

The International Coastal Cleanup

The International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris, and to change the behaviors that cause pollution.

The 2007 ICC: A Dynamic Global Snapshot of Marine Debris

In 2007, the ICC's success improved yet again, generating a detailed picture of trash in our ocean. International participation jumped from 66 countries in 2006 to 76 in 2007. More than 378,000 people picked their way across more than 33,000 miles of stream, river, and ocean shoreline to collect six million pounds of debris. That translates to an average of 16 pounds per person. Once again, Project Aware led scuba divers (8,321 of them) below the surface in underwater cleanups that yielded 161,513 pounds.

With more than 190,000 volunteers scouring shorelines above and below the waterline in 45 states, the United States accounted for half of all ICC volunteers, 22 percent of pounds collected, and nearly 25 percent of miles cleaned. The 2007 Cleanup also marked additional participation in inland cleanups along local waterways, with states such as Alabama, Kentucky, and Louisiana more than doubling their number of volunteers from last year.

In the U.S., Ocean Conservancy President Vikki Spruill was honored to join First Lady Laura Bush to announce the White House's new marine debris initiative during the dedication ceremony of the J.L. Scott Marine

Education Center – Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Biloxi, Mississippi. The White House Initiative calls for an increase in public/private partnerships on cleanups, enhanced public education on debris prevention, and an emphasis on international cooperation to end dumping in the ocean.

Through its Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and the Global Programme for Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has developed a "Global Initiative on Marine Litter" to address the global pollution issue. The initiative focuses on both regional and global efforts, and provides a platform to establish partnerships and cooperation for the coordination of activities to control and sustainably manage marine debris.



2007 ICC: Connecticut

In Connecticut, 1,336 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 7,878 pounds of trash and debris from 37.3 miles of shoreline.

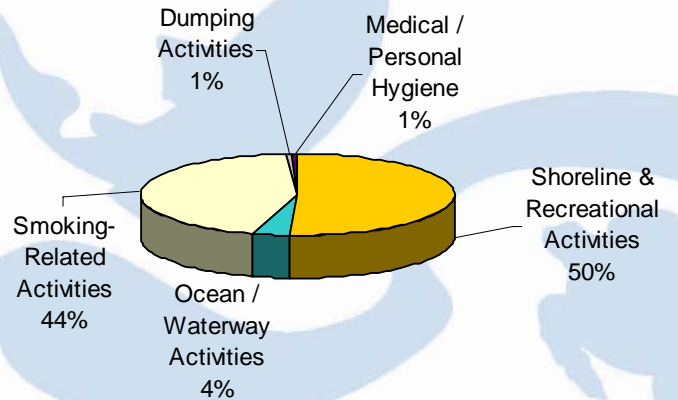
51.7 percent of the debris found in Connecticut came from land-based activities like picnics, festivals, sporting events, and beach outings. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category.

Ocean and water-based activities offshore such as boating and fishing accounted for 4.2 percent of Connecticut's debris. Globally, 6.3 percent of collected debris came from ocean and waterway-based activities.

Smoking-related products (cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging) accounted for 44.8 percent of the debris found in Connecticut. Worldwide, these items comprised 33.6 percent of the six million pounds of debris collected.

Ocean Conservancy's annual Top Ten list shows which items are most prevalent around the globe. The Top Ten accounted for 88.4 percent of the debris found in Connecticut.

2007 ICC: Connecticut Sources of Debris



Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
Beverage Cans	24,986	40.5%
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	8,675	14.1%
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	4,530	7.3%
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,975	4.8%
Food Wrappers and Containers	2,892	4.7%
Bags	2,603	4.2%
Cups/Plates/Forks/Knives/Spoons	2,413	3.9%
Caps/Lids	2,156	3.5%
Clothing/Shoes	1,876	3.0%
Straws/Stirrers	1,434	2.3%
Total Top Ten	54,540	
Total All Debris Items	61,710	88.38%

Dangers of Marine Debris

In addition to being an eyesore, marine debris also poses dangers for wildlife and people. Marine debris kills more than one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles annually. Unfortunately, each year ICC volunteers find a variety of marine wildlife species entangled in debris. In 2007, participants found 237 entangled animals. Birds represented nearly 35 percent of entangled wildlife, followed by fish (27 percent), invertebrates (20 percent), mammals (nearly 13 percent), reptiles (almost five percent), and amphibians (less than one percent).

