This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the NOAA Marine Debris Program! Through marine debris efforts in NOAA, marine debris efforts in NOAA began further back, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) was officially authorized after the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act was passed in 2006. Since then, the MDP has made significant progress in reducing marine debris.

The Marine Debris Act is amended, expanding to include emergency response and restoration in the Gulf of Mexico, and microplastic research begins. The MDP signs the Marine Debris Act, which officially becomes the Chair of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act. We have accomplished a lot in ten years and are proud of what we’ve been able to do.

The MDP continues to expand its regions, now including Alaska. The MDP partners with NOAA Ocean Environment and Conservation to support the Partnership for the Protection of the Oceans and the USA. With the passage of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, Congress allocates $200 million to the MDP to recover and remove debris from the Tohoku (Japan) tsunami, 2011.

The MDP launches the Marine Debris Tracker App, a mobile application that allows users to report marine debris sightings anywhere in the world.

The MDP co-hosts the 5th International Coastal Cleanup, the first international event of its kind. The MDP partners with NOAA Ocean Environment and Conservation to support the Partnership for the Protection of the Oceans and the USA. With the passage of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, Congress allocates $200 million to the MDP to recover and remove debris from the Tohoku (Japan) tsunami, 2011.

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The MDP releases the Alabama Marine Debris Action Plan, which includes a series of recommendations to address marine debris in Alabama. The MDP releases the Southern California Marine Debris Action Plan, which includes a series of recommendations to address marine debris in Southern California. The MDP funds 3 projects through a Marine Debris Removal annual grant competition focusing on the chemical impacts of marine debris.

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