

Marine Debris

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION • NOAA'S NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE



Honolulu Port Reception and Derelict Net Recycling Program

Hawaii-based longline fishermen encounter derelict fishing nets when traveling to and from fishing grounds and when fishing in areas where currents converge and marine debris accumulates. Derelict fishing nets and other debris are navigational hazards and can damage vessels. Currents carry the nets to the shores of the Northwestern and main Hawaiian Islands, where they damage coral reefs and entangle wildlife. Over the years, Hawai'i-based longline fishermen have voluntarily brought these derelict nets back to eliminate the risk of future at-sea encounters and to assist in environmental cleanup efforts. These nets were then taken to an already stressed county landfill.



The Honolulu Derelict Net Recycling Program is a private-public partnership funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program. Derelict nets and line are collected in a dedicated container located behind the United Fishing Agency and Pacific Ocean Producers, Pier 38, Honolulu Harbor. Periodically, Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation transports the debris to its facility, where it is chopped into smaller pieces suitable for incineration at the City and County of Honolulu's H-Power waste-to-energy facility. Through this process, the debris is used to create electricity.

Currently the container is used by both the longliners and local groups to dispose of derelict nets and line. To date, over 34 metric tons* of this debris have been recycled.

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.

*1 metric ton = ~2,205 pounds



Derelict nets, like those pictured above on Midway Atoll, pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife. *Photo courtesy of NOAA PMNM.*

PARTNERS

- Hawaii Longline Association
- Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corporation
- United Fishing Agency
- Pacific Ocean Producers Fishing and Marine
- Covanta Energy
- Matson Navigation Company
- NOAA
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation-Harbors Division
- City and County of Honolulu
- University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Minimizes government cost through significant industry involvement
- Reduces marine debris on the high seas
- Improves safety at sea
- Reduces wildlife entanglement and coral reef damage
- Minimizes impacts on already stressed Hawaii landfills
- Produces oil-independent electricity through recycling
- Improve science and natural resources education

One ton of derelict nets = enough electricity to power one home for five months

(Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism)

Marine debris is
a problem we can solve
and by working together
we can make a difference.