

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Partnering research, prevention, and reduction to address marine debris.

Since 2005, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) has served as a centralized program within NOAA, coordinating, strengthening, and promoting marine debris activities within the agency and among its partners and the public. The MDP has undertaken national and international efforts focused on researching, reducing, and preventing debris in the marine environment. The MDP continues to support and work closely with various partners across the U.S. to fulfill its mission.



ENTANGLEMENT

J. Baker, NOAA Fisheries

Marine debris is any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.



Marine Debris

NAVIGATION HAZARD

Addressing the Issue: The MDP's efforts include coordination and assistance in the development of several regional marine debris action plans, research and development of standardized data collection methodologies, and work in the issue areas of abandoned vessels, derelict traps, microplastics, and the at-sea detection of derelict fishing gear. The program also offers competitive funding opportunities for marine debris-related projects, such as removal and prevention activities. Much of the program's work is done in cooperation with numerous partners that span industry, academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

Program staff: The MDP is located in Silver Spring, MD and has regional staff members positioned around the country to lead and track projects, support regional coordination efforts, review performance and efficiency measures, and conduct regional marine debris outreach to local audiences.

For more information visit:
www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov



Derelict vessel and fishing net in Key Biscayne, FL.

