



# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Illinois

2004 State Coordinator: Stephanie Smith, Lake Michigan Federation

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

## 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.*

From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

## LAWS AND TREATIES

**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78):** This law provides a comprehensive approach when dealing with ocean dumping by creating international guidelines to prevent ship pollution. MARPOL (enforced by the International Maritime Organization [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) has six annexes covering oil discharge, hazardous liquid control, hazardous material transport, sewage discharge, plastic and garbage disposal, and air pollution. As of March 2005, 119 countries have ratified Annex V, which controls the disposal of plastics and garbage into the oceans.

**Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA):** To implement Annex V of MARPOL, each individual country must develop its own national implementation legislation. The U.S. Congress created the MPPRCA to implement Annex V in the United States. Under MPPRCA, it is illegal to throw plastic trash off any vessel within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (within 200 nautical miles of the U.S. shore). It is also illegal to throw any other garbage overboard while navigating U.S. waters (including inland waters) or within three miles of shore.

**Clean Water Act:** This act established pollution discharge regulations for U.S. waters, set water quality standards, and gave the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority over pollution control programs. ([www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm))

**Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (B.E.A.C.H. Act):** This act amended the Clean Water Act, requiring adoption of minimum health-based water quality criteria, comprehensive water testing, and notification of the public when water contamination levels are unsafe. ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html))

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identify the activities and general sources causing the debris. The final information is then used to educate the public, business, industry, and government officials about the marine debris problem.

### THE 2004 ICC: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

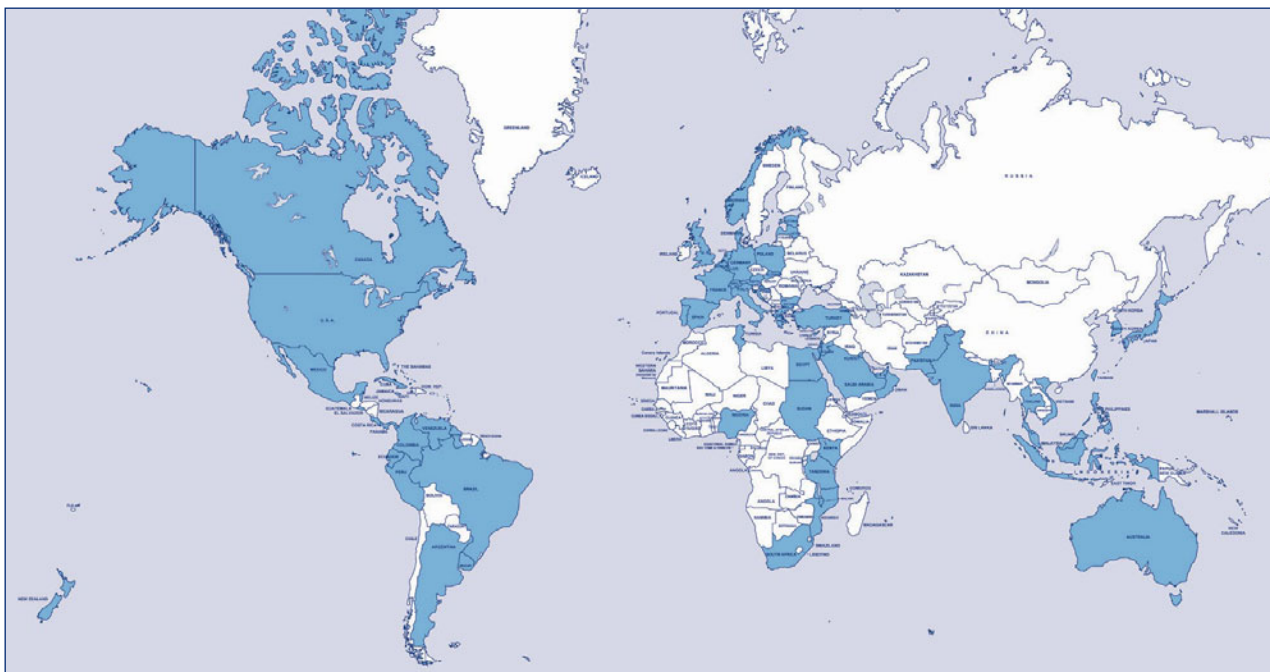
In 2004, volunteers from the United States were joined by people from 87 additional countries in cleaning up debris from our beaches, rivers, and lakes. Worldwide, more than 305,000 people removed over 7.7 million pounds of debris from more than 11,000 miles of shoreline. More than 6,600 divers participated in underwater cleanups, gathering over 155,000 pounds of debris from 382 miles of riverbed and seafloor.

The 2004 Cleanup—held on September 18, 2004—saw growth in several areas. Five new countries—Brunei, Malawi, Samoa, Sudan, and Tunisia—joined in the cleanup efforts. Volunteer participation also increased in several countries. In India, 20,160 people volunteered



for the ICC—an increase of 9,044 volunteers from last year. Nigeria more than quadrupled its volunteer participation, going from 1,632 volunteers in 2003 to 7,319 in 2004. In the United States, Georgia's cleanup efforts expanded to include "Rivers Alive" activities, increasing statewide participation to 22,198 volunteers.

### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation



### 2004 ICC: Illinois

During the 2004 ICC in Illinois, 1,410 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 34 miles, picking up 68,604 debris items that weighed 10,249 pounds. Among ICC participants in Illinois were 80 divers, who removed 1,120 pounds of debris from below the water's surface. In total 86 debris items were retrieved from 0.76 miles of underwater area.

Overall, 59 percent of the debris found in Illinois originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

*In Illinois, cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids accounted for over half of all the debris items collected.*

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco

packaging, accounted for 35 percent of the debris found in Illinois. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

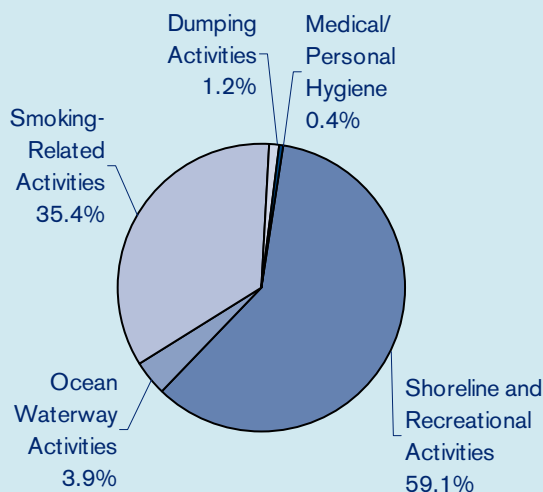
Debris items from ocean and waterway activities—activities that originate offshore—accounted for four percent of the debris found in Illinois. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 88 percent of all the debris found in Illinois. The top three items alone – cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids – account for over half of all debris in Illinois. Cigarettes, the number one item in Illinois, comprised over one quarter of the 69 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food

### Illinois: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	21,819	31.8%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	10,147	14.8%
3. Caps/Lids	6,317	9.2%
4. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	5,014	7.3%
5. Straws/Stirrers	3,786	5.5%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	3,736	5.5%
7. Beverage Cans	2,806	4.1%
8. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,506	3.7%
9. Bags	2,245	3.3%
10. Cigar Tips	1,728	2.5%
Totals:	60,104	87.7%



and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### **DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS**

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### **WHAT'S BEING DONE?**

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a blueprint for a new comprehensive national

#### **Illinois: Dangerous Debris Items**

Bags	2,245
Balloons	1,011
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	8
Fishing Line	79
Fishing Nets	57
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	1,213
Rope	213
Six-Pack Holders	207
Strapping Bands	643
Syringes	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,697</b>

ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to coordinate and implement expanded marine



debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

Interest in curbing marine debris has also sparked recent Congressional action. Senators Daniel Inouye (HI) and Ted Stevens (AK) introduced the Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act to Congress in early 2005. Among other actions, the bill creates a new marine debris program within NOAA, enhances Coast Guard efforts against marine debris, and enacts a federal marine debris information clearinghouse. While it has yet to become law, the bill has garnered support in the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA.

Data from the last decade indicates that the majority of people do not consider their contributions to marine debris to be significant enough to warrant a change in personal behavior. This is the real problem that the ICC seeks to solve: to increase people's awareness of their contribution to the problem and inspire change. Consequently, continued education on the harmful effects debris has on our oceans, waterways, and our own lives is vital to help alter the behaviors that cause this problem. The 2004 ICC report is one of several tools The Ocean Conservancy uses in its ongoing efforts to educate society and create solutions to this long-standing problem.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

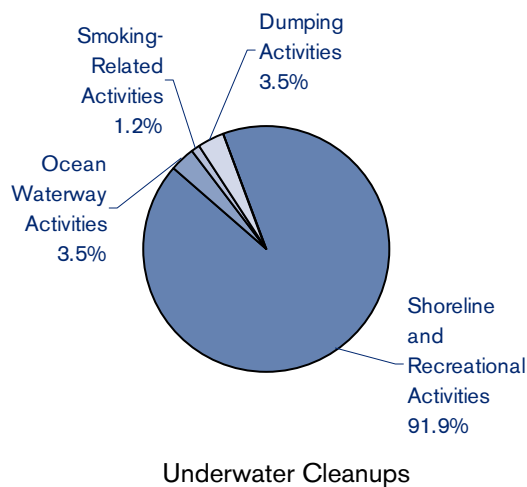
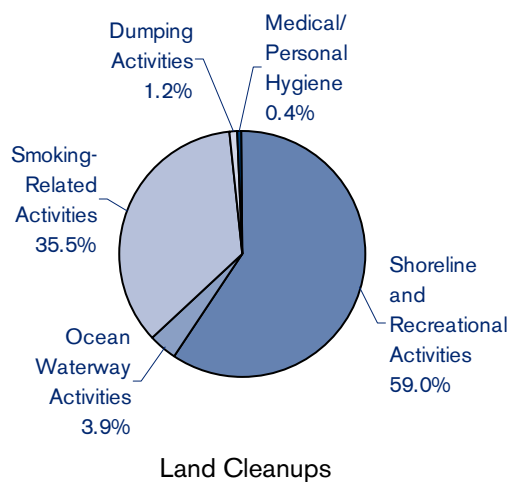
Marine debris is one of the most frustrating environmental threats because it is easily one of the most preventable: the solution is in our hands. Consequently, individual action to curb marine debris is just as important as legislative or political edicts, if not more so. Here are some steps you can take to do your part to reduce the amount of marine debris that enters our oceans and waterways:

- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Illinois

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	2,245	0	2,245
Balloons	1,001	10	1,011
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	4,978	36	5,014
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,502	4	2,506
Beverage Cans	2,806	0	2,806
Caps/Lids	6,315	2	6,317
Clothing/Shoes	841	0	841
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	3,714	22	3,736
Food Wrappers and Containers	10,142	5	10,147
Pull Tabs	803	0	803
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	110	0	110
Six-Pack Holders	207	0	207
Straws/Stirrers	3,786	0	3,786
Toys	1,002	0	1,002
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	101	0	101
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	93	0	93
Buoys/Floats	31	0	31
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	8	0	8
Crates	20	0	20
Fishing Line	78	1	79
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	53	1	54
Fishing Nets	56	1	57
Light Bulbs/Tubes	53	0	53
Oil/Lube Bottles	34	0	34
Pallets	55	0	55
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	1,213	0	1,213
Rope	213	0	213
Strapping Bands	643	0	643
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	1,728	0	1,728
Cigarette Lighters	254	0	254
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	21,818	1	21,819
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	515	0	515
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	8	0	8
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	22	0	22
Batteries	113	0	113
Building Materials	507	1	508
Cars/Car Parts	100	2	102
Tires	47	0	47
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	115	0	115
Diapers	62	0	62
Syringes	21	0	21
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	105	0	105
<b>Totals</b>	<b>68,518</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>68,604</b>

