Marine debris is everyone’s problem.

It affects everything from our environment to our economy; from fishing and navigation to human health and safety; from the tiniest coral polyps to giant humpback whales. Marine debris also comes in many forms, from a small cigarette butt or bottle cap to car parts or a 4,000 pound derelict fishing net.

Marine debris is a problem we can solve together; we know how. Although marine debris is a problem worldwide we can all help, with even the smallest actions. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and participate in local beach or stream cleanups! If we each do a little, together, we can make a big difference.

IN NATURE THERE ARE NEITHER REWARDS NOR PUNISHMENTS, THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES.

Robert G. Ingersoll

www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program helps protect and conserve our nation’s natural resources, oceans, and coastal waterways for future generations through the prevention, identification, and reduction of marine debris on a national and international level.

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education, and extension services dedicated to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation. Science serving the people of Hawaii and the Pacific for over 40 years.
**What is Marine Debris?**

**A: Solid man-made material**

- **Directly** (from a ship or ocean platform)
- **Indirectly** (from storm drains, etc.)
- **Intentionally disposed**
- **Unintentionally abandoned**

**Marine Debris moves with the winds and ocean currents, sometimes far from its origin.**

In the north Pacific Ocean, a marine debris “hot spot” known as the Subtropical Convergence Zone (STCZ) concentrates debris. Debris accumulates in this area because surface waters come together, driven by winds. This “hot spot” shifts southward over the Hawaiian Archipelago during winter months, carrying with it marine debris from around the Pacific Ocean.

**ENTANGLEMENT**

Marine debris, such as gillnets (derelict fishing nets), fishing line, and trap gear (crab pots), poses an entanglement threat to our wildlife. These entanglements can lead to serious injury and often death.

**WHAT TO DO**

*If you see an entangled animal:*

**ENTANGLEMENT REPORTING INFORMATION: NOAA Fisheries at 1-800-255-8964 or United States Coast Guard on VHF channel 16 (156.8 MHz).**

Never approach an entangled animal. Call for help immediately. Seabirds pose a risk to human health and safety.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

To learn more about marine debris and how you can help, visit

www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov

- **GET INVOLVED!** Participate in local cleanups in your area.
- **REMEMBER** that our lands and seas are connected.
- **REDUCE** the amount of waste you produce.
- **REUSE** items whenever possible! Choose reusable items over disposable ones.
- **RECYCLE** as much as possible! Bottles, cans, cell phones, ink cartridges, and many other items can be recycled.