



## 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: Illinois

In Illinois, 1,755 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 8,581 pounds of trash and debris from 38.4 miles of shoreline.

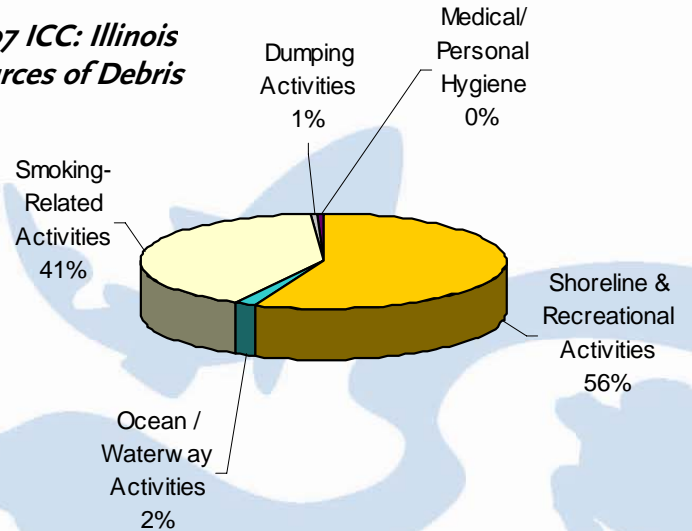
56.2 percent of the debris found in Illinois came from land-based activities like picnics, festivals, sporting events, and beach outings. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category.

Ocean and water-based activities offshore such as boating and fishing accounted for two percent of Illinois'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 41.1 percent of the debris found in Illinois. 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 91 percent of the debris found in Illinois.

### 2007 ICC: Illinois Sources of Debris



### Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
<b>1. Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters</b>	<b>34,407</b>	<b>37.4%</b>
<b>2. Food Wrappers and Containers</b>	<b>10,721</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
<b>3. Caps/Lids</b>	<b>9,046</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>4. Bags</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)</b>	<b>5,034</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>6. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>7. Straws/Stirrers</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>8. Beverage Cans</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>10. Cigar Tips</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Total Top Ten</b>	<b>83,325</b>	
<b>Total All Debris Items</b>	<b>91,900</b>	<b>90.67%</b>