### Illinois 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups



### Illinois 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups

#### Land Cleanups Only

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	21,818	31.8%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	10,142	14.8%
3. Caps/Lids	6,315	9.2%
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9. Bags	2,245	3.3%
10. Cigar Tips	1,728	2.5%
Totals:	60,034	87.6%

#### Underwater Cleanups Only

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	36	41.9%
2. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	22	25.6%
3. Balloons	10	11.6%
4. Food Wrappers and Containers	5	5.8%
5. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	4	4.7%
6. Cars/Car Parts	2	2.3%
7. Caps/Lids	2	2.3%
8. Building Materials	1	1.2%
9. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	1	1.2%
10. Fishing Nets	1	1.2%
Totals:	84	97.8%



## **2004 ICC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

*Bank of America Foundation*  
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*Cox Target Media*  
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## **2004 ICC Illinois Sponsors**

The Boeing Company  
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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Indiana

2004 State Coordinator: Jeanette Miller, Grand Cal Task Force

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## THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

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From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

### LAWS AND TREATIES

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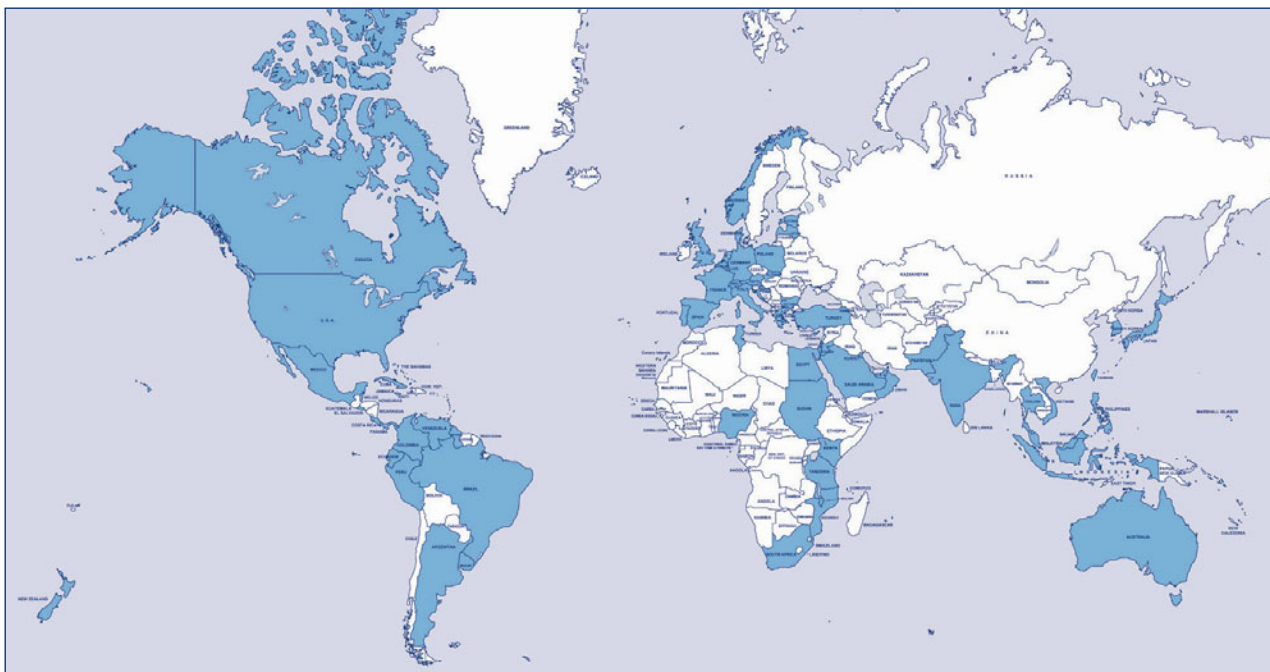
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### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation



### 2004 ICC: Indiana

During the 2004 ICC in Indiana, 1,528 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 50 miles, picking up 19,479 debris items that weighed 107,532 pounds. Among ICC participants in Indiana were 29 divers, who removed 2,170 pounds of debris from below the water's surface. In total 71 debris items were retrieved from 4.4 miles of underwater area.

*In Indiana, cigarettes, caps and lids, and food wrappers accounted for over half of all the debris items collected.*

Overall, 56 percent of the debris found in Indiana originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco

packaging, accounted for 37 percent of the debris found in Indiana. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

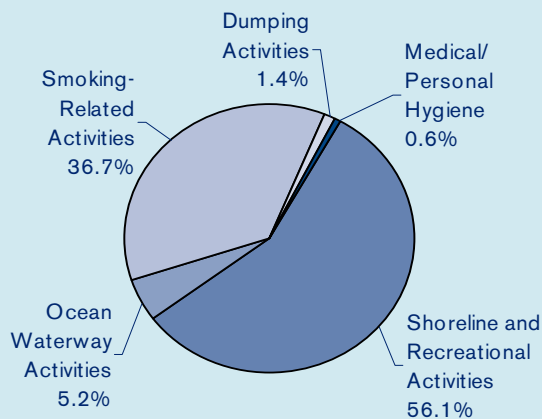
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Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 84 percent of all the debris found in Indiana. The top three items alone – cigarettes, caps and lids, and food wrappers – account for over half of all debris in Indiana. Cigarettes, the number one item in Indiana, comprised over one quarter of the 19 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food

### Indiana: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,984	30.7%
2. Caps/Lids	2,716	13.9%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,748	9.0%
4. Straws/Stirrers	1,003	5.2%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	936	4.8%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	909	4.7%
7. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	891	4.6%
8. Beverage Cans	821	4.2%
9. Cigar Tips	751	3.9%
10. Bags	575	3.0%
Totals:	16,334	84.0%



and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### **DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS**

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife. For a list of entangled animals found during the ICC in Indiana, refer to the table in Appendix.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### **WHAT'S BEING DONE?**

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004

#### **Indiana: Dangerous Debris Items**

Bags	575
Balloons	513
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	6
Fishing Line	56
Fishing Nets	13
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	393
Rope	142
Six-Pack Holders	52
Strapping Bands	57
Syringes	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,812</b>

report, which was designed to create a blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research.



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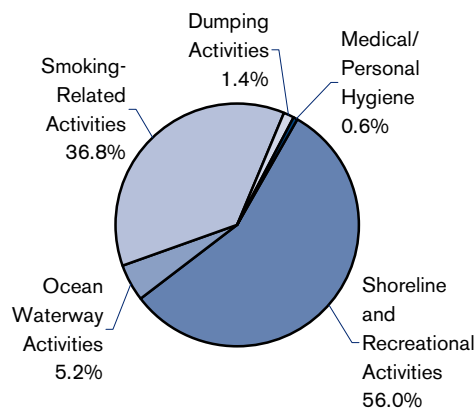
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- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

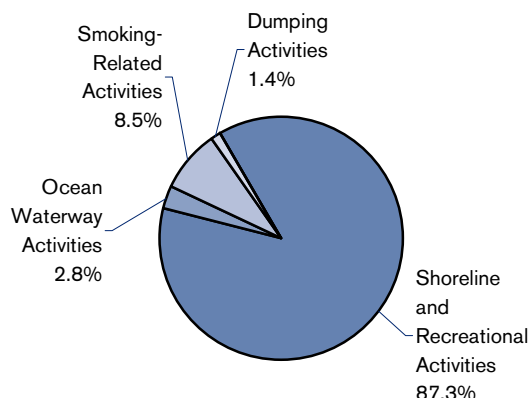
## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Indiana

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	575	0	575
Balloons	513	0	513
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	929	7	936
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	883	8	891
Beverage Cans	801	20	821
Caps/Lids	2,713	3	2,716
Clothing/Shoes	194	5	199
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	895	14	909
Food Wrappers and Containers	1,744	4	1,748
Pull Tabs	140	0	140
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	140	0	140
Six-Pack Holders	52	0	52
Straws/Stirrers	1,003	0	1,003
Toys	290	1	291
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	146	1	147
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	9	0	9
Buoys/Floats	46	0	46
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	6	0	6
Crates	57	0	57
Fishing Line	56	0	56
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	43	0	43
Fishing Nets	12	1	13
Light Bulbs/Tubes	9	0	9
Oil/Lube Bottles	17	0	17
Pallets	20	0	20
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	393	0	393
Rope	142	0	142
Strapping Bands	57	0	57
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	751	0	751
Cigarette Lighters	169	2	171
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,983	1	5,984
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	238	3	241
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	2	0	2
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	6	0	6
Batteries	6	1	7
Building Materials	186	0	186
Cars/Car Parts	27	0	27
Tires	41	0	41
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	22	0	22
Diapers	28	0	28
Syringes	5	0	5
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	59	0	59
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,408</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>19,479</b>

**Indiana 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups**



Land Cleanups



Underwater Cleanups

**Indiana 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups**

**Land Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,983	30.8%
2. Caps/Lids	2,713	14.0%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,744	9.0%
4. Straws/Stirrers	1,003	5.2%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	929	4.8%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	895	4.6%
7. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	883	4.6%
8. Beverage Cans	801	4.1%
9. Cigar Tips	751	3.9%
10. Bags	575	3.0%
Totals:	16,277	84.0%

**Underwater Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Beverage Cans	20	28.2%
2. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	14	19.7%
3. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	8	11.3%
4. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	7	9.9%
5. Clothing/Shoes	5	7.0%
6. Food Wrappers and Containers	4	5.6%
7. Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	3	4.2%
8. Caps/Lids	3	4.2%
9. Cigarette Lighters	2	2.8%
10. Batteries	1	1.4%
Totals:	67	94.3%

**Indiana 2004 ICC - Entangled Animals**

Entangling Debris	Birds	Fishes	Invertebrates	Total
balloon ribbon/string	0	0	1	1
fishing line	0	1	0	1
fishing nets	1	0	0	1
six-pack holders	3	0	0	3
Totals	4	1	1	6

## **2004 ICC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Michigan

2004 State Coordinator: Jamie Morton, Lake Michigan Federation

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

## 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.*

From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

### LAWS AND TREATIES

**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78):** This law provides a comprehensive approach when dealing with ocean dumping by creating international guidelines to prevent ship pollution. MARPOL (enforced by the International Maritime Organization [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) has six annexes covering oil discharge, hazardous liquid control, hazardous material transport, sewage discharge, plastic and garbage disposal, and air pollution. As of March 2005, 119 countries have ratified Annex V, which controls the disposal of plastics and garbage into the oceans.

**Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA):** To implement Annex V of MARPOL, each individual country must develop its own national implementation legislation. The U.S. Congress created the MPPRCA to implement Annex V in the United States. Under MPPRCA, it is illegal to throw plastic trash off any vessel within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (within 200 nautical miles of the U.S. shore). It is also illegal to throw any other garbage overboard while navigating U.S. waters (including inland waters) or within three miles of shore.

