

## 2006 Marine Debris Program Accomplishments

- Conducted a successful workshop for the development of an Implementation Plan for the Marine Debris Program---comprised of 40 participants, including 20 from other federal agencies, state agencies, NGO’s, industry, and private sector.
- Took a lead role in the re-establishment of the Interagency Marine Debris Committee as stated in the Ocean Action Plan; NOAA serving as co-chair.
- As co-chair of Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee, spearheading efforts to complete the Committee Charter and the purview of the Committee, as well as the establishment of two *ad hoc* working groups for international marine debris and educational messaging.
- Established two Federal funding grant opportunities through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Restoration Center.
- Established an internal grant opportunity for NOAA and their partners.
- Entered into a partnership with The Walt Disney Company to “Promote Marine Debris Awareness and Young Stewards of the Ocean”. The focus of the campaign is to create a public-private partnership to educate families on the importance of clean oceans and how marine debris can impact marine life. This will be achieved through Public Service Announcement campaign linked to the re-release of the Little Mermaid DVD.
- Created a partnership with the Norwegian Cruise Line to develop a marine debris information billboard on the ships for the Hawaii based cruise line.
- Integration of Marine Debris identification and recording into Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Training for Emergency Response to oil spills and other hazardous situations. Demonstration of this integration occurred during the multi-agency Safe Seas Exercise in San Francisco, August 2006.
- Collaborated with the Northwest Straits Commission on derelict fishing gear removal operations and assessments.
- Contributed to The Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Clean-up day through funds and nationwide NOAA volunteer participation.

**In 2006, the program funded a range of projects in areas such as emergency response, research, cleanup efforts in targeted areas, education programs, and projects that assess the impact of marine debris on marine mammals and seabirds. Here is an abbreviated list of specific 2006 accomplishments from projects located in various states. Please note this is not a complete list of projects but only those that have so far reported on major accomplishments as of August 2006.**

Alaska	Removal of debris from Unalaska Island vicinity resulted in four days of marine debris removal and the collection of 13,030 lbs of debris in the form of fishing gear, nets, floats, ropes, and crab pots.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Prevention of Vessel Debris – Completed successful vessel inspection training for local vessel inspectors held during the

	week of July 17, 2006.
Florida	Removal of 120 tires from the Osborne Tire Artificial Reef Florida for recycling company inspection and testing of alternative recycling methods and cost.
Guam	Supporting the first ever marine debris education campaign for Guam.
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support of the multi-agency debris cleanup in the NWHI established in 1996.</li> <li>• Conducted the first-ever comprehensive marine debris assessment and removal project to gather information on marine debris in the main Hawaiian Islands. Completed aerial surveys from a helicopter to spot marine debris around the coastlines of Kauai, the Big Island of Hawaii. Flying up to five hours per day, and obtained GPS data, photos, and other information that will be used to map the distribution and abundance of the debris located.</li> <li>• Honolulu port reception feasibility project - Preliminary feasibility project conducted by Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA reported that approximately 81% of the fishers surveyed were agreeable to hauling nets and derelict fishing gear to Honolulu ports for recycling. As a result a receptacle container was purchased to collect the DFG. The container was emptied on May 6, 2006 at Schnitzer Steel Hawaii and weighed in at 5,680 lbs. It was emptied for the 2nd time on Tuesday, September 5, 2006. In the approximately four months since it was last emptied last, 6,720 lbs. of fishing net and line were placed in it for recycling.</li> <li>• Debris Removal from the Waiohinu-Ka Lae Coast - Over 220 volunteers participated in these cleanups, collecting 35 tons of marine debris in total. Approximately 30 tons were derelict fishing nets, and plastic made</li> </ul>

	up 82% of other debris items.
Louisiana	Post-Hurricane Marine Debris and Underwater Obstruction Assessment - July 15, NOAA and Louisiana Sea Grant held their first voluntary debris marking day. Team members logged and photo-documented over 50 obstructions throughout the Calcasieu estuary.
Maryland/Virginia	Mapping and assessment of DFG in Chesapeake Bay - Preliminary estimates of derelict trap densities for the surveyed portions of the Virginia and Maryland waterway are as high as 30 pots/km <sup>2</sup> for the York River, VA and 120 pots/km <sup>2</sup> for the South River, Maryland..
Massachusetts	Removal of DFG from Stellwagen Bank NMS shipwrecks to prevent recreational diver entanglement - On September 14 and 15, a dive team participated in a derelict gear removal project at the Paul Palmer shipwreck in the sanctuary. The team removed approximately 150-lb trawl net that had been caught on the wreck's windlass.
Mississippi/Alabama	A successful radio PSA created by Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant was broadcast throughout MS/AL and the Gulf and was also available on the internet. The project PSA won a Clear Channel Award for innovative educational programming.
New Hampshire	Working with the University of New Hampshire, the integration of new PDA/GPS technology for marine debris tracking was developed and tested during 2006 ICC events in NH.
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olympic Coastal Cleanup -Beach Debris Removal - A six-person crew worked from October 24 through November 13, 2005 and removed approximately 2,350 pounds of debris from six remote sites. The crew packaged and carried trash overland.</li> <li>• Diver training program, exporting cleanup and training - Provided support for a Navy diver training program in Seattle, WA to remove DFG from local</li> </ul>

	waters; Training continues for local tribal divers.
Washington, DC	Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative and Summit - Supported in part, the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Trash Summit centering on the goal of attaining a "trash-free Potomac" by 2013 took place on March 16, 2006 at the World Bank in Washington, DC.