

2001 International Coastal Cleanup

People, Pounds, and Miles

On a single day in 2000, some 850,000 people removed 13.6 million pounds of debris from the world's beaches and coastal waters. On that same day, volunteers discovered nearly 13,000 syringes, and found 373 marine animals entangled in fishing line, rope, plastic sheeting, wire, and six-pack holders. The conclusion: debris poses a persistent and serious threat to marine wildlife and beachgoers everywhere in the world.

How does this debris end up in the oceans? The common denominator, once again, is people. People drop debris on streets, where rains wash it into storm drains; they drop it on beaches, or throw it or allow it to blow overboard from ships and boats; they allow it to blow or wash away from industrial and construction sites.

Improper waste disposal is an important factor in the proliferation of marine debris. We must seriously consider the harmful patterns of human consumption that make marine debris so pervasive.

According to the EPA, by 1990, Americans used and disposed of 17.13 million tons of plastics per year--nearly 4.4 times the amount we used in 1960. Clearly, we must look more closely at what we produce, considering not only convenience, but the impact that a product may have upon the environment once its usefulness has expired.

	People, Pounds and Miles					
	2001			2000		
Country	Total People	Total Pounds	Total Miles	Total People	Total Pounds	Total Miles
Argentina	1,839	13,792.1	8.2	2,108	22,784.0	10.4
Aruba	120	13,500.0	2.0			
Australia	152	1,339.5	4.8			
Bahamas	412	7,202.0	2.0	141	1,578.0	5.0
Barbados	157	2,240.0	3.8	225	4,480.0	6.5
Belgium				90		
Belize	655	2,637.0	14.3	865	6,822.0	22.8
Bermuda				750	25,000.0	
Brazil	6,826	66,916.1	50.3	4,750	26,216.0	68.3
British Virgin Islands	228	1,574.0	6.6	20	155.0	1.5
Canada	5,494	63,353.7	246.9	4,333	59,226.6	139.9
Cayman Islands	190	2,555.0	6.0	134	500.0	12.5
Colombia	604	22,700.0	33.9	1,423	18,149.0	17.4
Cook Islands	2,500	0.0	149.0	1,456	16,825.0	16.0
Costa Rica	23	1,984.0	8.7	132	2,451.0	10.0
Cyprus	429	625.0	10.2	52	608.0	1.6
Czech Republic	89	1,970.0	8.1	16	64.0	0.9
Dominica	322	12,610.0	11.9	2,029	61,100.0	70.5
Dominican Republic	143	634.0	2.9	290	5,585.0	4.2
Ecuador	2,150	13,636.0	23.4	3,327	17,027.0	31.2
Egypt	784	32,846.0	25.3	545	4,054.0	3.6
El Salvador	170	2,000.0	20.0	415	4,100.0	12.5
Fiji Island	121	4,772.0	8.8			
France				50		
Gabon	528	148,869.0	1,562.8			
Germany				904	4,072.2	
Greece	511	7,662.0	16.6	1,148	29,812.2	29.8
Grenada	295	7,550.0	6.6	354	6,022.0	8.0
Guatemala				320	5,080.0	4.0
Guyana	84	1,050.0	0.8			
Honduras	216	6,500.0	2.0	39	200.0	0.5
Hong Kong	2,372	65,115.0	53.1	851	56,595.0	8.5
Hungary	11	1,735.0	1.0	19	660.0	0.7

Indonesia	235	2,464.0	7.8	202	1,474.2	3.4
Ireland				31	70.0	1.2
Israel	1,548	46,445.0	25.5			
Italy				1,225	671.0	
Jamaica	23	969.0	17.3	277	1,675.0	27.6
Japan	14,609	109,357.5	37.9	14,214	139,805.0	22.6
Jordan	20	161.0	0.5	21	205.0	0.6
Kenya	1,471	11,656.8	97.6	3,052	16,218.8	161.4
Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia	192	6,211.0	2.3			
Kuwait	127	689.0	3.2	76	765.0	1.5
Latvia	33	199.0	2.0			
Lithuania				2,112	15,142.6	9.6
Madagascar	47	467.0	5.0			
Malaysia	366	3,848.0	6.4	56	1,734.5	1.2
Maldives				405		
Malta	72	1,105.0	4.4	30	1,650.0	0.3
Mauritius	193	17,493.0	8.6	41	33,000.0	1.5
Marshall Islands	306	3,025.0	0.3	220	2,225.0	6.2
Micronesia	22	1,000.0	0.2	66	83.0	4.5
Mexico	1,426	27,977.0	29.1	1,309	255,759.2	73.6
Netherlands				322	660.0	
Netherlands Antilles	939	6,050.0	16.5	890	16,782.9	16.9
New Zealand	110	2,247.1	14.6	10		0.6
Nigeria	7,351	2,426,260.0	42.8	4,750	1,146,200.0	19.8
Norway	60	1,000.0	2.0	50	500.0	2.0
Palestine	4	18.0	0.2			
Papua New Guinea	13,449	549,751.0	138.7			
Palau				92	880.0	3.0
Panama	25	800.0	1.5	30	690.0	1.0
Peru	5,227	281,762.0	26.9	5,948	605,943.4	1,489.7
Philippines	528,703	4,901,641.8	1,505.2	591,128	6,309,118.0	5,331.8
Poland	49	314.0	6.0	57	979.0	3.4
Portugal	12	44.0	0.5	120	176.0	
Saudi Arabia				176	2,171.0	3.1
Seychelles	66	692.2	6.2	62	394.0	3.7
Singapore	1,078	7,555.0	9.0	70	660.0	2.0
Slovakia	11	1,768.0	1.0			
South Africa*	52	2,652.0	4.0	13,598	138,021.0	599.2
South Korea	799	18,050.0	15.4			
Spain				790		
Sri Lanka	95	1,388.0	5.0			
St Kitts & Nevis	170	3,155.5	11.0	250	927.0	10.0
St Lucia	4	37.0	0.1	21	170.0	0.5
St Vincent/Grenadines	16	110.0	0.0			
Sultanate Of Oman	217	2,431.0	7.0	210	7,442.0	5.8
Switzerland				193	550.0	
Sweden	64	1,152.0	1.7			
Taiwan	78	1,370.0	0.6	135	879.0	1.0
Tanzania	12	221.0	0.8	20	20,000.0	0.3
Thailand	194	2,716.0	2.6	78	1,763.0	5.9
Tonga				509	5,000.0	20.0
Trinidad And Tobago	10	108.0	2.0	66	800.0	3.0
Turkey	44	551.2	1.2			
Turks & Caicos	244	3,776.8	12.0			
United Arab Emirates	536	5,404.0	5.7			
United Kingdom	2,246	23,677.7	140.1	2,045	17,279.8	88.5
United States	142,778	3,587,859.4	7,704.4	172,419	4,449,503.0	9,032.0
Venezuela	333	7,955.0	4.6	135	160.0	1.3
Vietnam	2,000			570	4,400.0	5.0
Totals	755,091	12,582,952	12,227	844,867	13,581,693	17,451