**Clean Water Act:** This act established pollution discharge regulations for U.S. waters, set water quality standards, and gave the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority over pollution control programs. ([www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm))

**Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (B.E.A.C.H. Act):** This act amended the Clean Water Act, requiring adoption of minimum health-based water quality criteria, comprehensive water testing, and notification of the public when water contamination levels are unsafe. ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html))

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### THE 2004 ICC: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

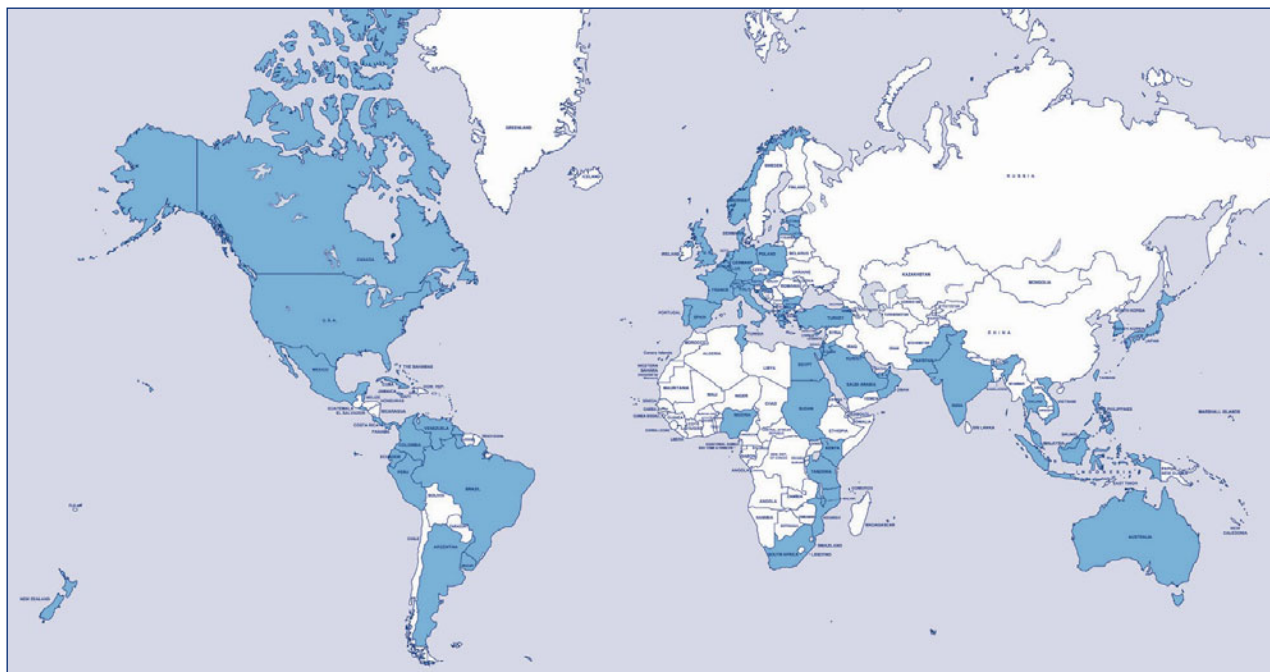
In 2004, volunteers from the United States were joined by people from 87 additional countries in cleaning up debris from our beaches, rivers, and lakes. Worldwide, more than 305,000 people removed over 7.7 million pounds of debris from more than 11,000 miles of shoreline. More than 6,600 divers participated in underwater cleanups, gathering over 155,000 pounds of debris from 382 miles of riverbed and seafloor.

The 2004 Cleanup—held on September 18, 2004—saw growth in several areas. Five new countries—Brunei, Malawi, Samoa, Sudan, and Tunisia—joined in the cleanup efforts. Volunteer participation also increased in several countries. In India, 20,160 people volunteered



for the ICC—an increase of 9,044 volunteers from last year. Nigeria more than quadrupled its volunteer participation, going from 1,632 volunteers in 2003 to 7,319 in 2004. In the United States, Georgia's cleanup efforts expanded to include "Rivers Alive" activities, increasing statewide participation to 22,198 volunteers.

### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation



## 2004 ICC: Michigan

During the 2004 ICC in Michigan, 2,394 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 174 miles, picking up 119,829 debris items that weighed 10,247 pounds.

Overall, 44 percent of the debris found in Michigan originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

*In Michigan, cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids accounted for over half of all the debris items collected.*

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging, accounted for 50 percent of the debris found in Michigan. Globally, debris from

smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

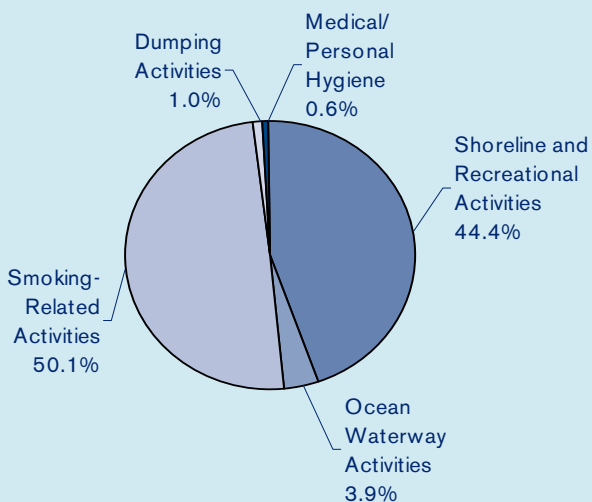
Debris items from ocean and waterway activities—activities that originate offshore—accounted for four percent of the debris found in Michigan. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 88 percent of all the debris found in Michigan. The top three items alone – cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids – account for over half of all debris in Michigan. Cigarettes, the number one item in Michigan, comprised nearly half of the 120 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food and beverage products—that are discarded

### Michigan: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	55,102	46.0%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	17,307	14.4%
3. Caps/Lids	8,466	7.1%
4. Straws/Stirrers	6,731	5.6%
5. Balloons	4,490	3.8%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	3,810	3.2%
7. Cigar Tips	2,839	2.4%
8. Bags	2,465	2.1%
9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,350	2.0%
10. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2,068	1.7%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>105,628</b>	<b>88.3%</b>



after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife. For a list of entangled animals found during the ICC in Michigan, refer to the table in Appendix.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a

#### Michigan: Dangerous Debris Items

Bags	2,465
Balloons	4,490
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	8
Fishing Line	999
Fishing Nets	44
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	1,387
Rope	611
Six-Pack Holders	156
Strapping Bands	395
Syringes	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,579</b>

blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to





coordinate and implement expanded marine debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

Interest in curbing marine debris has also sparked recent Congressional action. Senators Daniel Inouye (HI) and Ted Stevens (AK) introduced the Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act to Congress in early 2005. Among other actions, the bill creates a new marine debris program within NOAA, enhances Coast Guard efforts against marine debris, and enacts a federal marine debris information clearinghouse. While it has yet to become law, the bill has garnered support in the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA.

Data from the last decade indicates that the majority of people do not consider their contributions to marine debris to be significant enough to warrant a change in personal behavior. This is the real problem that the ICC seeks to solve: to increase people's awareness of their contribution to the problem and inspire change. Consequently, continued education on the harmful effects debris has on our oceans, waterways, and our own lives is vital to help alter the behaviors that cause this problem. The 2004 ICC report is one of several tools The Ocean Conservancy uses in its ongoing efforts to educate society and create solutions to this long-standing problem.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

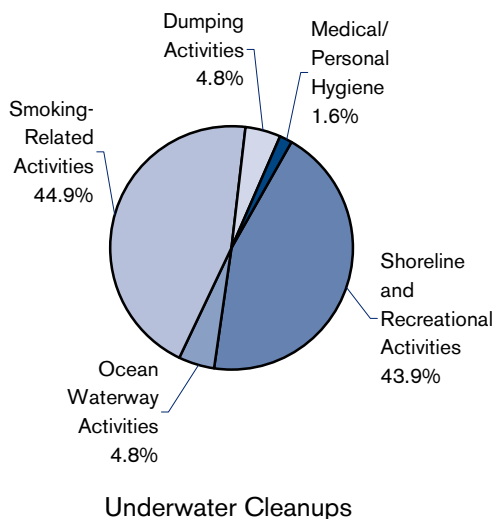
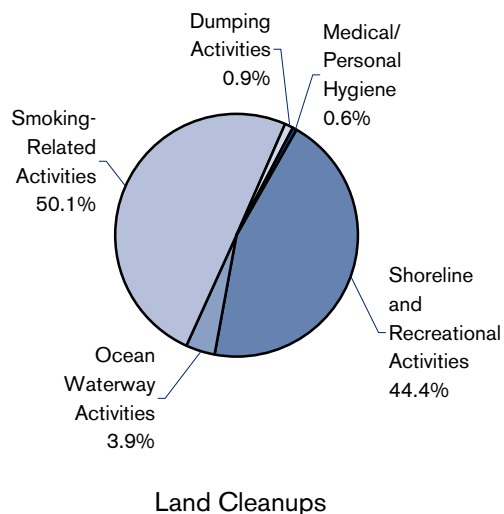
Marine debris is one of the most frustrating environmental threats because it is easily one of the most preventable: the solution is in our hands. Consequently, individual action to curb marine debris is just as important as legislative or political edicts, if not more so. Here are some steps you can take to do your part to reduce the amount of marine debris that enters our oceans and waterways:

- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Michigan

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	2,426	39	2,465
Balloons	4,427	63	4,490
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2,058	10	2,068
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,318	32	2,350
Beverage Cans	1,590	29	1,619
Caps/Lids	8,285	181	8,466
Clothing/Shoes	880	11	891
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	3,783	27	3,810
Food Wrappers and Containers	17,234	73	17,307
Pull Tabs	840	0	840
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	789	67	856
Six-Pack Holders	156	0	156
Straws/Stirrers	6,641	90	6,731
Toys	1,126	12	1,138
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	677	3	680
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	80	6	86
Buoys/Floats	54	7	61
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	8	0	8
Crates	12	0	12
Fishing Line	995	4	999
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	280	6	286
Fishing Nets	43	1	44
Light Bulbs/Tubes	38	1	39
Oil/Lube Bottles	84	1	85
Pallets	23	0	23
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	1,382	5	1,387
Rope	582	29	611
Strapping Bands	389	6	395
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	2,680	159	2,839
Cigarette Lighters	894	5	899
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	54,624	478	55,102
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	1,157	7	1,164
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	27	0	27
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	4	0	4
Batteries	59	1	60
Building Materials	757	61	818
Cars/Car Parts	172	3	175
Tires	69	5	74
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	125	0	125
Diapers	161	0	161
Syringes	21	3	24
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	434	20	454
<b>Totals</b>	<b>118,384</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>119,829</b>

**Michigan 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups**



**Michigan 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups**

**Land Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	54,624	46.1%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	17,234	14.6%
3. Caps/Lids	8,285	7.0%
4. Straws/Stirrers	6,641	5.6%
5. Balloons	4,427	3.7%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	3,783	3.2%
7. Cigar Tips	2,680	2.3%
8. Bags	2,426	2.1%
9. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,318	2.0%
10. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2,058	1.7%
Totals:	104,476	88.3%

