



Marine Debris Weekly Report – November 8, 2006

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Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project to Participate in Mississippi / Alabama Bay's and Bayou's Conference

The Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project (GOMMDP) will co-host a NOAA booth at the Mississippi/Alabama Bay's and Bayou's Conference, November 27-29, 2006. The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program in Partnership with Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies is hosting the Conference in the historic city of Mobile, AL for a multi-disciplinary gathering to share information on the status of the Northern Gulf. Key topics include water quality, living resources, habitat restoration, natural hazards (including debris) and coastal development. The GOMMDP will present project goals and objectives, and display GIS outputs

of debris survey data currently being collected in LA, MS, and AL near-shore waters. The project is hoping to spark a general interest and raise awareness of GIS maps depicting locations of significant debris contacts in near-shore waterways and fishing grounds, project website capabilities - including accessibility of the GIS maps, and the overall impact that Katrina related debris is having on viable commercial fisheries in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

For more information, please contact Brendan.Bray@noaa.gov.

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Results of Survey Developed for Marine Debris Project posted on web

Preliminary results of the survey that has been developed to help identify location, amount and variety of marine debris items found during shoreline surveys by the Coastal Restoration Response Center (CRRC) has been posted on the web at http://survey.unh.edu/surveycat/surveys/survey90_marinedebris.htm. The survey is part of the PDA/GIS project funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and information was collected during the International Coastal Cleanup in New Hampshire in September.

For more information on this project, contact Amy Merten at Amy.Merten@noaa.gov.

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STAR Marine Mammal & Seabird Cruise Reports Marine Debris Sightings in Pacific

The crew from the STAR Survey Cruise reports that this past week there was much marine debris observed while looking for sea birds, marine mammals and sea turtles. The team reports that "marine debris was this this week, with some slicks of debris so dense with tiny human-made fragments that it was impossible to count them. Somewhat larger pieces of debris nearly always had their attendant triggerfish and tripletails, while large debris items often had turtles, sharks or boobies associated with them. One small turtle was observed with a 2.5 ft long piece of soft plastic trailing behind it as it swam...The turtle dove but when it reappeared, the plastic had worked its way free and the turtle was back the way it should have been: unobstructed.

For more information on this project, contact Lisa Ballance at Lisa.Ballance@noaa.gov.

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Novel Message on Ocean Health (as highlighted in the VADM's newsletter)

With a multi-media public service ad campaign designed to educate, energize and excite, NOAA is encouraging all Americans to protect the oceans from the harm caused by marine debris. Promoting individual responsibility, NOAA (including the Marine Debris Program) has partnered with the Advertising Council, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Environmental Defense, and the Disney Studios to deliver an ocean health message that underscores the cause and effect of human behavior. Featuring scenes and characters from *The Little Mermaid*, the new public service announcements drive home the message that "life in the oceans depends on you." Routine activities alone bring 6.4 million tons of debris, mostly plastics, to our oceans each year. You can check out the campaign, and share it with family and friends, at <http://www.keepeceansclean.org>.

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The **Integrated PDA-GPS Protocol for Marine Debris and Oil Spill Cleanup, Mitigation and Decision-making** project in cooperation with the Coastal Response Research Center, the University of New Hampshire and the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation is seeking help from the public, nationwide, to learn more about marine

pollution. Community members are asked to participate in a short online survey. This 18-month project is funded by the Marine Debris Program.

Take the online survey here: http://survey.unh.edu/surveycat/surveys/survey90_marinedebris.htm

For more information, please contact Jenna.Jambeck@unh.edu.

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First Annual Channel Islands NMS Beach Cleanup

On Sunday, October 22nd, approximately 60 volunteers from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties joined forces for a beach cleanup around Santa Cruz Island, one of five islands in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary). Eight vessel captains donated their time, vessels, and boating skills to transport volunteers from Santa Barbara Harbor to designated beaches and anchorages around Santa Cruz Island, and back. The sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and Marborg Industries supported this grass roots project. Lessons learned from this pilot project will be considered in the development of future Channel Islands beach cleanups.

For more information, please contact Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov.

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Cordell Bank NMS Deep Water Gear Removal Project

Cordell Bank NMS staff completed their first successful mission on the new sanctuary vessel FULMAR. The cruise was the first leg in a two-part mission to develop methods for deep water gear removal. Using the sanctuary's remotely operated vehicle off the FULMAR, four pieces of gear were relocated and marked in water depths between 210 and 260 feet. The sanctuary will return to these sites on a larger vessel with submersibles and a larger ROV to experiment with removal methods and conduct additional surveys. Kirsten Gilardi, a project partner from the Wildlife Health Center at the University of California at Davis is working on a draft of the protocols and procedures for deep water gear removal that she will update after the completion of field operations.

For more information, please contact Harriet.Sopher@noaa.gov.

