

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 growing success generated 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.

China joined the ICC for the second year; Russia also took part in the cleanup, for the first time since 2003. The Caribbean improved dramatically on last year's ICC efforts, with volunteer numbers in Trinidad and Tobago jumping from 894 to 2,250, an increase of more than 60 percent. And in the Bahamas, volunteer participation exploded a whopping 82 percent as 1,037 volunteers pitched in (compared to 180 in 2006). These volunteers removed an average of almost 78 pounds of trash per mile, which equaled 80 percent more pounds of debris per mile than last year.

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.

In the US, 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.



2007 ICC: Australia

In Australia, 190 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 4,228 pounds of trash and debris from three miles of shoreline. In addition, 260 volunteer divers participated in underwater cleanups, removing 1,274.5 pounds of debris from seven miles of seafloor.

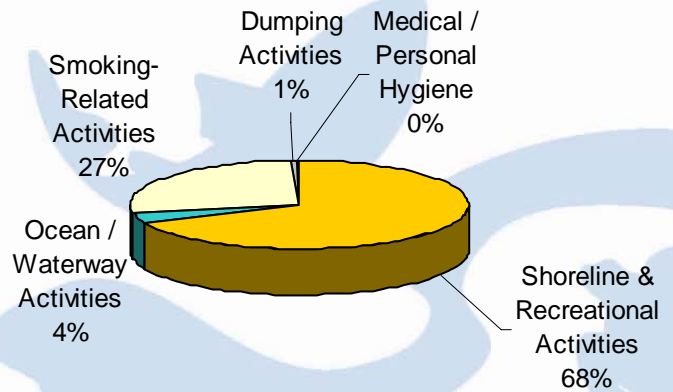
68.4 percent of the debris found in Australia came from land-based activities like picnics, festivals, sporting events, and beach outings. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category.

Ocean and water-based activities offshore such as boating and fishing accounted for 3.9 percent of Australia'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 26.8 percent of the debris found in Australia. 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 90 percent of the debris found in Australia.

2007 ICC: Australia Sources of Debris



Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	925	24.5%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	628	16.6%
3. Straws/Stirrers	517	13.7%
4. Bags	411	10.9%
5. Caps/Lids	317	8.4%
6. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	189	5.0%
7. Beverage Cans	150	4.0%
8. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	102	2.7%
9. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	93	2.5%
10. Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	73	1.9%
Total Top Ten	3,405	100.0%
Total All Debris Items	3,782	90.03%

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.

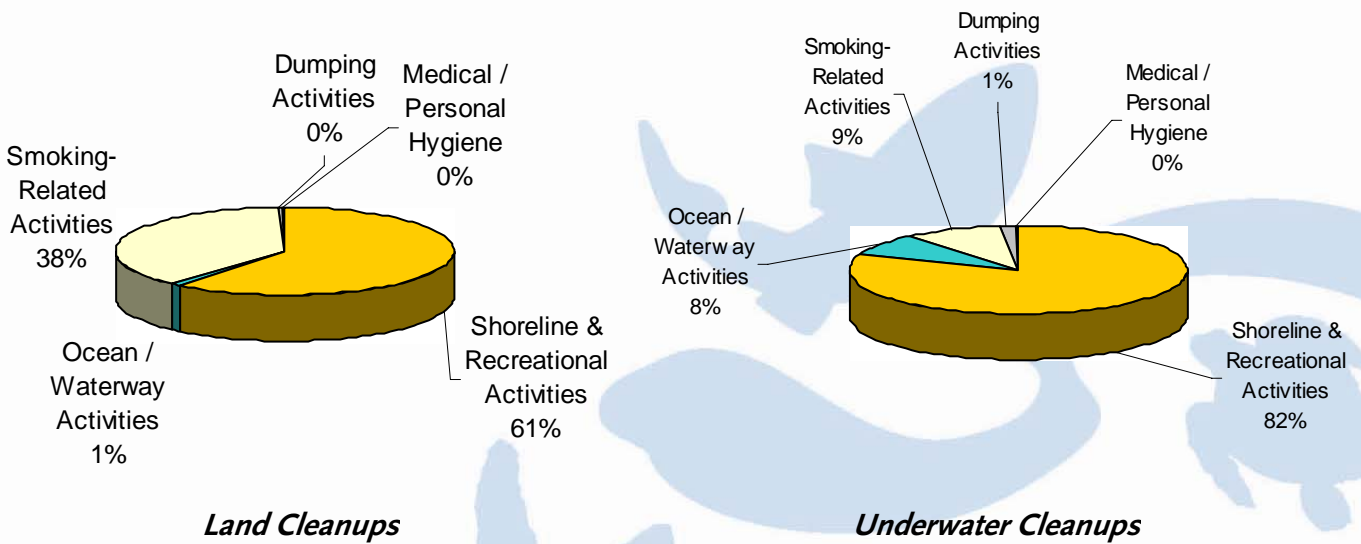
10. Contact your elected representatives and let them know you care about marine debris – and that they should care, too. Vote for candidates who support marine debris prevention and policies that protect our environment.



