

# Community Beach Cleanups



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# Marine Debris Programs



## Beach Cleanups

Adopt-a-Beach Program  
Group Cleanups  
International Coastal Cleanup  
Isles  
Underwater



## Pelagic Litter

From whale watch boats



## Microplastics research



Data collection an important aspect of each

# Goals of our Marine Debris Programs



Protect Marine Life



Collect Data

Understand the problem,  
develop solutions



Inspire Action &  
Behavior Change



## Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation Coastal Debris Monitoring Project Data Card

Please answer the following questions and record your data on the back of this card. Return the card to your cleanup director. Completed cards can be dropped off or mailed to: Blue Ocean Society, 143 Pleasant St. Portsmouth, NH 03801

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Cleanup start time: \_\_\_\_AM/PM

Cleanup Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Cleanup end time: \_\_\_\_AM/PM

Current weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Notable weather in previous week (storms, winds, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Dead/Live/Entangled Animals: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Instructions:

- Pick up all the trash and record all items you find. Keep track of the items by making tick marks (### II). Only numbers are useful, avoid using words or check marks.
- If you can tell where a fragment is from, record it as that item (e.g., Record a foam piece clearly from a cup, as a cup.)
- Lobster traps and buoys are the private property of the fisherman and we are NOT allowed to remove them. Please tally these items, although you are not removing them.
- Don't pick up dead animals or anything hazardous. Bring these items to the attention of a BOS staff member.
- If you see a marine mammal (e.g. a seal), tell BOS staff or call the local marine mammal hotline (1-800-532-9551 in ME, 603-997-9448 in NH).

