

Marine Debris

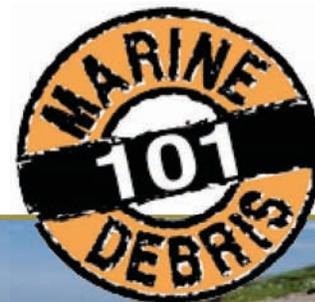
NATIONWIDE

Marine Debris 101: Web-based Education Campaign

For years, marine debris - man-made objects discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enter the coastal or marine environment - was primarily considered a harmless eyesore. However, recent research has proven that debris has serious effects on the marine environment, marine wildlife, navigation, the economy, and human health and safety. In fact, marine debris has become one of the most widespread pollution problems facing the world's oceans and waterways.

In an effort to combat this problem, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) implemented its Marine Debris Program, a national and international effort focused on identifying, reducing, and preventing debris in the marine environment. As part of this program, NOAA has developed this educational Web site to inform people on the sources, impacts, and solutions of the marine debris issue.

On this site you can download informative marine debris brochures, posters, fact sheets, guidebooks, and activity books tailored to specific audiences, including beachgoers, fishermen, boaters, students, and educators.



Today, there is no place on earth immune to marine debris - near South Point, Big Island of Hawaii. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

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 SOURCES

Sources of marine debris include land-based sources, such as littering, dumping, and industrial losses. Ocean-based debris can come from fishing vessels, cargo ships, stationary platforms, and other vessels.

MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM

NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



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WEB SITE SECTIONS

- Who Are You? - Beachgoer, Fisher, Boater/ Marina Owner, or Student/Educator
- MD 101 Facts
- What You Can Do
- Resources - Marine Debris 101, Scientific, and Educational Resources
- Photo Gallery - Sources, Impacts, and Solutions

MD 101 DOWNLOADABLE PRODUCTS

1. Brochures
2. Fact Sheets
3. Posters/Placards
4. Guidebooks
5. Activity Book
6. Curriculum

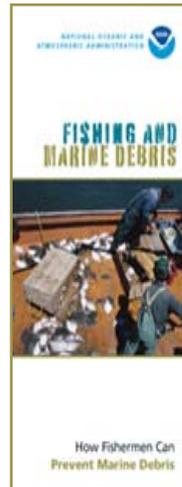
CONTACT

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MANDATES

Mandates supporting NOAA’s marine debris efforts include the following:

- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1951 et seq.
- U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, (Title II) 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.



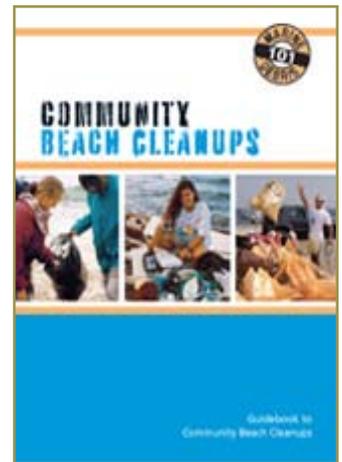
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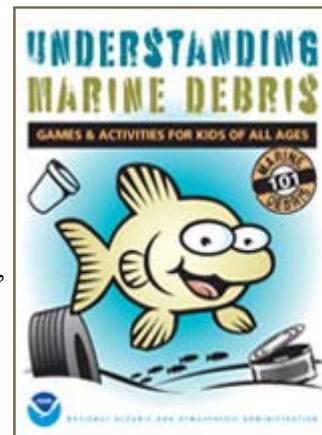
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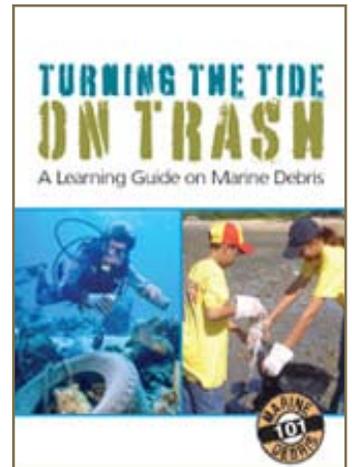
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www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/marinedebris101/

This project is funded through NOAA’s National Ocean Service, Office of Response & Restoration, Marine Debris Program. The NOAA Marine Debris Program works with other NOAA offices, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies and private sector partners to support national, state, local and international efforts to protect and conserve our nation’s natural resources, oceans, and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris.