**Underwater Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	478	33.1%
2. Caps/Lids	181	12.5%
3. Cigar Tips	159	11.0%
4. Straws/Stirrers	90	6.2%
5. Food Wrappers and Containers	73	5.1%
6. Shotgun Shells/Wadding	67	4.6%
7. Balloons	63	4.4%
8. Building Materials	61	4.2%
9. Bags	39	2.7%
10. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	32	2.2%
Totals:	1,243	86.0%

**Michigan 2004 ICC - Entangled Animals**

Entangling Debris	Fishes
fishing line	1
miscellaneous	1
Totals	2

## **2004 ICC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

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## **2004 ICC Michigan Sponsors**

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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Minnesota

2004 State Coordinator: Erin Zoellick, Great Lakes Aquarium

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA



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From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

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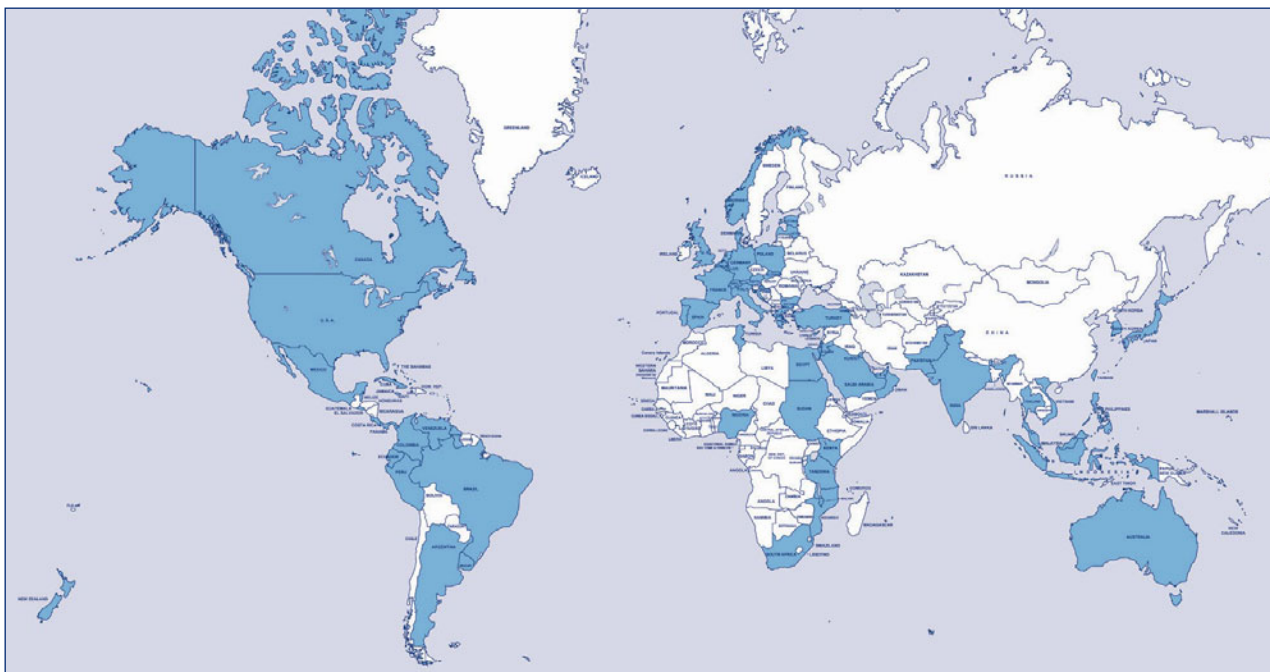
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### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation



### 2004 ICC: Minnesota

During the 2004 ICC in Minnesota, 157 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 117 miles, picking up 9,685 debris items that weighed 868 pounds. Among ICC participants in Minnesota were 28 divers, who removed 50 pounds of debris from below the water's surface. In total 76 debris items were retrieved from 7.25 miles of underwater area.

Overall, 33 percent of the debris found in Minnesota originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

*In Minnesota, cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids accounted for over three quarters of all the debris items collected.*

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco

packaging, accounted for 63 percent of the debris found in Minnesota. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

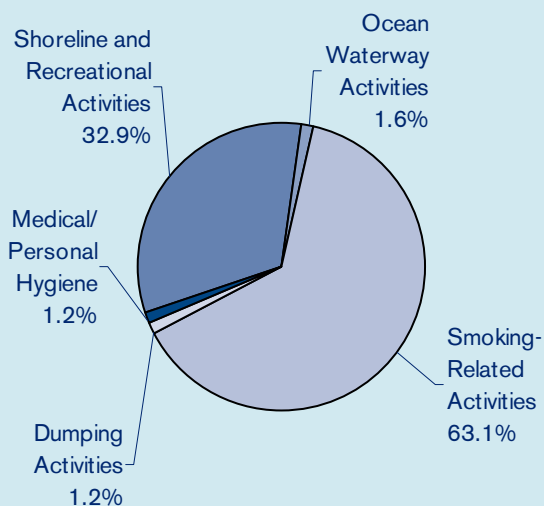
Debris items from ocean and waterway activities-activities that originate offshore-accounted for two percent of the debris found in Minnesota. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a "Top Ten" list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 93 percent of all the debris found in Minnesota. The top three items alone – cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids – account for over three quarters of all debris in Minnesota. Cigarettes, the number one item in Minnesota, comprised over half of the nine thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable

### Minnesota: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### "TOP TEN" DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,854	60.4%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,299	13.4%
3. Caps/Lids	375	3.9%
4. Beverage Cans	329	3.4%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	227	2.3%
6. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	224	2.3%
7. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	221	2.3%
8. Straws/Stirrers	167	1.7%
9. Bags	155	1.6%
10. Tobacco Packaging and Wrappers	153	1.6%
Totals:	9,004	92.9%

goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife. For a list of entangled animals found during the ICC in Minnesota, refer to the appendix.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated

#### Minnesota: Dangerous Debris Items

Bags	155
Balloons	19
Fishing Line	13
Fishing Nets	2
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	69
Rope	18
Six-Pack Holders	9
Strapping Bands	14
Syringes	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>

an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to





coordinate and implement expanded marine debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

Interest in curbing marine debris has also sparked recent Congressional action. Senators Daniel Inouye (HI) and Ted Stevens (AK) introduced the Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act to Congress in early 2005. Among other actions, the bill creates a new marine debris program within NOAA, enhances Coast Guard efforts against marine debris, and enacts a federal marine debris information clearinghouse. While it has yet to become law, the bill has garnered support in the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA.

Data from the last decade indicates that the majority of people do not consider their contributions to marine debris to be significant enough to warrant a change in personal behavior. This is the real problem that the ICC seeks to solve: to increase people's awareness of their contribution to the problem and inspire change. Consequently, continued education on the harmful effects debris has on our oceans, waterways, and our own lives is vital to help alter the behaviors that cause this problem. The 2004 ICC report is one of several tools The Ocean Conservancy uses in its ongoing efforts to educate society and create solutions to this long-standing problem.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Marine debris is one of the most frustrating environmental threats because it is easily one of the most preventable: the solution is in our hands. Consequently, individual action to curb marine debris is just as important as legislative or political edicts, if not more so. Here are some steps you can take to do your part to reduce the amount of marine debris that enters our oceans and waterways:

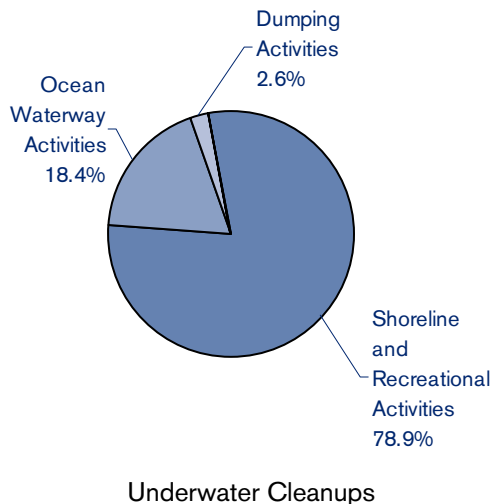
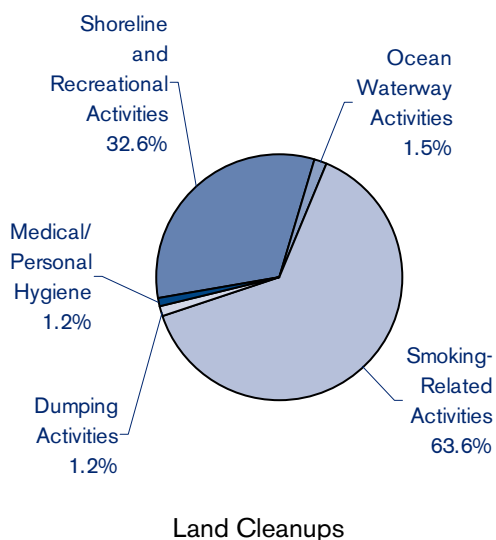
- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally



## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Minnesota

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	155	0	155
Balloons	19	0	19
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	227	0	227
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	224	0	224
Beverage Cans	314	15	329
Caps/Lids	374	1	375
Clothing/Shoes	74	1	75
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	221	0	221
Food Wrappers and Containers	1,259	40	1,299
Pull Tabs	40	1	41
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	10	1	11
Six-Pack Holders	9	0	9
Straws/Stirrers	166	1	167
Toys	38	0	38
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	19	1	20
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	1	0	1
Buoys/Floats	0	0	0
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0	0	0
Crates	0	0	0
Fishing Line	5	8	13
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	4	3	7
Fishing Nets	2	0	2
Light Bulbs/Tubes	3	0	3
Oil/Lube Bottles	8	0	8
Pallets	0	0	0
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	69	0	69
Rope	16	2	18
Strapping Bands	14	0	14
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	78	0	78
Cigarette Lighters	22	0	22
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,854	0	5,854
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	153	0	153
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	0	0	0
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	0	0	0
Batteries	5	0	5
Building Materials	52	1	53
Cars/Car Parts	46	0	46
Tires	13	1	14
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	50	0	50
Diapers	24	0	24
Syringes	20	0	20
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	21	0	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,609</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9,685</b>

**Minnesota 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups**



**Minnesota 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups**

**Land Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	5,854	60.9%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,259	13.1%
3. Caps/Lids	374	3.9%
4. Beverage Cans	314	3.3%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	227	2.4%
6. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	224	2.3%
7. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	221	2.3%
8. Straws/Stirrers	166	1.7%
9. Bags	155	1.6%
10. Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	153	1.6%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8,947</b>	<b>93.1%</b>

**Underwater Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Food Wrappers and Containers	40	52.6%
2. Beverage Cans	15	19.7%
3. Fishing Line	8	10.5%
4. Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	3	4.0%
5. Rope	2	2.6%
6. Tires	1	1.3%
7. Building Materials	1	1.3%
8. Bait Containers/Packaging	1	1.3%
9. Straws/Stirrers	1	1.3%
10. Shotgun Shells/Wadding	1	1.3%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>95.9%</b>

**Minnesota 2004 ICC - Entangled Animals**

Entangling Debris	Birds
fishing line	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>

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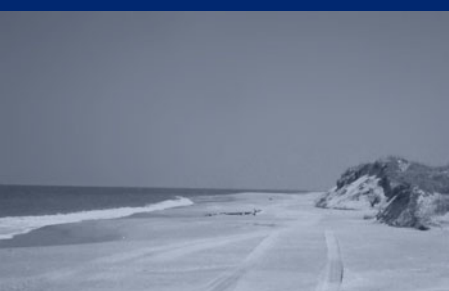
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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report New York

2004 State Coordinator: Barbara Cohen / Don Reipe, American Littoral Society

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

## 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.*

From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

## LAWS AND TREATIES

**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78):** This law provides a comprehensive approach when dealing with ocean dumping by creating international guidelines to prevent ship pollution. MARPOL (enforced by the International Maritime Organization [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) has six annexes covering oil discharge, hazardous liquid control, hazardous material transport, sewage discharge, plastic and garbage disposal, and air pollution. As of March 2005, 119 countries have ratified Annex V, which controls the disposal of plastics and garbage into the oceans.

**Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA):** To implement Annex V of MARPOL, each individual country must develop its own national implementation legislation. The U.S. Congress created the MPPRCA to implement Annex V in the United States. Under MPPRCA, it is illegal to throw plastic trash off any vessel within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (within 200 nautical miles of the U.S. shore). It is also illegal to throw any other garbage overboard while navigating U.S. waters (including inland waters) or within three miles of shore.

**Clean Water Act:** This act established pollution discharge regulations for U.S. waters, set water quality standards, and gave the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority over pollution control programs. ([www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm))

**Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (B.E.A.C.H. Act):** This act amended the Clean Water Act, requiring adoption of minimum health-based water quality criteria, comprehensive water testing, and notification of the public when water contamination levels are unsafe. ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html))

**Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA):** This act works to preserve, protect, develop, restore, and enhance the United States' coastal zone resources. ([www.ocrms.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.ocrms.nos.noaa.gov))



identify the activities and general sources causing the debris. The final information is then used to educate the public, business, industry, and government officials about the marine debris problem.

### **THE 2004 ICC: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON**

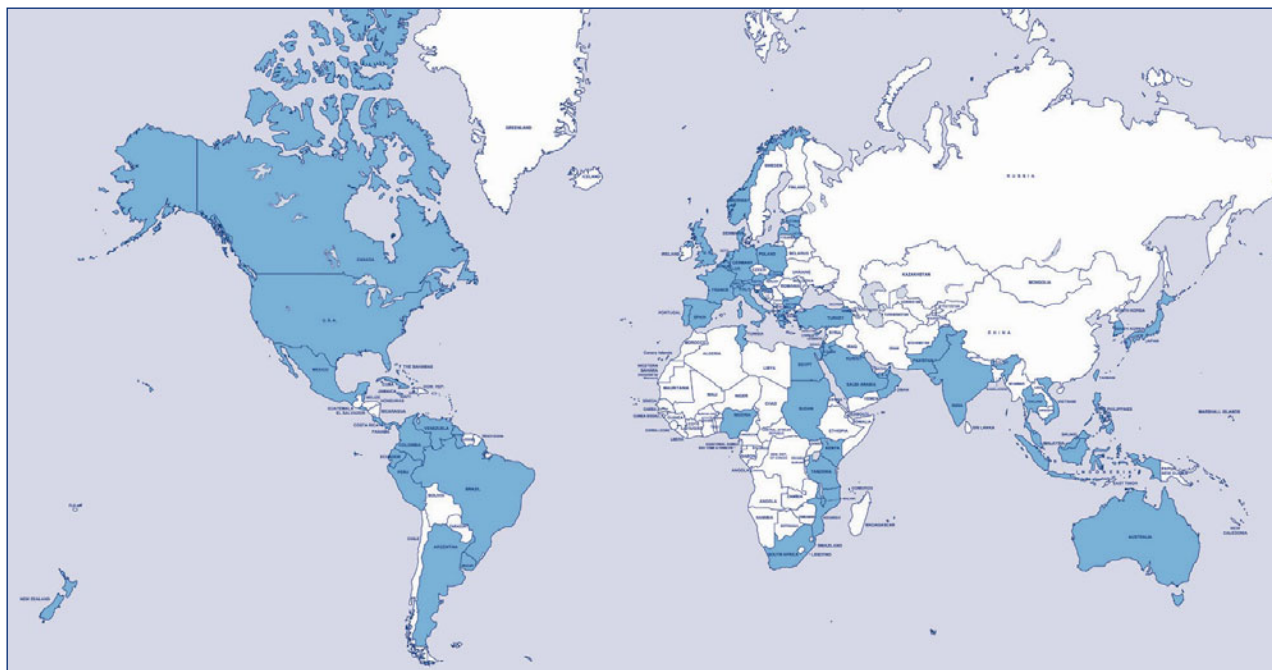
In 2004, volunteers from the United States were joined by people from 87 additional countries in cleaning up debris from our beaches, rivers, and lakes. Worldwide, more than 305,000 people removed over 7.7 million pounds of debris from more than 11,000 miles of shoreline. More than 6,600 divers participated in underwater cleanups, gathering over 155,000 pounds of debris from 382 miles of riverbed and seafloor.

The 2004 Cleanup—held on September 18, 2004—saw growth in several areas. Five new countries—Brunei, Malawi, Samoa, Sudan, and Tunisia—joined in the cleanup efforts. Volunteer participation also increased in several countries. In India, 20,160 people volunteered



for the ICC—an increase of 9,044 volunteers from last year. Nigeria more than quadrupled its volunteer participation, going from 1,632 volunteers in 2003 to 7,319 in 2004. In the United States, Georgia's cleanup efforts expanded to include "Rivers Alive" activities, increasing statewide participation to 22,198 volunteers.

### **2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation**



### 2004 ICC: New York

During the 2004 ICC in New York, 7,705 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 350 miles, picking up 251,031 debris items that weighed 216,212 pounds. Among ICC participants in New York were 56 divers, who removed 2,111 pounds of debris from below the water's surface.

*In New York, cigarettes, caps and lids, and food wrappers accounted for nearly half of all the debris items collected.*

Overall, 69 percent of the debris found in New York originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging, accounted for 20 percent of the

debris found in New York. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

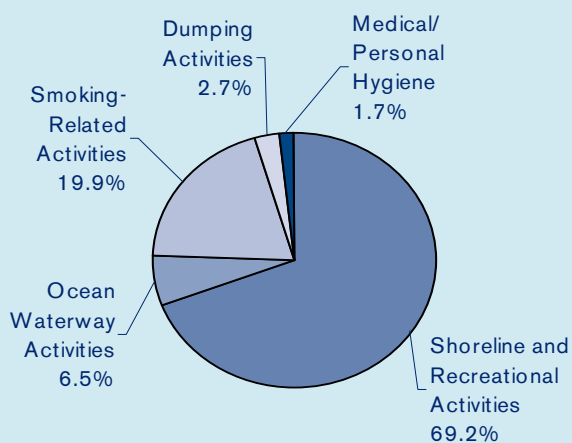
Debris items from ocean and waterway activities—activities that originate offshore—accounted for six percent of the debris found in New York. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 80 percent of all the debris found in New York. The top three items alone – cigarettes, caps and lids, and food wrappers – account for nearly half of all debris in New York. Cigarettes, the number one item in New York, comprised nearly one quarter of the 251 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food

### New York: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	41,457	16.5%
2. Caps/Lids	34,178	13.6%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	32,233	12.8%
4. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	17,606	7.0%
5. Cups/Plates/Forks/Knives/Spoons	17,575	7.0%
6. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	15,179	6.1%
7. Bags	14,130	5.6%
8. Straws/Stirrers	13,647	5.4%
9. Beverage Cans	11,189	4.5%
10. Balloons	4,254	1.7%
Totals:	201,448	80.2%

and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife. For a list of entangled animals found during the ICC in New York, refer to the table in Appendix.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### New York: Dangerous Debris Items

Bags	14,130
Balloons	4,254
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	361
Fishing Line	1,757
Fishing Nets	271
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	3,259
Rope	3,092
Six-Pack Holders	1,485
Strapping Bands	1,334
Syringes	329
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,272</b>

### WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the



Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to coordinate and implement expanded marine debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

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- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in New York

DEBRIS ITEMS	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>	
Bags	14,130
Balloons	4,254
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	15,179
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	17,606
Beverage Cans	11,189
Caps/Lids	34,178
Clothing/Shoes	3,596
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	17,575
Food Wrappers and Containers	32,233
Pull Tabs	3,174
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	1,904
Six-Pack Holders	1,485
Straws/Stirrers	13,647
Toys	3,518
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>	
Bait Containers/Packaging	1,597
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	815
Buoys/Floats	1,368
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	361
Crates	189
Fishing Line	1,757
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	831
Fishing Nets	271
Light Bulbs/Tubes	346
Oil/Lube Bottles	883
Pallets	176
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	3,259
Rope	3,092
Strapping Bands	1,334
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>	
Cigar Tips	3,698
Cigarette Lighters	1,825
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	41,457
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	2,974
<b>Dumping Activities</b>	
55-Gallon Drums	56
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	123
Batteries	533
Building Materials	4,093
Cars/Car Parts	1,441
Tires	502
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>	
Condoms	792
Diapers	470
Syringes	329
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	2,791
<b>Totals</b>	<b>251,031</b>



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**New York 2004 ICC - Entangled Animals**

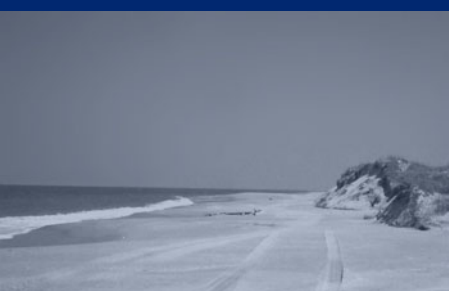
<b>Entangling Debris</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Fishes</b>	<b>Invertebrates</b>	<b>Mammals</b>	<b>Total</b>
balloon ribbon/string	2	0	0	0	2
fishing line	2	2	3	0	7
fishing nets	0	3	1	0	4
miscellaneous	0	0	5	1	6
plastic bags	1	0	0	0	1
rope	0	0	3	1	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

## 2004 ICC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Ohio

2004 State Coordinator: Linda Zmudzinski / Jill Woodyard, Ohio  
Lake Erie Commission

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

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From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

### LAWS AND TREATIES

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identify the activities and general sources causing the debris. The final information is then used to educate the public, business, industry, and government officials about the marine debris problem.