#### Field Guide to (tricky) Marine Debris:



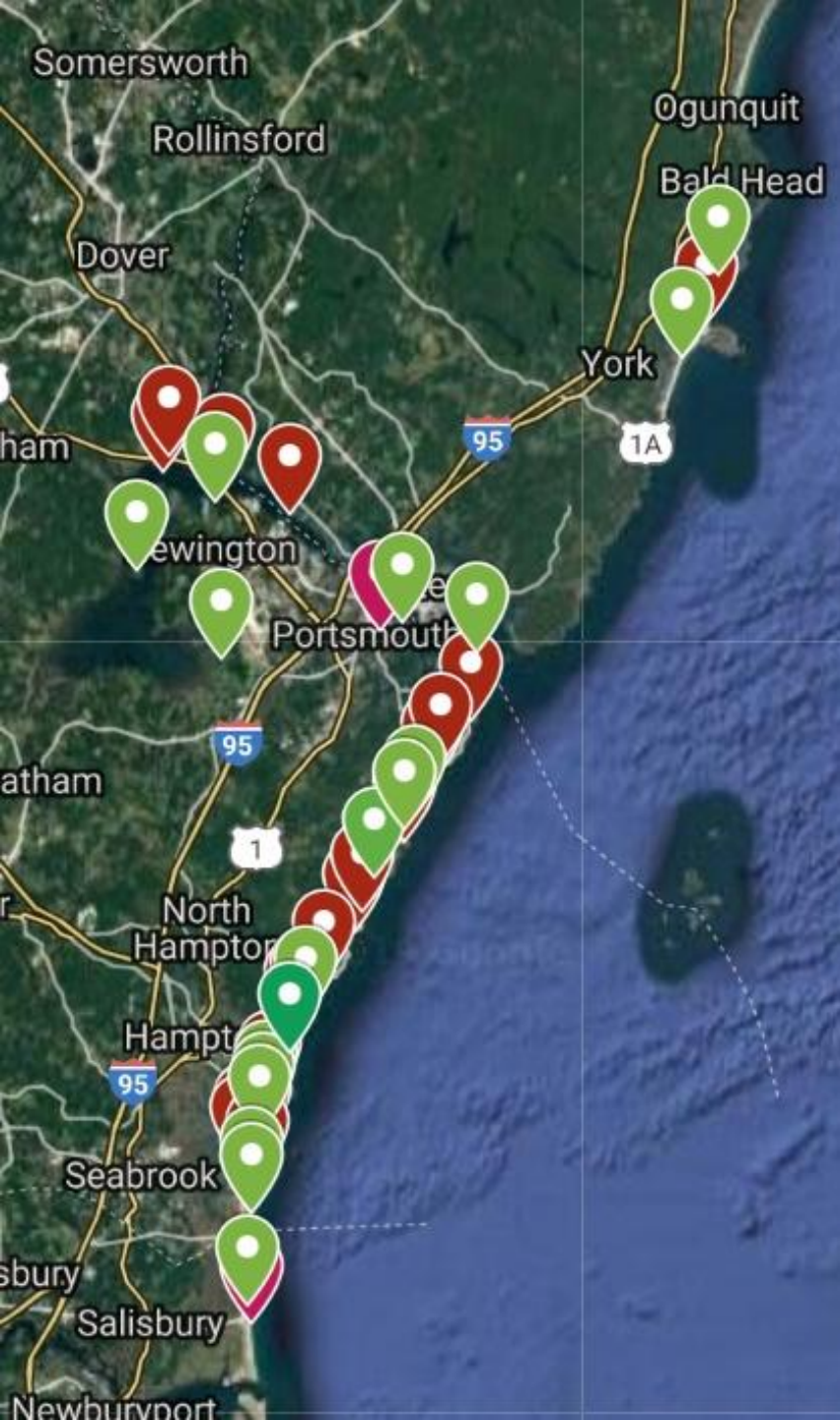
#### SUMMARY

Total Volunteers at Cleanup:	Total Trash:
_____ Adults	Total # Full Bags of Trash: _____
_____ Children (under 12)	Total lbs. of Trash: _____
_____ Total Volunteers	

#### Items Collected

	Item:	Tally: Example: ### II = 7 (Avoid words, only numbers are useful!)	Total:
<b>PLASTIC</b>	Bag (Grocery)		
	Bag (Trash)		
	Bag (zip-lock, produce, other)		
	Beverage bottles		
	Bottle caps		
	Film (thin/flexible e.g. straw wrapper)		
	Fishing line		
	Food containers		
	Hooksett disks		
	Nets (incl. bait bags)		
	Strapping bands	Open: <input type="checkbox"/> Closed: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Straws		
	Wrappers		
	Zip ties (cable ties)		
	Non-beverage containers/bottles		
	Other unk. plastic (larger than 10 cm)		
<b>METAL</b>	Beverage cans		
	Bottle caps		
	Other metal		
<b>GLASS</b>	Beverage bottles		
	Other glass		
<b>FOAM</b>	Cups		
	Floats/Buoys		
	Food containers		
	Packaging material		
<b>MIXED MATERIALS</b>	Balloons	Mylar: <input type="checkbox"/> Latex: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cigarette butts/filters		
	Dog Poop	Bagged: <input type="checkbox"/> Un-bagged: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Lobster bands		
	Personal hygiene items		
	Rope (larger than 1 meter/yard)		
	Rope scraps (smaller than 1 m/yd.)		
	Syringes		
	Traps/pot pieces (do NOT remove)		
<b>OTHER (Add items not on the list)</b>			
Item:	Tally:	Total:	Item:
<b>FRAGMENTS</b>			
	Smaller than 5 mm	5 mm – 2.5 cm	2.5 cm – 10 cm
Foam Pieces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass Pieces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic Pieces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	0 5mm 2.5 cm (actual size) 10 cm		





## Last Year...

Volunteers picked up more than 146,000 pieces of litter along a 35-mile stretch of coastline

This totaled 11,684 pounds

# 2018 Top Ten

Item	TOTAL
Cigarette Butts	39,726
Rope	11,945
Plastic Pieces <2.5 cm	11,385
Wrappers	9,480
Foam Pieces <2.5 cm	9,282
Other Plastic >10 cm	8,070
Other Items (not on list)	7,303
Plastic Bottle Caps	4,412
Fishing Buoys, Traps, Nets/Bait Bags	4,017
Plastic Beverage Bottles	3,122



# Straws & Bags, 2018



2,491  
(#16)



1,126  
(#24)

# Volunteer Recruiting

Initially...

- Reached out to schools, businesses, individuals
- Posted on volunteering web sites and online calendars
- Sent press releases
- Built up an e-mail list

Now... lots of inquiries

- Sign up online
- More vols in winter and spring



## Volunteers per Year, 1993-2018



## Pounds Collected per Year, 1993-2018



# Challenges

- “Not enough trash to pick up”
- Cleanups too short for some groups
- How many volunteers is too few?
- Adopt-a-Beach groups disappear
- Trash is still out there... every day



