

Marine Debris



NOAA Marine Debris Program | Office of Response and Restoration | NOAA National Ocean Service

Honolulu Port Reception and Derelict Net Recycling Program

Ongoing since 1996, trained NOAA divers have removed derelict net, line, and rope from the coral reefs and shores of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Annually, it is estimated that more than 52 metric tons (nearly 115,000 lbs.) of marine debris accumulate in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Dameron et al., 2007).

In 2006, this removal effort switched to a maintenance mode. Smaller, more targeted removal efforts are conducted focusing on high-density areas of derelict fishing gear.

All nets brought back to the Island of O'ahu and are used to create electricity through Hawaii's Nets to Energy program. This program has been an ongoing and successful private-public partnership.

This project has been co-funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program since 2005.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Removal of marine debris is important to the unique and sensitive ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, because marine debris:

- Entangles marine life
- Presents a hazard to safe navigation
- Damages coral reef habitat
- May be a vector for the transport of invasive species



Trained NOAA marine debris divers remove a derelict fishing net from the reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
Photo courtesy of NOAA PIFSC CRED.

PARTNERS

- City and County of Honolulu
 - Covanta Energy
 - NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program
 - NOAA Marine Debris Program
 - NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division
 - Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

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.

- Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation
- U.S. Coast Guard

Since 2002 when the Nets to Energy project began, this derelict fishing gear removal effort has produced **enough electricity to power 260 homes for a year each.**

Dameron, O., M. Parke, M. Albins, and R. Brainard. 2007. Marine debris accumulation in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands: An examination of rates and processes. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 54: 423-433.



Derelict nets, like those pictured above, scour and damage coral reef habitat. *Photo courtesy of NOAA PIFSC CRED.*

For more information visit

www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov/projects/removal_nwhi.html



Many other types of marine debris litter the shores of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. *Photo courtesy of NOAA PIFSC CRED.*



NOAA divers use lift bags to help bring large conglomerations of net and rope to the surface. *Photo courtesy of NOAA PIFSC CRED.*

Marine debris is

a problem we can solve together. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and participate in local beach or stream cleanups. If we each do a little, together we can make a big difference.