

Seven Chesapeake projects obtain congressional grants

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WASHINGTON - Congress has doled out nearly a quarter of a million dollars for efforts to restore and protect habitats in the Chesapeake Bay region.

U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the minority whip of the House, announced the seven grants in a news release Thursday. The grants are given under the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program. Since 2001, the program has brought in \$10 million to the region, Hoyer said.

Recipients and amounts this year are: \$50,000 to the Anacostia Watershed Society, which hopes to cut out alien plants around the Anacostia River in Washington and Maryland; \$35,000 to the Chesapeake Communities, which is supposed to improve ecological services in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties; \$30,000 to the London Towne Property Owners Association to restore about 300 linear feet of shoreline on Almshouse Creek in Edgewater; \$35,000 to the Low Impact Development Center Inc. to create "raingarden design templates"; \$35,000 to the Sustainable Development Institute "to demonstrate the potential of farmed, selectively bred native oysters"; \$35,000 to the University of Maryland Foundation Inc. to develop a training program on watershed preservation for community leaders; and \$18,900 to West/Rhode Riverkeeper Inc. to "stabilize" 500 linear feet of shoreline in the Shady Cove Natural Area.

Hoyer, who hopes to become majority leader if the Democrats take the House this fall, said the grants fund projects that "play a vital role in our ongoing efforts to preserve and restore this national treasure."