



NOAA Marine Debris Program

Marine Debris Weekly Report - July 2007

www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov

This report contains information and updates highlighting NOAA's marine debris projects and partners, as well as marine debris media hits from around the world.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: FY2008 Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants

Anticipated and typical project awards: \$15K - \$150K

Eligible applicants: non-federal entities (for more details, see federal register)

"Through this solicitation the MDP (NOAA Marine Debris Program) identifies potential marine debris

prevention and removal projects, strengthens the development and implementation of habitat restoration through the removal of marine debris within communities, and fosters awareness of the effects of marine debris through the funding of outreach and education proposals to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats across a wide geographic area."

Applications should be submitted through www.grants.gov and are due October 31, 2007.

More details on this specific funding opportunity will be available at:
NOAA Marine Debris Program Web site - [Funding Opportunities page](#)
NOAA Restoration Center Web site - [National grants page](#)

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Surveys Suggest Commercial Lobster/Crab Traps and Trap Fragments as Prominent Submerged Debris in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

On June 11, NOAA's Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) and the State of Florida, Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Wildlife Research Institute (FWC) initiated marine debris surveys in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as part of an ongoing study funded by NOAA's Marine Debris Program. Derelict spiny lobster and stone crab traps and trap fragments comprised the majority of marine debris observed during towed-diver visual surveys. Although no quantifiable estimates can be made at this point, 0.624 km² of submerged habitats have been surveyed from Key Largo to Key West, including sand, seagrass meadows, algae beds, colonized hard-bottom, and low-relief coral. Seventy-eight surveys have been completed to date, with more slated for the month of July. The goal of this project is to examine the distribution of commercial trap debris, the impact of this debris on Essential Fish Habitat, and lobster and bycatch mortality resulting from derelict traps that are still fishing.



Spiny lobster trap resting on colonized hard bottom. Notice the bare "halo" in the foreground where shifting of the trap during a storm event has scoured the seafloor. Photo by Cindy Lewis (FWC).



Project diver, Stopher Slade, is shown actively towing across mixed seagrass / low-relief coral habitat. Photo by Amy V. Uhrin (NOAA/CCFHR).

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2nd Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit - Successful! *(from their Executive Summary)*

"The Trash Summit convened on June 14, 2007 at The World Bank in Washington, DC. Approximately 300 amazing, talented and visionary people gathered to expand our thinking, dialogue, identify and recommend key steps for us to achieve the realistic goal of a Trash Free Potomac by 2013.

TRASH TREATY:

Forty-three elected officials have signed onto the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty in May and June 2007 - bringing the total to 66 signatories. Maryland Senator Ben Cardin took leadership as the first U.S. Senator to sign the Trash Treaty. U.S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), U.S. Representative Wayne Gilchrest (MD), U.S. Representative Jim Moran (VA), DC Mayor Adrian Fenty, and Maryland Governor O'Malley have also added their names to the Trash Treaty. And for the first time, leaders from Pennsylvania have signed including - County Chairman Daniel Swain, County Vice-Chair Bonnie Mellot Keefer, and County Commissioner Ellis Yingling all of Fulton County, PA. From Somerset County, Pennsylvania, County Chairman James Maker, County Vice-Chair Brad Cober and County Secretary Pamela Tokar-Ickes have signed."

For more information about the Trash-Free Potomac Watershed Initiative and the Alice Ferguson Foundation, visit www.trashfreepotomac.org.

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NEW Keep Oceans Clean - The Game



The Keep Oceans Clean Ocean Awareness Campaign now has a new marine debris game online that children and adults alike can play to learn about marine debris - and win a cool desktop background image! The Ocean Awareness campaign was created in partnership with Environmental Defense, Disney, The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, NOAA, and the Ad Council.

Also available on the Web site is information on how each of us can help keep our oceans clean, links to great ocean awareness games online, and links to excellent ocean resources for parents and teachers.

For more information and to play the game, visit <http://www.keeпоceansclean.org/>.