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First Report of Season for Entangled Whale in Hawaii

The first report this season of an entangled whale was received at the Maui office of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS. This is very early for sighting a whale, let alone sighting an entangled one. The whale was reported off of Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu. An Oahu response team was assembled and transported by the U.S. Coast Guard to the site. Fortunately, the team was able to "stand down" as the animal freed itself. The most likely scenario is that it was "playing" with the debris, not an uncommon activity for marine mammals to their peril, and was temporarily entangled but subsequently freed itself.

For more information, please contact Ed.Lyman@noaa.gov.

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STAR 2006 Update: NOAA ship *David Starr Jordan*

The STAR 2006 cruise is currently underway. While conducting studies on cetaceans, seabirds, and marine turtles, they also report on marine debris sightings. They have posted their most recent weekly science update (Nov. 2-8)

which can be viewed at <http://swfsc.noaa.gov/textblock.aspx?Division=PRD&ParentMenuId=267&id=5222>.

The crew did spot marine debris - "That area was remarkably free of marine debris despite its proximity to shore, while several hours later and further offshore, there was a very robust population of clear 1 liter plastic bottles (among many other things)." [according to the *Ship Tracker* they are near southern Mexico]

For more information, please contact Elizabeth.Edwards@noaa.gov.

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NOAA Hosts Marine Debris Stakeholder Workshops in Biloxi and Baton Rouge

As a critical phase in the development of the Gulf Of Mexico Marine Debris Project (GOMMDP) the staff organized two workshops to draw input from key stakeholders. One workshop was held in Biloxi, MS to accommodate stakeholders in both MS and AL. The second workshop was held in Baton Rouge, LA to address that constituency. Both workshops were attended by representatives from state agencies, FEMA, USCG, Sea Grant, and NCDDC. Valuable feedback was obtained on the GOMMDP products being developed to aid in the identification and removal of post-Katrina debris in commercial fishing areas along the Gulf coast. As a result of these workshops we are now poised to begin dissemination of information via our website (gulf.marinedebris.noaa.gov) by mid-December.

For more information please contact Ed.Levine@noaa.gov.

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OP Pro Hawaii North Shore Makahiki Festival

The NOAA Marine Debris Program was represented at the OP Pro Hawaii North Shore Makahiki Festival (Nov. 10-12) on Oahu's north shore, a 3-day kick-off event for the Triple Crown of Surfing. The program shared an outreach booth with Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The successful event was attended by thousands of local residents, north shore community members, and visitors. Concurrent with this event was a beach clean-up at Velzyland, a surf spot also on the north shore. Educational materials on marine debris and the Marine Debris Program, was distributed at the clean-up which was organized by a local spear fishing club.

For more information please contact Carey.Morishige@noaa.gov.

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - Western Sambo Ecological Reserve Shoreline Cleanup

On Saturday, November 18, Lower Region Team OCEAN joined efforts with the Key West and Lower Keys Guide Association in a clean up of the Western Sambo Ecological Reserve Shoreline. Twenty four Volunteers from FKNMS Team OCEAN, KWLK Guide Association, USCG, FKCC Ecology Club and other Community Volunteers cleaned approximately 1550 pounds of debris from the shoreline. FKNMS staff members Jacqueline Laverdure, Robert Keeley, Benjamin Sniffen, Leigh Espy, Kent Edwards, and Vince Kalson and National Park Service intern Ashely Brehm participated in the clean up.

For more informations please contact Leigh.Espy@noaa.gov or Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov.

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Marine Debris in the News

Greenpeace Report: Plastic in the Pacific

http://oceans.greenpeace.org/raw/content/en/documents-reports/plastic_ocean_report.pdf

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/11/06/MNGARM6SND1.DTL>

<http://oceans.greenpeace.org/en/the-expedition/news/disposable-oceans>

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=11594>

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=12224&channel=0

<http://www.christopherhaase.com/blog/2006/11/ocean-stomachs-filled-with-plastic.html>

<http://geekyguide.blogspot.com/2006/11/earth-news-plastic-thing-in-ocean.html>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-11/07/content_5301348.htm

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1940366,00.html>

<http://www.pensacolanewsjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061105/OPINION/611050313/1036>

http://www.globalsurfnews.com/news.asp?Id_news=24704

Sunken Fishing Boat Rests on Ocean Floor

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/November/04/local/stories/08local.htm>

International Paper Co. to begin trial burn of tires

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103 &sid=aB6KAv46TWdU&refer=us>

San Diego Port Cleans up six ship wreck sites

<http://www.thelog.com/news/newsview.asp?c=198322>

Seal death turns focus on nets

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061106/NEWS11/611060342/1001/NEWS>

Ghost Pots pose Hazard

<http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20061102-104908-8507r.htm>

Seafood Population Depleted by 2048, Study Finds

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/02/AR2006110200913.html?referrer=emailarticle>