Debris Items Collected During the 2007 ICC in Australia

Debris Items	Land	Underwater	Total	Percentage of Total
Shoreline & Recreational Activities				
Bags	136	275	411	10.9%
Balloons	35	7	42	1.1%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	39	63	102	2.7%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	53	40	93	2.5%
Beverage Cans	22	128	150	4.0%
Caps/Lids	251	66	317	8.4%
Clothing/Shoes	3	36	39	1.0%
Cups, plates, etc	66	123	189	5.0%
Food Wrappers	485	143	628	16.6%
Pull Tabs	15	0	15	0.4%
Six-Pack Holders	0	2	2	0.1%
Shotgun Shells	48	0	48	1.3%
Straws/Stirrers	218	299	517	13.7%
Toys	20	13	33	0.9%
Category Totals	1,391	1,195	2,586	68.4%
Ocean/Waterway Activities				
Bait Containers	10	27	37	1.0%
Bleach/Cleaner	0	0	0	0.0%
Buoys/Floats	0	0	0	0.0%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0	1	1	0.0%
Crates	0	1	1	0.0%
Fishing Line	0	37	37	1.0%
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	3	22	25	0.7%
Fishing Nets	2	2	4	0.1%
Light Bulbs	0	1	1	0.0%
Oil/Lube Bottles	0	0	0	0.0%
Pallets	1	0	1	0.0%
Plastic Sheeting	4	9	13	0.3%
Rope	2	10	12	0.3%
Strapping Bands	1	16	17	0.4%
Category Totals	23	126	149	3.9%
Smoking-Related Activities				
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	836	89	925	24.5%
Cigarette Lighters	2	5	7	0.2%
Cigar Tips	7	0	7	0.2%
Tobacco Packaging	28	45	73	1.9%
Category Totals	873	139	1,012	26.8%
Dumping Activities				
Appliances	0	2	2	0.1%
Batteries	1	4	5	0.1%
Building Materials	4	11	15	0.4%
Car/Car Parts	2	0	2	0.1%
55-Gallon Drums	0	0	0	0.0%
Tires	0	3	3	0.1%
Category Totals	7	20	27	0.7%
Medical/Personal Hygiene				
Condoms	1	1	2	0.1%
Diapers	0	2	2	0.1%
Syringes	3	1	4	0.1%
Tampons	0	0	0	0.0%
Category Totals	4	4	8	0.2%
Totals	2,298	1,484	3,782	100.0%

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



Australia 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	836	36.38%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	485	21.11%
3. Caps/Lids	251	10.92%
4. Straws/Stirrers	218	9.49%
5. Bags	136	5.92%
6. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	66	2.87%
7. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	53	2.31%
Shells/Wadding	48	2.09%
9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	39	1.70%
10. Balloons	35	1.52%
Total Top Ten	2167	100.0%
Total All Debris Items	2298	94.30%

Top Ten Debris Items - Underwater Cleanups

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
1. Straws/Stirrers	299	20.1%
2. Bags	275	18.5%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	143	9.6%
4. Beverage Cans	128	8.6%
5. Cups/Plates/ Forks/Knives/Spoons	123	8.3%
6. Cigarettes/ Cigarette Filters	89	6.0%
7. Caps/Lids	66	4.4%
8. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	63	4.2%
9. Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	45	3.0%
10. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	40	2.7%
Total Top Ten	1,271	100.0%
Total All Debris Items	1,484	85.65%

Australia 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fishing Nets	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
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	1	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%
Percentage of Total	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	