Discarded monofilament fishing line is perhaps the single-most dangerous debris item, accounting for 65 percent of entanglements found during the ICC. In fact, derelict fishing gear – which includes fishing line, nets, rope, lures, and light sticks, and crab/lobster/fish traps – represented 72 percent of all entanglements.

Conclusion

Trash in our ocean pollutes our water, kills and injures wildlife, and also costs local communities in debris removal, lost tourism, and lower property values. While the ICC accomplishes amazing results, one day of cleaning up will only be a drop in the ocean unless we expand our reach, bringing in new volunteers and new countries and expanding our commitment beyond the Cleanup to keeping our ocean healthy all year round. We have the opportunity to make significant strides not only in cleaning up the existing trash that is polluting our water, but – more importantly – in reducing the amount that enters the ocean in the first place.

If we all join together and make the ICC's mission an integral part of our daily lives, we could truly *start a sea change*, every day. It starts one day at a time.



10 Things You Can Do To Stop Marine Debris

1. Join Ocean Conservancy's International Cleanup!

Visit www.oceanconservancy.org/coastalcleanup

2. Clean up your trash. Throw all trash away in proper receptacles, even when you're not on the water. Pick up any debris you see while out.

3. Collect your monofilament fishing line.

Don't leave fishing line behind and retrieve any other line you may find while fishing, but be careful not to tug on snagged lines, which could be caught on habitat below the surface.

4. Contain and properly clean spills when boating. Use oil-absorbent rags and materials to clean spills. Check Ocean Conservancy's *Good Mate* manual for helpful tips on reducing your negative impacts on the water.

5. Recycle used motor oil and oil filters. Local gas stations should have appropriate facilities for recycling these materials. NEVER pour oil, paint, antifreeze, or other household chemicals into an open sewer or down a storm drain.

6. Consider organic alternatives to household detergents and cleaners. Use lemon juice, vinegar, and baking soda for household cleaning. Avoid using fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and harsh chemical cleaners that can wash into waterways.

7. Choose reusable items and use fewer disposable ones. Use fewer disposable bags when shopping or bring your own reusable ones.

8. Properly dispose of used batteries and electronics. Don't dump them in landfills, use your local recycling center. These items leach harmful chemicals into the environment that take a long time to disperse.

9. Keep streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and storm drains clear of trash and debris – they empty into our ocean.

10. Contact your elected representatives and let them know you care about marine debris – and that they should care, too. Vote for candidates who support marine debris prevention and policies that protect our environment.



Connecticut 2007 ICC Donors

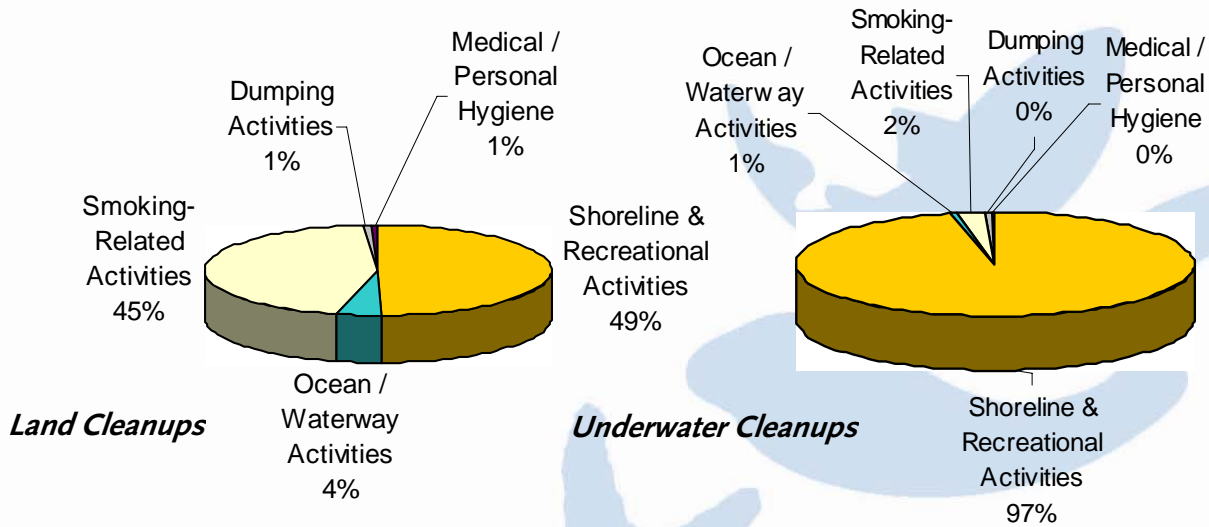
Patagonia Westport
Bonnell Cove Foundation
Kayak for a Cause