### THE 2004 ICC: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

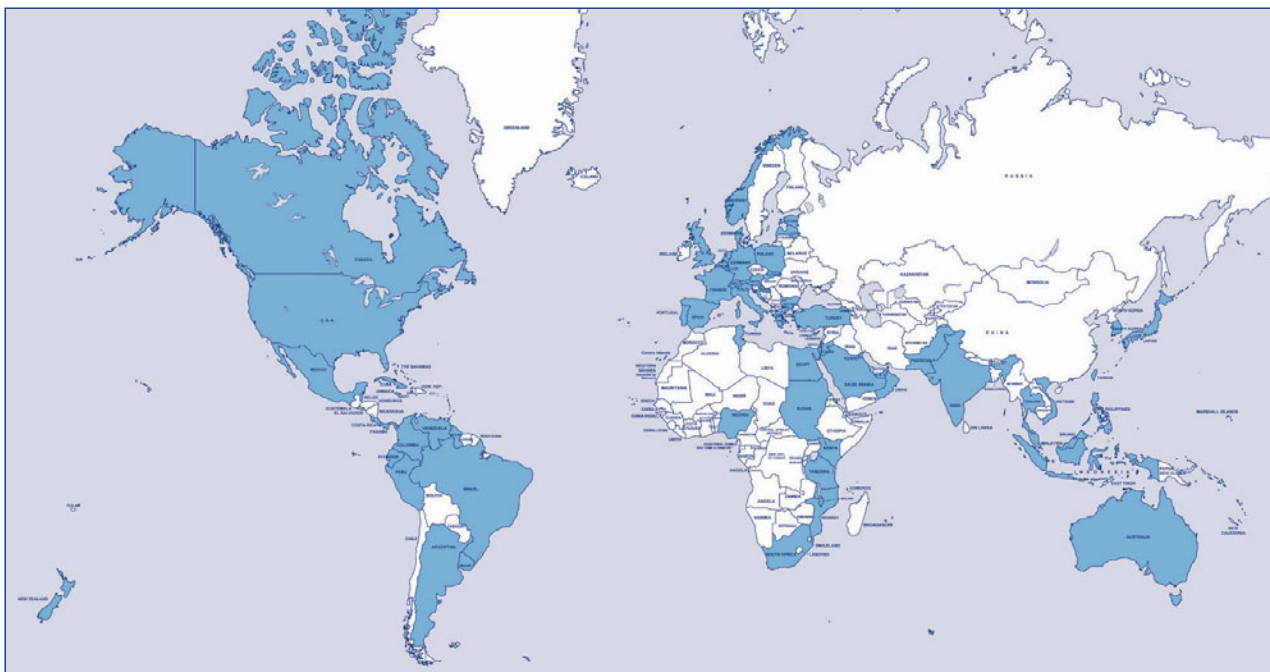
In 2004, volunteers from the United States were joined by people from 87 additional countries in cleaning up debris from our beaches, rivers, and lakes. Worldwide, more than 305,000 people removed over 7.7 million pounds of debris from more than 11,000 miles of shoreline. More than 6,600 divers participated in underwater cleanups, gathering over 155,000 pounds of debris from 382 miles of riverbed and seafloor.

The 2004 Cleanup—held on September 18, 2004—saw growth in several areas. Five new countries—Brunei, Malawi, Samoa, Sudan, and Tunisia—joined in the cleanup efforts. Volunteer participation also increased in several countries. In India, 20,160 people volunteered



for the ICC—an increase of 9,044 volunteers from last year. Nigeria more than quadrupled its volunteer participation, going from 1,632 volunteers in 2003 to 7,319 in 2004. In the United States, Georgia's cleanup efforts expanded to include "Rivers Alive" activities, increasing statewide participation to 22,198 volunteers.

### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation





### 2004 ICC: Ohio

During the 2004 ICC in Ohio, 516 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 40 miles, picking up 29,500 debris items that weighed 15,891 pounds. Among ICC participants in Ohio were 7 divers, who removed 115 pounds of debris from below the water's surface. In total 4,135 debris items were retrieved from 0.8 miles of underwater area.

*In Ohio, food wrappers, cigar tips, and cigarettes accounted for over one quarter of all the debris items collected.*

Overall, 69 percent of the debris found in Ohio originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco

packaging, accounted for 22 percent of the debris found in Ohio. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

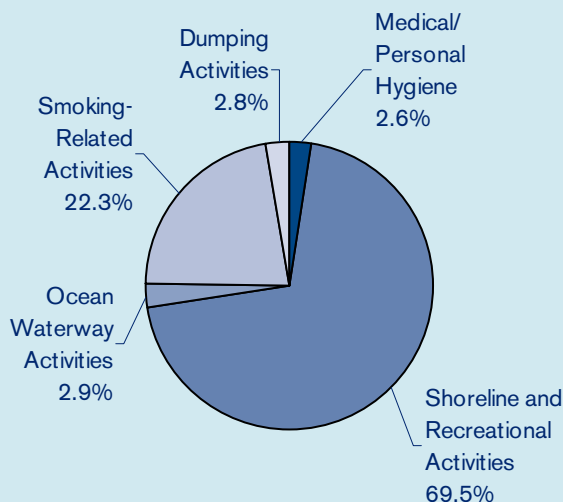
Debris items from ocean and waterway activities-activities that originate offshore-accounted for three percent of the debris found in Ohio. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a "Top Ten" list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 83 percent of all the debris found in Ohio. The top three items alone – food wrappers, cigar tips, and cigarettes – account for over one quarter of all debris in Ohio. Food wrappers, the number one item in Ohio, comprised three percent of the 30 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable

### Ohio: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### "TOP TEN" DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Food Wrappers and Containers	5,199	17.6%
2. Cigar Tips	3,057	10.4%
3. Beverage Cans	2,847	9.7%
4. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,697	9.1%
5. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	2,125	7.2%
6. Bags	2,023	6.9%
7. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	1,885	6.4%
8. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	1,657	5.6%
9. Caps/Lids	1,603	5.4%
10. Straws/Stirrers	1,341	4.6%
Totals:	24,434	82.9%

goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a

#### Ohio: Dangerous Debris Items

Bags	2,023
Balloons	185
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	2
Fishing Line	76
Fishing Nets	6
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	208
Rope	95
Six-Pack Holders	75
Strapping Bands	81
Syringes	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,767</b>

blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to



coordinate and implement expanded marine debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

Interest in curbing marine debris has also sparked recent Congressional action. Senators Daniel Inouye (HI) and Ted Stevens (AK) introduced the Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act to Congress in early 2005. Among other actions, the bill creates a new marine debris program within NOAA, enhances Coast Guard efforts against marine debris, and enacts a federal marine debris information clearinghouse. While it has yet to become law, the bill has garnered support in the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA.

Data from the last decade indicates that the majority of people do not consider their contributions to marine debris to be significant enough to warrant a change in personal behavior. This is the real problem that the ICC seeks to solve: to increase people's awareness of their contribution to the problem and inspire change. Consequently, continued education on the harmful effects debris has on our oceans, waterways, and our own lives is vital to help alter the behaviors that cause this problem. The 2004 ICC report is one of several tools The Ocean Conservancy uses in its ongoing efforts to educate society and create solutions to this long-standing problem.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

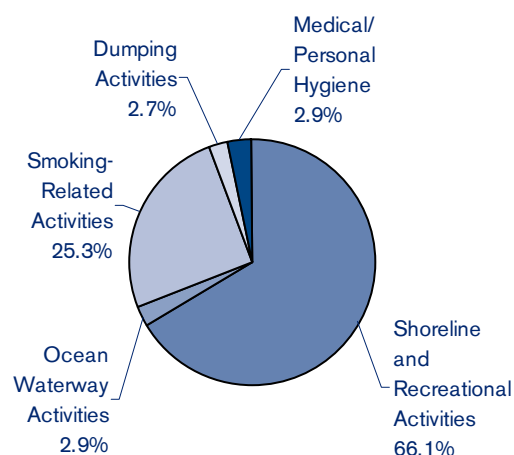
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- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

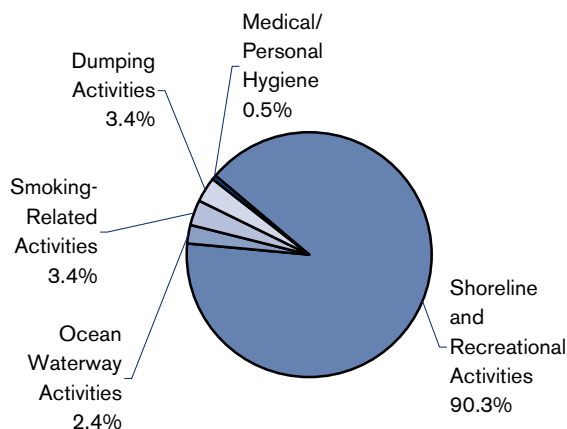
## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Ohio

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	1,393	630	2,023
Balloons	178	7	185
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	1,389	268	1,657
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	1,867	258	2,125
Beverage Cans	2,485	362	2,847
Caps/Lids	1,491	112	1,603
Clothing/Shoes	426	52	478
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	1,530	355	1,885
Food Wrappers and Containers	3,685	1,514	5,199
Pull Tabs	223	11	234
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	461	1	462
Six-Pack Holders	63	12	75
Straws/Stirrers	1,231	110	1,341
Toys	345	40	385
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	106	28	134
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	58	1	59
Buoys/Floats	15	1	16
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	2	0	2
Crates	11	0	11
Fishing Line	67	9	76
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	47	0	47
Fishing Nets	6	0	6
Light Bulbs/Tubes	10	1	11
Oil/Lube Bottles	79	13	92
Pallets	3	0	3
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	170	38	208
Rope	86	9	95
Strapping Bands	81	0	81
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	3,053	4	3,057
Cigarette Lighters	303	7	310
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,588	109	2,697
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	486	22	508
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	10	4	14
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	19	4	23
Batteries	26	3	29
Building Materials	400	72	472
Cars/Car Parts	163	51	214
Tires	65	8	73
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	107	7	114
Diapers	33	1	34
Syringes	13	3	16
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	591	8	599
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,365</b>	<b>4,135</b>	<b>29,500</b>

**Ohio 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups**



Land Cleanups



Underwater Cleanups

**Ohio 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups**

**Land Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Food Wrappers and Containers	3,685	14.5%
2. Cigar Tips	3,053	12.0%
3. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,588	10.2%
4. Beverage Cans	2,485	9.8%
5. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	1,867	7.4%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	1,530	6.0%
7. Caps/Lids	1,491	5.9%
8. Bags	1,393	5.5%
9. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	1,389	5.5%
10. Straws/Stirrers	1,231	4.9%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>20,712</b>	<b>81.7%</b>

**Underwater Cleanups Only**

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,514	36.6%
2. Bags	630	15.2%
3. Beverage Cans	362	8.8%
4. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	355	8.6%
5. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	268	6.5%
6. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	258	6.2%
7. Caps/Lids	112	2.7%
8. Straws/Stirrers	110	2.7%
9. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	109	2.6%
10. Building Materials	72	1.7%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,790</b>	<b>91.6%</b>



## **2004 ICC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

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*Cox Target Media*  
*The Dow Chemical Company*  
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Ohio Division of Parks & Recreation  
Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
U.S. Coast Guard – Sea Partners



# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Pennsylvania

2004 State Coordinator: Leni Herr, Verizon TelecomPioneers

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

## THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

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From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