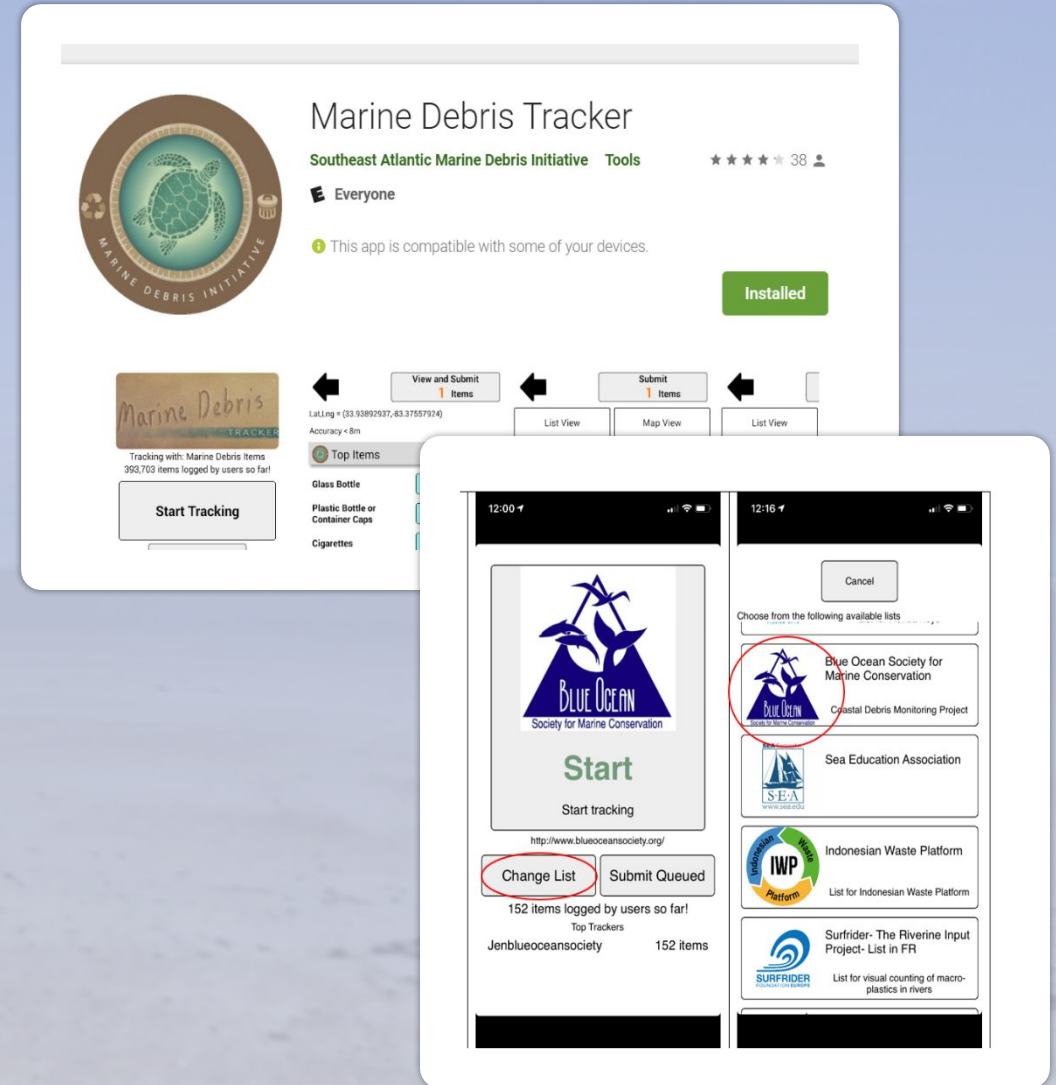
# Next Steps

- Measuring behavior change – have volunteers changed anything as a result of participating in a cleanup?
- Storm response team
- School yard cleanups

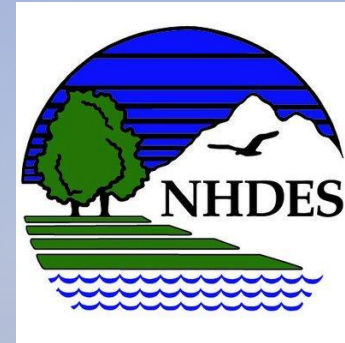


# Get Involved

- Digital Cleanup Kit
- Marine Debris Tracker
- Adopt-a-Beach Program
- Use our Data
- Storm Response Team
- Microplastics research



# Thank You



**All the cleanup volunteers and beachcombers!**



[www.blueoceansociety.org](http://www.blueoceansociety.org)



Questions?