



Photo: NOAA

Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment

The Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project, or MDMAP, is a citizen science initiative that engages NOAA partners and volunteers across the nation to survey and record the amount and types of marine debris on shorelines. Each partner in the MDMAP network selects a nearby shoreline monitoring site that they return to monthly to conduct surveys and submit meaningful data to NOAA's MDMAP Online Database.

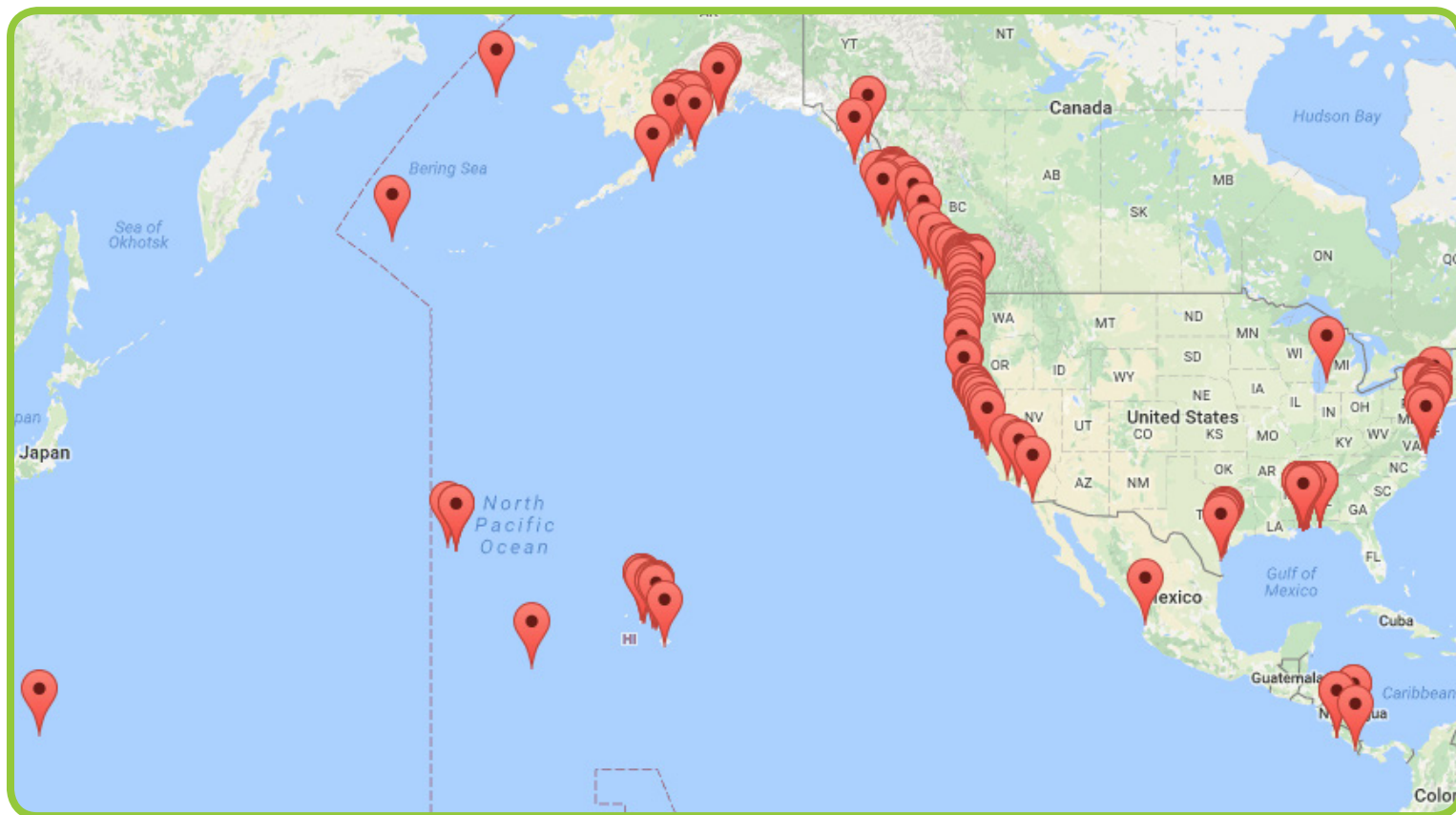
How big is the marine debris problem, and how is it changing over time? What types of debris are most common in your region? With a larger, standardized dataset, we can begin to answer important research questions about the types, abundance, and sources of debris to the marine environment. MDMAP data can be used to guide marine debris policy development, education and outreach, and address important research questions.

Interested in Getting Involved?

Visit the MDMAP "*Get Started Toolbox*" for more information on the program. Start by viewing our tutorial series to learn more about the MDMAP, what it takes to get involved, how to safely conduct shoreline surveys, and how to submit your data.

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/research/monitoring-toolbox>





Sites monitored as part of the MDMAP, as of October 2016.

Marine Debris Monitoring in Action

Participation in the MDMAP incorporates debris data collection from your local beaches into a larger national context. All data uploaded to the MDMAP Online Database is openly available for any data analysis efforts, including any projects sponsored by NOAA. The NOAA Marine Debris Program is committed to continuing to work with the marine debris community, applying MDMAP monitoring data to answer key research questions about debris in the environment. The ultimate goal is to develop more effective prevention and mitigation strategies to prevent the impacts of marine debris. MDMAP is also a great excuse to get outside and get to know your local shorelines!

By enrolling in the MDMAP, you are committing to conducting shoreline monitoring surveys on a monthly basis, according to the published survey techniques outlined in the toolbox. Partners need to upload their own data to the MDMAP Online Database in order for it to be included in any data analysis efforts.

MDMAP volunteers are the backbone of this effort, and we would not have a successful project without them. We are grateful for the countless hours that our volunteers and partners have contributed over the lifetime of this project, and will continue to contribute in the future.

If participation in the MDMAP is too much of a commitment, we encourage you to download and use the Marine Debris Tracker App to easily report marine debris sightings at any time right from your smartphone!

For More Information, Contact:

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