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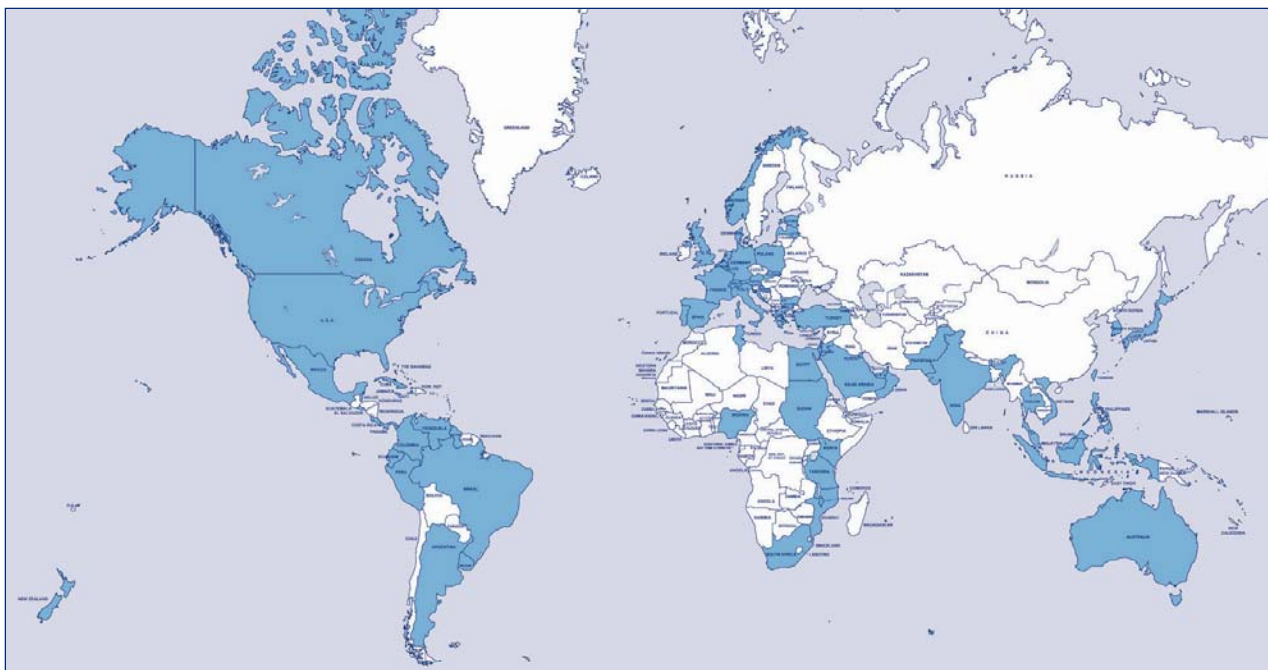
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### 2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation



### 2004 ICC: Pennsylvania

During the 2004 ICC in Pennsylvania, 618 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 47 miles, picking up 26,635 debris items that weighed 46,798 pounds.

*In Pennsylvania, cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids accounted for nearly half of all the debris items collected.*

Overall, 60 percent of the debris found in Pennsylvania originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging, accounted for 33 percent of the debris found in Pennsylvania. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21

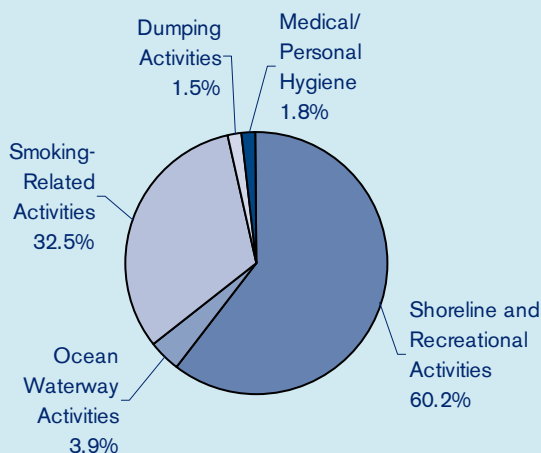
percent of the debris collected.

Debris items from ocean and waterway activities-activities that originate offshore-accounted for four percent of the debris found in Pennsylvania. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 85 percent of all the debris found in Pennsylvania. The top three items alone – cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids – account for nearly half of all debris in Pennsylvania. Cigarettes, the number one item in Pennsylvania, comprised over one quarter of the 27 thousand debris items.

Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food and beverage products—that are discarded

### Pennsylvania: Marine Debris SOURCES OF DEBRIS



### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	6,857	25.7%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	3,302	12.4%
3. Caps/Lids	2,656	10.0%
4. Straws/Stirrers	2,456	9.2%
5. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	1,540	5.8%
6. Beverage Cans	1,512	5.7%
7. Cigar Tips	1,430	5.4%
8. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	1,388	5.2%
9. Bags	822	3.1%
10. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	611	2.3%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>22,574</b>	<b>84.8%</b>



after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### **DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS**

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife. For a list of entangled animals found during the ICC in Pennsylvania, refer to the table in Appendix.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### **WHAT'S BEING DONE?**

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a

#### **Pennsylvania: Dangerous Debris Items**

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Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0
Fishing Line	164
Fishing Nets	10
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	53
Rope	142
Six-Pack Holders	73
Strapping Bands	120
Syringes	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,722</b>

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## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Pennsylvania

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Clothing/Shoes	266
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	1,540
Food Wrappers and Containers	3,302
Pull Tabs	427
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	225
Six-Pack Holders	73
Straws/Stirrers	2,456
Toys	439
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>	
Bait Containers/Packaging	273
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	64
Buoys/Floats	38
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0
Crates	3
Fishing Line	164
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	59
Fishing Nets	10
Light Bulbs/Tubes	20
Oil/Lube Bottles	89
Pallets	4
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	53
Rope	142
Strapping Bands	120
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>	
Cigar Tips	1,430
Cigarette Lighters	95
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	6,857
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	286
<b>Dumping Activities</b>	
55-Gallon Drums	13
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	45
Batteries	27
Building Materials	151
Cars/Car Parts	72
Tires	95
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>	
Condoms	82
Diapers	113
Syringes	8
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	275
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,635</b>

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**Pennsylvania 2004 ICC - Entangled Animals**

Entangling Debris	Fishes
fishing line	1
Totals	1

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# 2004 International Coastal Cleanup

## Summary Report Wisconsin

2004 State Coordinator: Kae DonLevy, Pier Wisconsin

The Ocean Conservancy  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Monitoring  
1432 N Great Neck Rd, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA

## 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.*

From plastic pieces littering the shores of remote islands to furnishings and car parts clogging rivers and streams to fishing nets and line smothering and entangling coral reefs, marine debris is one of the most insidious problems facing our oceans today. Virtually no shoreline or beach on earth is free from trash. And the scene looks much the same underwater, where the ocean bottom becomes a veritable trash can for discarded goods.

The truth is, every piece of trash has the chance of becoming marine debris. And once it does, it can stay that way for weeks, months, and even years, affecting ocean life and habitats for miles. That's because today's world relies heavily on synthetic materials—such as beverage bottles, cigarette butts, and fishing line—that are durable and highly buoyant. Once this debris enters oceans and waterways, it degrades slowly and can travel thousands of miles away from its point of origin. These properties make marine debris one of the most difficult ocean problems to address.

Not that people aren't trying: for the 19<sup>th</sup> year, volunteers across the globe joined together on September 18, 2004 to remove debris from the world's oceans, streams, and waterways as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

Today, the ICC is held around every major body of water in the world. But the Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup; it's also about pollution prevention. The ICC educates and empowers people to take action and become part of the solution. In addition to collecting and removing debris, volunteers record the types of debris they pick up. The Ocean Conservancy compiles and analyzes this information each year to

### LAWS AND TREATIES

**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78):** This law provides a comprehensive approach when dealing with ocean dumping by creating international guidelines to prevent ship pollution. MARPOL (enforced by the International Maritime Organization [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) has six annexes covering oil discharge, hazardous liquid control, hazardous material transport, sewage discharge, plastic and garbage disposal, and air pollution. As of March 2005, 119 countries have ratified Annex V, which controls the disposal of plastics and garbage into the oceans.

**Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA):** To implement Annex V of MARPOL, each individual country must develop its own national implementation legislation. The U.S. Congress created the MPPRCA to implement Annex V in the United States. Under MPPRCA, it is illegal to throw plastic trash off any vessel within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (within 200 nautical miles of the U.S. shore). It is also illegal to throw any other garbage overboard while navigating U.S. waters (including inland waters) or within three miles of shore.

**Clean Water Act:** This act established pollution discharge regulations for U.S. waters, set water quality standards, and gave the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority over pollution control programs. ([www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm))

**Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (B.E.A.C.H. Act):** This act amended the Clean Water Act, requiring adoption of minimum health-based water quality criteria, comprehensive water testing, and notification of the public when water contamination levels are unsafe. ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/act.html))

**Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA):** This act works to preserve, protect, develop, restore, and enhance the United States' coastal zone resources. ([www.ocrms.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.ocrms.nos.noaa.gov))

identify the activities and general sources causing the debris. The final information is then used to educate the public, business, industry, and government officials about the marine debris problem.

**THE 2004 ICC: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON**

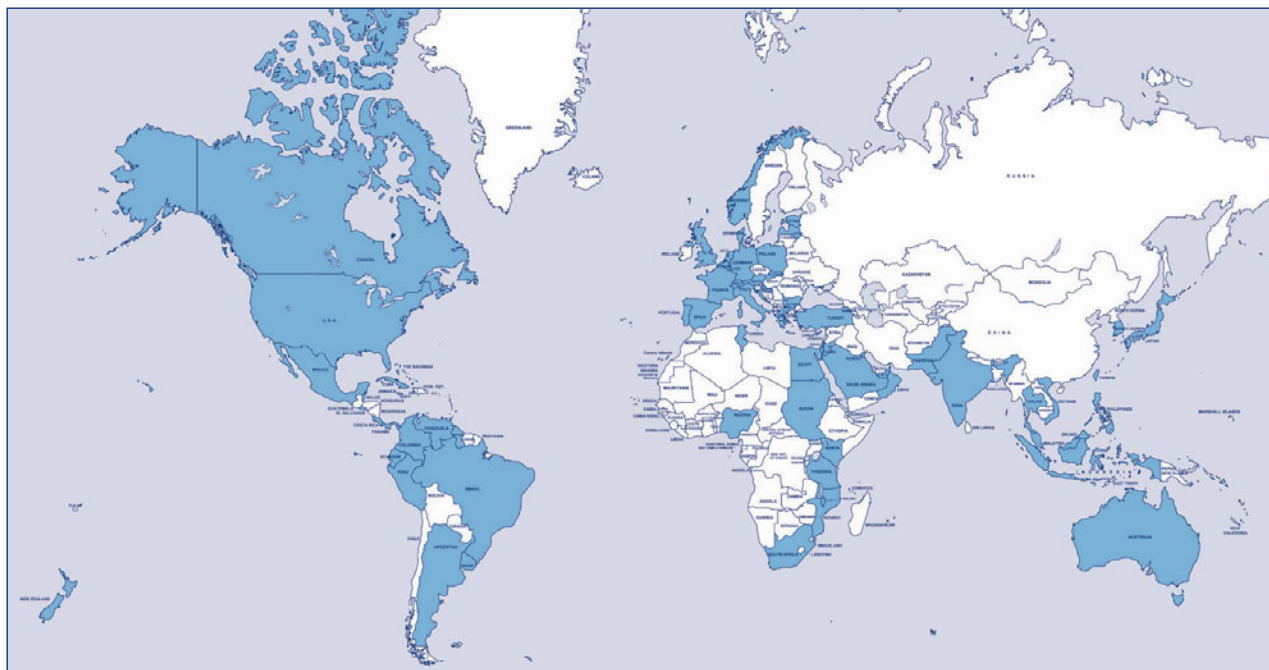
In 2004, volunteers from the United States were joined by people from 87 additional countries in cleaning up debris from our beaches, rivers, and lakes. Worldwide, more than 305,000 people removed over 7.7 million pounds of debris from more than 11,000 miles of shoreline. More than 6,600 divers participated in underwater cleanups, gathering over 155,000 pounds of debris from 382 miles of riverbed and seafloor.

