

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: Hawaii

In Hawaii, 4,382 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 72,224.5 pounds of trash and debris from 160.4 miles of shoreline.

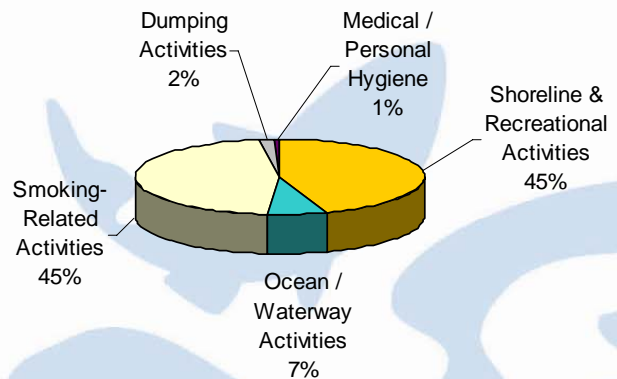
45.2 percent of the debris found in Hawaii came from land-based activities like picnics, festivals, sporting events, and beach outings. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category.

Ocean and water-based activities offshore such as boating and fishing accounted for seven percent of Hawaii'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 45 percent of the debris found in Hawaii. 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 86.8 percent of the debris found in Hawaii.

2007 ICC: Hawaii Sources of Debris



Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	72,254	44.2%
2. Caps/Lids	21,249	13.0%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	16,609	10.2%
4. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	7,354	4.5%
5. Bags	6,866	4.2%
6. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	5,008	3.1%
7. Fishing Line	3,444	2.1%
8. Straws/Stirrers	3,175	1.9%
9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,965	1.8%
10. Beverage Cans	2,932	1.8%
Total Top Ten	141,856	
Total All Debris Items	163,372	86.83%

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.



Hawaii 2007 ICC Donors

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Friends of Honolulu Parks and Recreation

Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program

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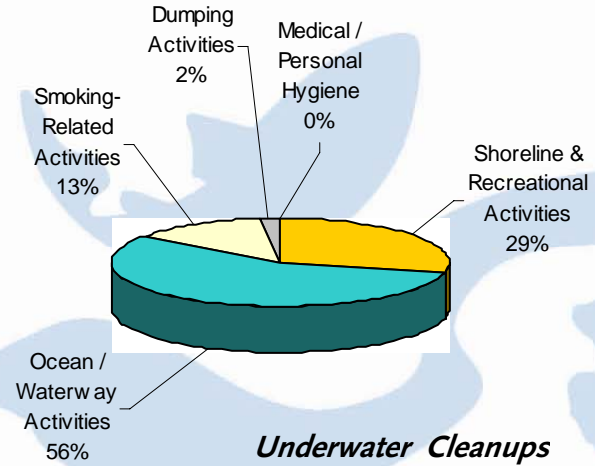
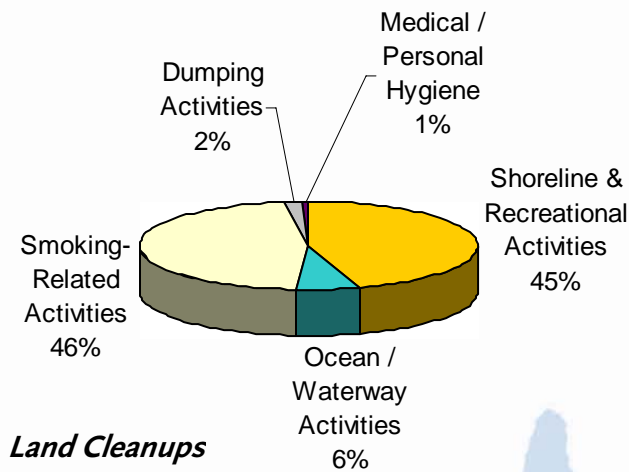
The Clean Islands Council