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Respect Our Reefs Clean-up - Guam



Volunteers of the Respect Our Reefs Cleanup with some of the debris collected from the reef flat and beach at Ga'an Point in Agat, Guam. (Photo Mark Aguon - Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources)

The Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) teamed up with local, federal, and private organizations to lead a "Respect Our Reefs Clean-up" at the Ga'an Point Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Agat, Guam on June 30, 2007. Participants collected debris from the reef flat and beach areas, learning first hand how land-based marine debris impacts our coral reef ecosystems. The cleanup is part of an ongoing marine debris educational campaign in Guam.

News coverage of the event:

6/29/07 - Marianas Variety

<http://www.mvariety.com/calendar/june/29/localpage/lnews62.htm>

6/29/07 - KUAM article

<http://www.kuam.com/news/23283.aspx>

6/30/07 - PDN announcement

<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007706300305>

6/30/07 - KUAM article

<http://www.kuam.com/news/23304.aspx>

07/01/07 - PDN photos of the event (along with photos from another cleanup effort)

<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=M0&Date=20070630&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=630003&Ref=PH&Params=Itemnr=1>

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Caribbean-wide Derelict Fishing Gear Workshop

NOAA and the U.S. Department of State will be co-hosting a Caribbean-wide Derelict Fishing Gear Workshop at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center in Key West, Florida July 17-19, 2007. The workshop will bring representatives from multiple Caribbean nations together to discuss topics related to derelict fishing gear, specifically what is it, is it a problem, and if so what can be done to address it. NOAA anticipates sending 4-5 participants from units across the agency interests in this region and the topic area.

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NOAA Marine Debris Program Gearing up for Coastal Zone 2007 Conference

Staff of the NOAA Marine Debris Program are gearing up for the Coastal Zone 2007 Conference in Portland, OR (Hilton Portland and Executive Tower), July 22-26. Staff are leading three sessions:

Cafe Conversation Session - Tue., July 24, 3-5pm: What You've Learned About Marine Debris Prevention and Cleanup and How to Change the Status Quo

Concurrent Session - Thu., July 26, 10:30am-12pm: Abandoned and Derelict Vessels in the Coastal Zone (for Doug Helton, Office of Response and Restoration)

Concurrent Session - Thu., July 26, 3-5pm: Marine Debris: Solutions and Partnerships - both led by the NOAA Marine Debris Program

The NOAA Marine Debris Program will also be hosting an outreach exhibit with information on the program and various marine debris projects across the nation.

Hope to see you there! For more information on the Coastal Zone 2007 Conference visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>.

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NOAA Marine Debris Program at Coastal Zone 2007 Conference



Megan Forbes and Carey Morishige, program outreach staff in front of their table at CZ07.



Cafe Conversation on marine debris led by members of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee.

Staff of the NOAA Marine Debris Program participated in the Coastal Zone 2007 Conference in Portland, OR, July 22nd-26th. Each day staff shared information on the program and various projects at the NOAA National Ocean Service's display alongside other NOAA offices in the conference Exhibit Hall. NOAA Marine Debris Program staff also led three conference sessions, all of which were well attended, informative, and successful.

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For more information on the Coastal Zone 2007 Conference visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>.

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The Natural World " Hawai'i: Message in the waves"

Includes special highlight of the problem of marine debris. Airs on the Animal Planet on July 21st - Check your local listing for details.

"A film from the BBC Natural History Unit looking at some of the environmental challenges facing the people and wildlife of the Hawaiian Islands...Although the documentary is from a Hawaiian perspective it is really a global film. Because of their size, location and social history, the Hawaiian Islands represent a microcosm of the planet and are in a unique position to tell all of us where we are going wrong and what we can do to help put things right."

<http://www.messageinthewaves.com/index.php>

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Conferences

Coastal Zone 2007

July 22-26, 2007

Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>

* **Cafe Conversation Session:** *What You've Learned About Marine Debris Prevention and Cleanup and How to Change the Status Quo*

* **Concurrent Session:** *Marine Debris: Solutions and Partnerships - both led by the NOAA Marine Debris Program*

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Marine Debris in the News

Marine debris media hits from various sources around the world.