Debris Items Collected During the 2007 ICC in Connecticut

Debris Items	Land	Underwater	Total	Percentage of Total
Shoreline & Recreational Activities				
Bags	2965	10	2975	4.8%
Balloons	788	0	788	1.3%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	2403	200	2603	4.2%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	1676	200	1876	3.0%
Beverage Cans	1956	200	2156	3.5%
Caps/Lids	4430	100	4530	7.3%
Clothing/Shoes	738	5	743	1.2%
Cups, plates, etc	2492	400	2892	4.7%
Food Wrappers	8670	5	8675	14.1%
Pull Tabs	533	50	583	0.9%
Six-Pack Holders	143	0	143	0.2%
Shotgun Shells	160	0	160	0.3%
Straws/Stirrers	2413	0	2413	3.9%
Toys	747	5	752	1.2%
<i>Category Totals</i>	30,114	1,175	31,289	50.7%
Ocean/Waterway Activities				
Bait Containers	214	0	214	0.3%
Bleach/Cleaner	42	1	43	0.1%
Buoys/Floats	320	0	320	0.5%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	49	0	49	0.1%
Crates	19	0	19	0.0%
Fishing Line	595	2	597	1.0%
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	116	4	120	0.2%
Fishing Nets	91	0	91	0.1%
Light Bulbs	25	0	25	0.0%
Oil/Lube Bottles	36	0	36	0.1%
Pallets	9	0	9	0.0%
Plastic Sheeting	390	0	390	0.6%
Rope	433	0	433	0.7%
Strapping Bands	191	0	191	0.3%
<i>Category Totals</i>	2,530	7	2,537	4.1%
Smoking-Related Activities				
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	24966	20	24986	40.5%
Cigarette Lighters	161	2	163	0.3%
Cigar Tips	1429	5	1434	2.3%
Tobacco Packaging	530	0	530	0.9%
<i>Category Totals</i>	27,086	27	27,113	43.9%
Dumping Activities				
Appliances	9	0	9	0.0%
Batteries	69	5	74	0.1%
Building Materials	261	0	261	0.4%
Car/Car Parts	78	0	78	0.1%
55-Gallon Drums	3	0	3	0.0%
Tires	33	0	33	0.1%
<i>Category Totals</i>	453	5	458	0.7%
Medical/Personal Hygiene				
Condoms	99	5	104	0.2%
Diapers	64	0	64	0.1%
Syringes	25	0	25	0.0%
Tampons	120	0	120	0.2%
<i>Category Totals</i>	308	5	313	0.5%
Totals	60,491	1,219	61,710	100.0%

Connecticut 2007 ICC – Sources of Debris – Land and Underwater Cleanups



Connecticut 2007 ICC – Top Ten Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups

Top Ten Debris Items - Land Cleanups

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. 'Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	24966	41.27%
2. 'Food Wrappers and Containers	8670	14.33%
3. 'Caps/Lids	4430	7.32%
4. 'Bags	2965	4.90%
5. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	2492	4.12%
6. Straws/Stirrers	2413	3.99%
7. 'Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2403	3.97%
8. 'Beverage Cans	1956	3.23%
9. 'Beverage Bottles (Glass)	1676	2.77%
10. Cigar Tips	1429	2.36%
Total Top Ten	53400	
Total All Debris Items	60491	88.28%

Top Ten Debris Items - Underwater Cleanups

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	400	32.8%
2. 'Beverage Bottles (Glass)	200	16.4%
3. 'Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	200	16.4%
4. Beverage Cans	200	16.4%
5. Caps/Lids	100	8.2%
6. 'Pull Tabs	50	4.1%
7. 'Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	20	1.6%
8. 'Bags	10	0.8%
9. Food Wrappers and Containers	5	0.4%
10. 'Batteries	5	0.4%
Total Top Ten	1,190	
Total All Debris Items	1,219	97.62%

Connecticut 2007 ICC - Entangled Animals

Entangled Animals	Invertebrates	Fishes	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals	Amphibians	Total	Percentage of Total
Balloon								
Ribbon/String	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Beverage Can	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Building Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fishing Line	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	50.0%
Fishing Nets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Glass Bottle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Plastic Bags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Plastic Container	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Rope	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	50.0%
Six-Pack Holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Tire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Wire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	100.0%
Percentage of Total	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	