## 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](http://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.



## Illinois 2007 ICC Donors

Brunswick Public Foundation

Chicago Department of Environment-Chicago Conservation Corps

Home Depot

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

ITW Hi-Cone

Northwestern Cutlery

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Starbucks

Trader Joe's

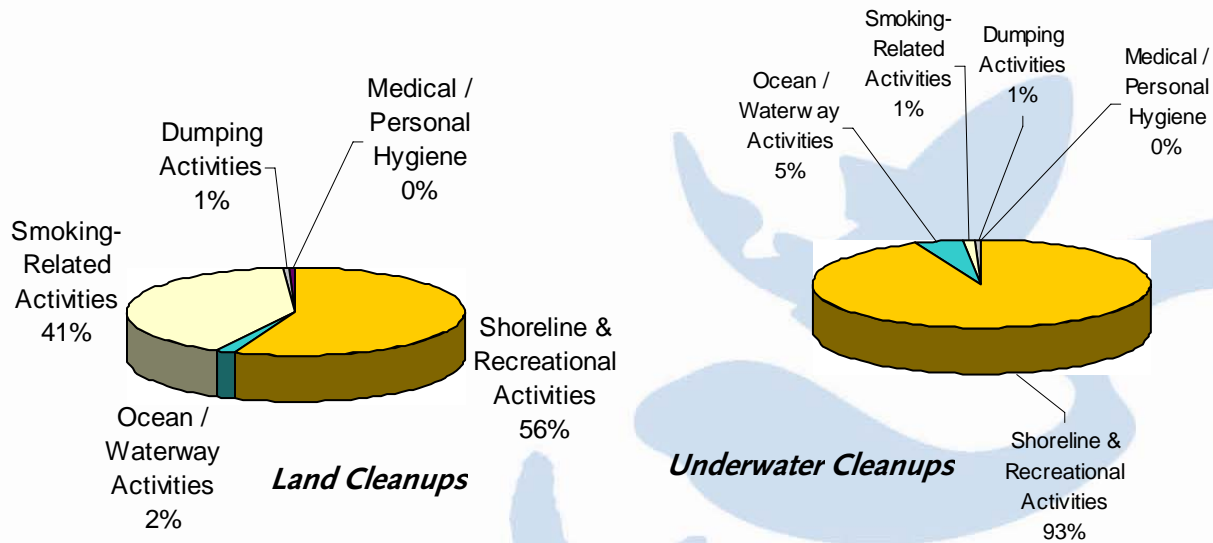
Whole Foods



## Debris Items Collected During the 2007 ICC in Illinois

Debris Items	Land	Underwater	Total	Percentage of Total
<b>Shoreline &amp; Recreational Activities</b>				
Bags	5189	26	5215	5.7%
Balloons	1808	0	1808	2.0%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	3895	9	3904	4.2%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	4971	63	5034	5.5%
Beverage Cans	3918	86	4004	4.4%
Caps/Lids	9042	4	9046	9.8%
Clothing/Shoes	935	20	955	1.0%
Cups, plates, etc	4481	55	4536	4.9%
Food Wrappers	10709	12	10721	11.7%
Pull Tabs	673	0	673	0.7%
Six-Pack Holders	279	1	280	0.3%
Shotgun Shells	69	0	69	0.1%
Straws/Stirrers	4303	0	4303	4.7%
Toys	965	0	965	1.1%
<i>Category Totals</i>	<b>51,237</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>51,513</b>	<b>56.1%</b>
<b>Ocean/Waterway Activities</b>				
Bait Containers	79	4	83	0.1%
Bleach/Cleaner	29	3	32	0.0%
Buoys/Floats	32	0	32	0.0%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	16	0	16	0.0%
Crates	14	0	14	0.0%
Fishing Line	120	0	120	0.1%
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	53	0	53	0.1%
Fishing Nets	31	1	32	0.0%
Light Bulbs	26	0	26	0.0%
Oil/Lube Bottles	28	0	28	0.0%
Pallets	11	0	11	0.0%
Plastic Sheeting	568	2	570	0.6%
Rope	312	4	316	0.3%
Strapping Bands	465	0	465	0.5%
<i>Category Totals</i>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>				
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	34407	0	34407	37.4%
Cigarette Lighters	273	3	276	0.3%
Cigar Tips	2155	0	2155	2.3%
Tobacco Packaging	771	0	771	0.8%
<i>Category Totals</i>	<b>37,606</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37,609</b>	<b>40.9%</b>
<b>Dumping Activities</b>				
Appliances	9	1	10	0.0%
Batteries	132	1	133	0.1%
Building Materials	345	1	346	0.4%
Car/Car Parts	50	0	50	0.1%
55-Gallon Drums	3	0	3	0.0%
Tires	27	0	27	0.0%
<i>Category Totals</i>	<b>566</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Medical/Personal Hygiene</b>				
Condoms	135	0	135	0.1%
Diapers	113	0	113	0.1%
Syringes	22	0	22	0.0%
Tampons	141	0	141	0.2%
<i>Category Totals</i>	<b>411</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>91,604</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>91,899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Illinois 2007 ICC: Sources of Debris – Land and Underwater Cleanups



## Illinois 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	34407	37.56%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	10709	11.69%
3. Caps/Lids	9042	9.87%
4. Bags	5189	5.66%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	4971	5.43%
6. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	4481	4.89%
7. Straws/Stirrers	4303	4.70%
8. Beverage Cans	3918	4.28%
9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	3895	4.25%
10. Cigar Tips	2155	2.35%
<b>Total Top Ten</b>	<b>83070</b>	
<b>Total All Debris Items</b>	<b>91604</b>	<b>90.68%</b>

### Top Ten Debris Items - Underwater Cleanups

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Beverage Cans	86	29.1%
2. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	63	21.3%
3. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	55	18.6%
4. Bags	26	8.8%
5. Clothing/Shoes	20	6.8%
6. Food Wrappers and Containers	12	4.1%
7. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	9	3.0%
8. Rope	4	1.4%
9. Caps/Lids	4	1.4%
10. Bait Containers/Packaging	4	1.4%
<b>Total Top Ten</b>	<b>283</b>	
<b>Total All Debris Items</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>95.61%</b>