The 2004 Cleanup—held on September 18, 2004—saw growth in several areas. Five new countries—Brunei, Malawi, Samoa, Sudan, and Tunisia—joined in the cleanup efforts. Volunteer participation also increased in several countries. In India, 20,160 people volunteered



for the ICC—an increase of 9,044 volunteers from last year. Nigeria more than quadrupled its volunteer participation, going from 1,632 volunteers in 2003 to 7,319 in 2004. In the United States, Georgia’s cleanup efforts expanded to include “Rivers Alive” activities, increasing statewide participation to 22,198 volunteers.

**2004 International Coastal Cleanup - Worldwide Participation**



### 2004 ICC: Wisconsin

During the 2004 ICC in Wisconsin, 901 volunteers came out to clean-up shorelines and waterways. Volunteers covered 34 miles, picking up 30,053 debris items that weighed 2,711 pounds. Among ICC participants in Wisconsin were 54 divers, who removed 415 pounds of debris from below the water's surface. In total 991 debris items were retrieved from 5.5 miles of underwater area.

*In Wisconsin, cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids accounted for over half of all the debris items collected.*

Overall, 42 percent of the debris found in Wisconsin originated from land-based recreational activities such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, shoreline and recreational activities accounted for 61 percent of the debris collected.

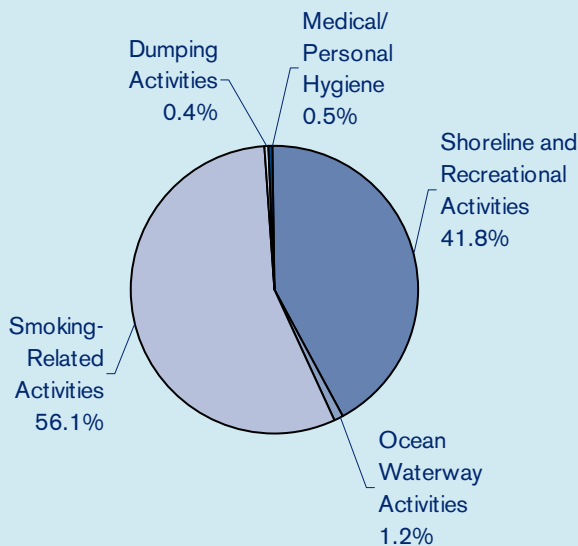
Smoking-related activities, in the form of cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging, accounted for 56 percent of the debris found in Wisconsin. Globally, debris from smoking-related activities made up 21 percent of the debris collected.

Debris items from ocean and waterway activities—activities that originate offshore—accounted for one percent of the debris found in Wisconsin. Worldwide ocean and waterway activities represented only 11 percent of the debris collected during the Cleanup.

Each year, the ICC tabulates a “Top Ten” list of the 10 most prevalent items found during the Cleanup. In addition to being some of the most abundant items, the Top Ten also account for 93 percent of all the debris found in Wisconsin. The top three items alone – cigarettes, food wrappers, and caps and lids – account for over half of all debris in Wisconsin. Cigarettes, the number one item in Wisconsin, comprised over half of the 30 thousand debris items.

### Wisconsin: Marine Debris

#### SOURCES OF DEBRIS



#### “TOP TEN” DEBRIS ITEMS

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	15,988	53.2%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	3,019	10.1%
3. Caps/Lids	2,337	7.8%
4. Straws/Stirrers	1,250	4.2%
5. Bags	1,104	3.7%
6. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	896	3.0%
7. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	892	3.0%
8. Beverage Cans	889	3.0%
9. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	844	2.8%
10. Cigar Tips	633	2.1%
Totals:	27,852	92.9%



Since 1990, most of the items found during the ICC have been waste from consumable goods—from cigarettes to prepackaged food and beverage products—that are discarded after the product is used or consumed. Pinpointing these types of debris and the activities that cause them aids in the tracing of sources of debris and in the creation of educational programs to help people develop a new mind set toward littering and purchasing.

### **DANGERS OF MARINE DEBRIS**

Each year, volunteers find animals caught in a variety of debris. The results can be deadly: debris entanglement can cause lethal cuts, hampered mobility, suffocation, drowning and debris ingestion—when animals mistake debris for food—can lead to strangulation and starvation.

In 2004, volunteers found 186 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line was responsible for nearly half of all entanglements, with rope and fishing nets closely following. Even though these items represent less than 10 percent of the total number of recorded items, debris such as fishing line, plastic bags, rope, and balloons can be more hazardous to wildlife.

While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 10 percent of the total entanglements found during the 2004 ICC. Fish and invertebrates accounted for more than half of all recorded entanglements. Seabirds are also victims of debris: volunteers found 46 entangled birds, nearly a quarter of the total entangled wildlife. These findings illustrate that marine debris affects all aspects of the ocean ecosystem, even those species that spend less time in and on the water.

### **Wisconsin: Dangerous Debris Items**

Bags	1,104
Balloons	353
Fishing Line	40
Fishing Nets	7
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	47
Rope	44
Six-Pack Holders	25
Strapping Bands	40
Syringes	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,680</b>

### **WHAT'S BEING DONE?**

Marine debris is such a pressing issue that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy dedicated an entire chapter on the subject in its 2004 report, which was designed to create a blueprint for a new comprehensive national ocean policy. In it, the Commission recommended several actions the United States should take to address the problem of marine debris. The report tasked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a marine debris management program that would focus on education and outreach, working with





communities and industry, and improving debris source identification, monitoring, and research. The report also encouraged the agencies to coordinate and implement expanded marine debris control efforts. In addition, the Commission urged the United States work on reducing derelict fishing gear and ensuring adequate facilities for garbage disposal from ships. In its findings, the Commission cited data from the ICC on several occasions.

Interest in curbing marine debris has also sparked recent Congressional action. Senators Daniel Inouye (HI) and Ted Stevens (AK) introduced the Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act to Congress in early 2005. Among other actions, the bill creates a new marine debris program within NOAA, enhances Coast Guard efforts against marine debris, and enacts a federal marine debris information clearinghouse. While it has yet to become law, the bill has garnered support in the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA.

Data from the last decade indicates that the majority of people do not consider their contributions to marine debris to be significant enough to warrant a change in personal behavior. This is the real problem that the ICC seeks to solve: to increase people's awareness of their contribution to the problem and inspire change. Consequently, continued education on the harmful effects debris has on our oceans, waterways, and our own lives is vital to help alter the behaviors that cause this problem. The 2004 ICC report is one of several tools The Ocean Conservancy uses in its ongoing efforts to educate society and create solutions to this long-standing problem.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

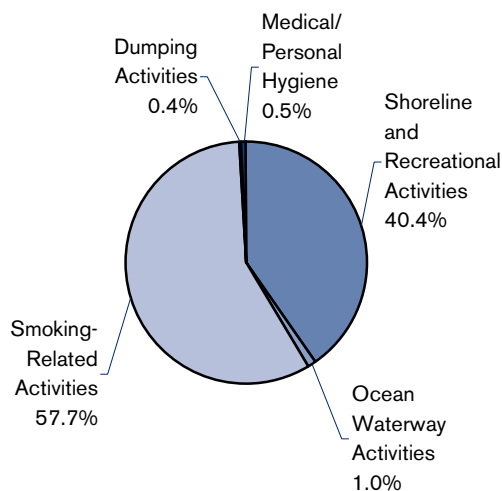
Marine debris is one of the most frustrating environmental threats because it is easily one of the most preventable: the solution is in our hands. Consequently, individual action to curb marine debris is just as important as legislative or political edicts, if not more so. Here are some steps you can take to do your part to reduce the amount of marine debris that enters our oceans and waterways:

- Dispose of trash properly. This helps to reduce the amount of trash that washes into waterways from storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Look for alternative materials or avoid excessive packaging when deciding on purchases.
- Cut the rings of six-pack holders. This lowers the risk of entanglement to marine animals if the holders do make it out to sea.
- Participate in local beach, river, or stream cleanups.
- Educate others about marine debris
- Get involved locally

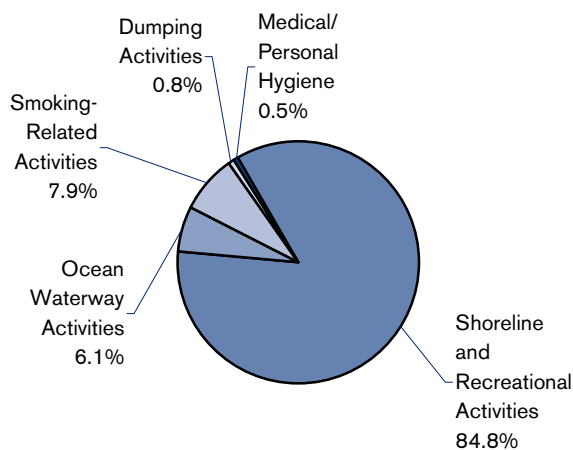
## Debris items collected during the 2004 ICC in Wisconsin

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
<b>Shoreline and Recreational Activities</b>			
Bags	1,064	40	1,104
Balloons	352	1	353
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	745	99	844
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	755	141	896
Beverage Cans	634	255	889
Caps/Lids	2,275	62	2,337
Clothing/Shoes	434	41	475
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	866	26	892
Food Wrappers and Containers	2,889	130	3,019
Pull Tabs	86	21	107
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	142	5	147
Six-Pack Holders	19	6	25
Straws/Stirrers	1,246	4	1,250
Toys	223	9	232
<b>Ocean and Waterway Activities</b>			
Bait Containers/Packaging	42	34	76
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	6	0	6
Buoys/Floats	10	0	10
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0	0	0
Crates	3	0	3
Fishing Line	32	8	40
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	45	15	60
Fishing Nets	6	1	7
Light Bulbs/Tubes	1	0	1
Oil/Lube Bottles	12	0	12
Pallets	5	0	5
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	45	2	47
Rope	44	0	44
Strapping Bands	40	0	40
<b>Smoking-Related Activities</b>			
Cigar Tips	633	0	633
Cigarette Lighters	73	8	81
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	15,930	58	15,988
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	139	12	151
<b>Dumping Activities</b>			
55-Gallon Drums	0	0	0
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	0	0	0
Batteries	6	0	6
Building Materials	84	6	90
Cars/Car Parts	8	1	9
Tires	17	1	18
<b>Medical and Personal Hygiene</b>			
Condoms	35	3	38
Diapers	50	0	50
Syringes	20	0	20
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	46	2	48
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29,062</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>30,053</b>

### Wisconsin 2004 ICC - Sources of Marine Debris - Land and Underwater Cleanups



Land Cleanups



Underwater Cleanups

### Wisconsin 2004 ICC "Top Ten" Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups

#### Land Cleanups Only

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	15,930	54.8%
2. Food Wrappers and Containers	2,889	9.9%
3. Caps/Lids	2,275	7.8%
4. Straws/Stirrers	1,246	4.3%
5. Bags	1,064	3.7%
6. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	866	3.0%
7. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	755	2.6%
8. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	745	2.6%
9. Beverage Cans	634	2.2%
10. Cigar Tips	633	2.2%
Totals:	27,037	93.1%

#### Underwater Cleanups Only

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Beverage Cans	255	25.7%
2. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	141	14.2%
3. Food Wrappers and Containers	130	13.1%
4. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	99	10.0%
5. Caps/Lids	62	6.3%
6. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	58	5.9%
7. Clothing/Shoes	41	4.1%
8. Bags	40	4.0%
9. Bait Containers/Packaging	34	3.4%
10. Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	26	2.6%
Totals:	886	89.3%

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