San Francisco Committee approves ban on Styrofoam

San Francisco Chronicle

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/07/BAGALM65AQ1.DTL>

**NOAA, FEMA alliance keeps Gulf fishing afloat after Katrina
Volunteers discuss cleanup efforts following the 2005 hurricane's devastation**

Business Gazette - Gaithersburg, MD

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

http://www.gazette.net/stories/110806/takonew193137_31968.shtml

Plastics in Pacific: Activists survey the mess

MSNBC.com

November, 8, 2006

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15590510/>

Project takes close look at ocean pollution

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/11092006/nhnews-ph-por-ocean.polution.html>

Seacoast Online

November 9, 2006

TANZANIA: Zanzibar implements ban on plastics

IRIN News

November 9, 2006

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=56304>

Plastic Waste Creating Ocean-Sized Crisis

KTVU Channel 12, CA

November 13, 2006

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/10312783/detail.html>

Taking out the trash [VIDEO]by Greenpeace

"The remote Hawaiian islands are not all surfers and cocktails. Vast amounts of plastic trash line the islands' beaches. Find out how what we throw in the ocean ultimately comes back to us."

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/oceans/follow-the-journey/ocean-defenders-tv>

New rules help ensure that we will have fish in the future [Hawaii lay gill net ban]

Honolulu Star Bulletin, November 21, 2006

<http://starbulletin.com/2006/11/21/editorial/editorial01.html>

DLNR Partners with University of Hawaii and Attorney General to Enhance Environmental Enforcement

Hawaii Reporter, November 20, 2006

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?d73d199b-2b49-4a2b-b241-f7c0eb663250>

Petron liable for debris spill: board, senator

Sun Star, November 28, 2006

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/net/2006/11/28/petron.liable.for.debris.spill.board.senator.html>

Oceans awash in plastic junk

Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, November 28, 2006

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/state/061128trash.html>

Areej participates in environmental project - 'Clean Up the World 2006'

AME Info (press release) - United Arab Emirates, November 26, 2006

<http://www.ameinfo.com/103340.html>

Program helps fishermen retrieve lost crabbing gear

Curry Coastal Pilot - Brookings,OR, November 25, 2006

http://www.currypilot.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=14004

Vessel full of logs capsizes off Davao

Manila Standard Today - Philippines, November 24, 2006

http://www.manilastandardtoday.com/?page=regions3_nov24_2006

Deep-sea protection frozen by Iceland

Greenpeace Release, November 24, 2006

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/oceans/oceans.cfm?ucidparam=20061124113549>

Barge carrying oily debris from Guimaras sinks off Misamis Sea

Philippine Information Agency (press release), November 23, 2006

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/default.asp?m=12&fi=p061122.htm&no=51>

Coast Guard: We warned vs. barge use

The Visayan Daily Star - Bacolod City, Philippines, November 23, 2006

<http://www.visayandailystar.com/2006/November/23/topstory3.htm>

Sunken boats to be removed

Savannah Morning News - Savannah,GA, November 22, 2006

<http://new.savannahnow.com/node/184104>

Philippines oil spill barge sinks

A barge carrying hundreds of tonnes of debris from last August's devastating oil spill in the Philippines has sunk.

BBC News, November 21, 2006

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6168268.stm>

Hawaii marine debris partner, Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp., wins Surfrider Foundation Award

from Surfrider Foundation email press release, "SURFRIDER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS 4th ANNUAL JOHN KELLY ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS" - Haleiwa Beach Park, North Shore, Oahu (Nov. 12, 2006)

"...On Sun. night, the Oahu Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation presented the 4th Annual John Kelly Environmental Achievement Awards to recognize those who have made the greatest contributions towards protecting or enhancing our coastal community and environment. This year, the awards were given at the North Shore Makahiki Festival right before the Sunset on the Beach screening.

...This year, big-wave pioneer Peter Cole was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as an environmental activist for over 40 years; Pancho Sullivan won the Professional Surfer Award for his efforts to stop overdevelopment of the North Shore; Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp. was honored as the Most Environmentally Friendly Oahu-based Company for their recycling campaign, headed up by James Banigan."

Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp. (formerly Hawaii Metals Recycling) has been a partner in Hawaii's multi-organizational marine debris group for many years. Their support has allowed for the recycling of thousands of pounds of derelict fishing net in Hawaii's "trash to energy" program.

Weather Doesn't Hinder Gravina Island Clean Up Volunteers

SITNews.com (Ketchikan, Alaska), November 8, 2006

http://www.sitnews.us/1106news/110806/110806_gravina.html

13 Tons of Abandoned Fishing Gear Removed from Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in Massive 28-Day Clean-up Effort

HawaiiReporter.com, November 2, 2006

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?a274debe-6989-4689-9ff1-31ce39c79fc8>

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This weekly report is distributed by NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration, Marine Debris Program. Any questions, comments, or submissions should be sent to Megan Forbes at Megan.Forbes@noaa.gov