



## **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: Belize

In Belize, 1,954 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 11,610 pounds of trash and debris from 55.3 miles of shoreline. In addition, three volunteer divers participated in underwater cleanups, removing 20 pounds of debris from 0.5 miles of seafloor

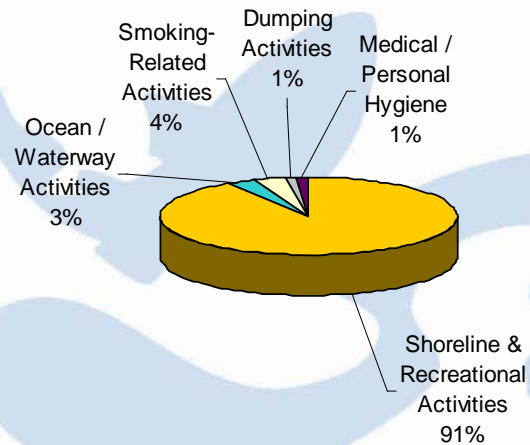
90.7 percent of the debris found in Belize came from land-based activities like picnics, festivals, sporting events, and beach outings. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category.

Ocean and water-based activities offshore such as boating and fishing accounted for 3.2 percent of Belize'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 3.5 percent of the debris found in Belize. 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 90.6 percent of the debris found in Belize.

## 2007 ICC: Belize Sources of Debris



### Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Number of Items	Percentage of Total
<b>1. Bags</b>	<b>9,386</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
<b>2. Caps/Lids</b>	<b>8,577</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
<b>3. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less</b>	<b>6,951</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
<b>4. Cups/Plates/Forks/Knives/Spoons</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>11.5%</b>
<b>5. Straws/Stirrers</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>6. Beverage Bottles (Glass)</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>7. Food Wrappers and Containers</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>8. Beverage Cans</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>9. Clothing/Shoes</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>10. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Total Top Ten</b>	<b>40,096</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total All Debris Items</b>	<b>44,235</b>	<b>90.64%</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.



## Belize 2007 ICC Sponsors

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National Fishermen Producers Cooperative  
TIDE



## Debris Items Collected During the 2007 ICC in Belize

Debris Items	Land	Underwater	Total	Percentage of Total
<b>Shoreline &amp; Recreational Activities</b>				
Bags	9386	0	9386	21.2%
Balloons	295	0	295	0.7%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	6951	0	6951	15.7%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	2465	0	2465	5.6%
Beverage Cans	1314	0	1314	3.0%
Caps/Lids	8577	0	8577	19.4%
Clothing/Shoes	911	0	911	2.1%
Cups, plates, etc	5093	0	5093	11.5%
Food Wrappers	1899	0	1899	4.3%
Pull Tabs	176	0	176	0.4%
Six-Pack Holders	120	0	120	0.3%
Shotgun Shells	53	0	53	0.1%
Straws/Stirrers	2678	0	2678	6.1%
Toys	203	0	203	0.5%
<b>Category Totals</b>	<b>40,121</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40121</b>	<b>90.7%</b>
<b>Ocean/Waterway Activities</b>				
Bait Containers	64	0	64	0.1%
Bleach/Cleaner	251	0	251	0.6%
Buoys/Floats	46	0	46	0.1%
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	94	0	94	0.2%
Crates	34	0	34	0.1%
Fishing Line	90	0	90	0.2%
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	48	0	48	0.1%
Fishing Nets	31	0	31	0.1%
Light Bulbs	45	0	45	0.1%
Oil/Lube Bottles	312	0	312	0.7%
Pallets	31	0	31	0.1%
Plastic Sheeting	127	0	127	0.3%
Rope	193	0	193	0.4%
Strapping Bands	26	0	26	0.1%
<b>Category Totals</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>				
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	822	0	822	1.9%
Cigarette Lighters	138	0	138	0.3%
Cigar Tips	383	0	383	0.9%
Tobacco Packaging	221	0	221	0.5%
<b>Category Totals</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1564</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>Dumping Activities</b>				
Appliances	18	0	18	0.0%
Batteries	72	0	72	0.2%
Building Materials	189	0	189	0.4%
Car/Car Parts	110	0	110	0.2%
55-Gallon Drums	11	0	11	0.0%
Tires	95	0	95	0.2%
<b>Category Totals</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Medical/Personal Hygiene</b>				
Condoms	277	0	277	0.6%
Diapers	331	0	331	0.7%
Syringes	23	0	23	0.1%
Tampons	32	0	32	0.1%
<b>Category Totals</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44,235</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44235</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Belize 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	33.3%
Glass Bottle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Plastic Bags	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	66.7%
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	