non-profit organizations FishWise and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP). Sea Pact is a project under New Venture Funds 501c3 non-profit status. To learn more about Sea Pact, visit their website [http:// www.seapact.org/](http://www.seapact.org/).