Debris Items Collected During the 2007 ICC in Hawaii

Debris Items	Land	Underwater	Total	Percentage of Total
Shoreline & Recreational Activities				
Bags	6844	22	6866	4.2%
Balloons	1061	4	1065	0.7%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	2958	7	2965	1.8%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	4686	322	5008	3.1%
Beverage Cans	2861	71	2932	1.8%
Caps/Lids	21210	39	21249	13.0%
Clothing/Shoes	1527	6	1533	0.9%
Cups, plates, etc	7331	23	7354	4.5%
Food Wrappers	16554	55	16609	10.2%
Pull Tabs	2515	6	2521	1.5%
Six-Pack Holders	363	9	372	0.2%
Shotgun Shells	71	0	71	0.0%
Straws/Stirrers	3166	9	3175	1.9%
Toys	1259	1	1260	0.8%
<i>Category Totals</i>	72,406	574	72,980	44.7%
Ocean/Waterway Activities				
Bait Containers	445	8	453	0.3%
Bleach/Cleaner	304	0	304	0.2%
Buoys/Floats	555	1	556	0.3%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	262	0	262	0.2%
Crates	64	0	64	0.0%
Fishing Line	2363	1081	3444	2.1%
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	299	14	313	0.2%
Fishing Nets	506	3	509	0.3%
Light Bulbs	199	1	200	0.1%
Oil/Lube Bottles	188	1	189	0.1%
Pallets	56	0	56	0.0%
Plastic Sheeting	1702	1	1703	1.0%
Rope	2403	5	2408	1.5%
Strapping Bands	639	17	656	0.4%
<i>Category Totals</i>	9,985	1,132	11,117	6.8%
Smoking-Related Activities				
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	72053	201	72254	44.2%
Cigarette Lighters	858	1	859	0.5%
Cigar Tips	1041	47	1088	0.7%
Tobacco Packaging	1609	11	1620	1.0%
<i>Category Totals</i>	75,561	260	75,821	46.4%
Dumping Activities				
Appliances	87	0	87	0.1%
Batteries	680	5	685	0.4%
Building Materials	1141	12	1153	0.7%
Car/Car Parts	469	1	470	0.3%
55-Gallon Drums	50	2	52	0.0%
Tires	163	16	179	0.1%
<i>Category Totals</i>	2,590	36	2,590	1.6%
Medical/Personal Hygiene				
Condoms	190	0	190	0.1%
Diapers	326	1	327	0.2%
Syringes	84	0	84	0.1%
Tampons	227	0	227	0.1%
<i>Category Totals</i>	827	1	828	0.5%
Totals	161,369	2,003	163,372	100.0%

Hawaii 2007 ICC: Sources of Debris – Land and Underwater Cleanups



Hawaii 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	72053	44.65%
2. Caps/Lids	21210	13.14%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	16554	10.26%
4. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	7331	4.54%
5. Bags	6844	4.24%
(Glass)	4686	2.90%
7. Straws/Stirrers	3166	1.96%
(Plastic) 2 liters or less	2958	1.83%
9. Beverage Cans	2861	1.77%
10. Pull Tabs	2515	1.56%
Total Top Ten	140178	
Total All Debris Items	161369	86.87%

Top Ten Debris Items - Underwater Cleanups

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Fishing Line	1081	54.0%
2. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	322	16.1%
3. Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	201	10.0%
4. Beverage Cans	71	3.5%
5. Food Wrappers and Containers	55	2.7%
6. Cigar Tips	47	2.3%
7. Caps/Lids	39	1.9%
8. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	23	1.1%
9. Bags	22	1.1%
10. Strapping Bands	17	0.8%
Total Top Ten	1,878	
Total All Debris Items	2,003	93.76%

Hawaii 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	3	3	1	0	0	0	7	58.3%
Fishing Nets	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	25.0%
Glass Bottle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3%
Plastic Bags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Plastic Container	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Rope	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3%
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	5	6	1	0	0	0	12	100.0%
Percentage of Total	41.7%	50.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	