Roz Savage Bidding to Become First Woman to Row Solo Across Pacific Ocean

CNNMoney.com, July 10, 2007

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/AQTU10910072007-1.htm>

Read the label: Atlantic County wants cleaner drains

Press of Atlantic City - Atlantic City, NJ, July 10, 2007

<http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/atlantic/story/7490115p-7385637c.html>

MOD 'IS POLLUTING OUR BAY'

The Cornishman - Truro, England, UK, July 3, 2007

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=144694&command=displayContent&sourceNode=144660&contentPK=17721795&folderPk=83364&pNodeId=144659>

Fishermen help tackle marine litter problem

Fish Update - Edinburgh, UK, July 4, 2007

http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/7986/Fishermen_help_tackle_marine_litter_problem_.html

Palm Beach County: Take care of shoreline, Beaches Council urges

Sun-Sentinel.com - Fort Lauderdale, FL, July 5, 2007

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-flpn3bdq07052pnjul05.0.6893014.story?coll=sfla-news-palm>

Adopt a beach plea to help save wildlife

Scotsman - United Kingdom, July, 6, 2007

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh.cfm?id=1055232007>

Stores invite shoppers to return bags

Redlands Daily Facts - Redlands, CA, July, 6, 2007

http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_6314133

Marine mammals face new threats off Sabah, Sarawak

New Straits Times - Persekutuan, Malaysia, July 9, 2007

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Monday/National/20070709081901/Article/index.html

Ocean litter is everyone's problem My turn

Juneau Empire, July 9, 2007

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/070907/opi_turn2001.shtml

Stubbed out

The Argus.co.uk - Brighton,UK, July 2, 2007

http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1512010.0.stubbed_out.php

Volunteers clean Kealia Beach

Lihue Garden Island - Lihue,HI, July 2, 2007

<http://www.kauaiworld.com/articles/2007/06/30/news/news01.txt>

Pickup artists at work

SunHerald.com - Biloxi,MS, July 1, 2007

<http://www.sunherald.com/living/community/story/88771.html>

Runoff carries lots of litter to lakes, oceans

Orlando Sentinel - Orlando,FL, July 1, 2007

http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orl-oplant0107jul01_0_4380545.story

SAS No Butts On the Beach campaign hitting Brighton

Global Surf News - USA, June 30, 2007

http://www.globalsurfnews.com/news.asp?id_news=28741

Beach groups declare war on cigarette butts

The Argus.co.uk - Brighton,UK, June 29, 2007

http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1507206.0.beach_groups_declare_war_on_cigarette_butts.php

Help clean up the reef this weekend in Agat

KUAM.com - Dededo,GU, June 29, 2007

<http://www.kuam.com/news/23283.aspx>

Sarasota police told to stop Gulf gun dumping

Herald Tribune, FL, June 28, 2007

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20070628/NEWS/706280613>

Ask Elsa - Re: Messages in Bottles

Charleston Post Courier (subscription) - Charleston,SC, June 28, 2007

http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/jun/28/ask_elsa/

Treasure Island reinforces ban on fireworks

Tampa Bay Newspapers - Seminole,FL, June 28, 2007

http://www.tbnweekly.com/pubs/beach_beacon/content_articles/062807_bhb-01.txt

July 4th Busiest and 'Trashiest' Beach Holiday of the Year

Earthtimes.org - USA, June 28, 2007

http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,131387.shtml

'Ghost fishing' killing seabirds

BBC News, June 28, 2007

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/highlands_and_islands/6248366.stm

Litter bugged

Times Online - UK, June 27, 2007

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/article1989168.ece

Making art out of rubbish

Hunts Post - Huntingdon,England,UK, June 26, 2007

<http://www.huntspost.co.uk/content/hunts/whatson/arts/story.aspx?brand=Cambs24&category=--WhatsonExhibition&tBrand=cambs24&tCategory=WhatsonArts24&itemid=WEED26%20Jun%202007%2009%3A42%3A18%3A227>

Trash is imperiling the oceans, scientist says

Waste News, June 25, 2007

<http://www.wastenews.com/arcshow.html?id=07062500701&query1=oceans&bool=AND&query2=earle&maxfiles=25&start=0>

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