

International COASTAL CLEANUP

'24-25 Report

#SeaTheChange



Ocean
Conservancy®

International
COASTAL
Cleanup®

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CALIFORNIA

A Message from OCEAN CONSERVANCY'S CEO

As we approach the fortieth anniversary of the International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC) we are deeply grateful for the nearly 20 million volunteers whose care, concern and collective action have contributed to the removal of almost 400 million pounds of trash from our beaches and waterways. Ocean Conservancy thanks each cleanup coordinator, volunteer and organization who is part of this global network, working toward a shared goal of a healthy ocean and a thriving planet, forever and for everyone.

In 2024 we set a new record with volunteers picking up and recording a total of 17,820,206 items ranging from candy wrappers and cigarette butts to plastic bags and bottle caps. Volunteers are tracking the litter they collect, contributing to the world's largest database on marine debris. Scientists are using these data to better understand the scope of the problem and advocates and policymakers are basing their policy solutions on the data we have collected. Everyone involved in the ICC has played a pivotal role in this global, all-hands effort to protect our ocean's biodiversity, the

planet's climate and food security, and the health of the communities in which we live, work and play.

Over the past few decades, plastic bags have become an increasing scourge. In 2024 alone, ICC volunteers removed nearly 1 million plastic bags from the environment, shielding sea birds, sea turtles and other marine animals from potentially lethal harm. In June 2025, the journal *Science*—one of the world's leading peer-reviewed research publications—published a study that analyzed past data collected by ICC volunteers and found that policies that ban single-use plastic grocery bags lead to a 25–47% reduction of plastic bags in the environment where they are implemented. The extensive data collection undertaken by ICC participants continues to not only increase our understanding of the impacts of plastic pollution globally but also acts as the catalyst for plastic grocery bag bans and other policies.

The report that follows highlights this problem that knows no geographic bounds, but also a roster of creative solutions from every corner of the world.

Join us in applauding one of the coldest marine debris cleanups we documented when scuba and free divers in Alaska braved the cold on a -22°F/-5°C day to remove marine debris! Read on to learn about how others are deploying new technologies like trash traps to reach areas previously inaccessible to cleanup volunteers. Finally, we hope you find as much inspiration as we did from an innovative and socially transformative project in Morocco that has brought greater dignity and respect for the year-round work of waste pickers.

Plastic has contaminated nearly every ecosystem on earth. Each cleanup event in 2024—from Belize to Bali and countless places in between—has helped to improve the health of critical habitats ranging from coral reefs to mangrove forests to inland rivers. Working together, we are leaving a positive legacy for both people and the planet.

For the ocean,

Janis Searles Jones



SVALBARD



2024 International Coastal CLEANUP LOCATIONS

Participating countries
shaded in **orange**.



GLOBAL Highlights

1) Volunteers	486,706
2) Pounds	7,467,721
3) Kilograms	3,387,301
4) Miles	15,304.3
5) Kilometers	24,629.8
TOTAL ITEMS COLLECTED	17,820,206





NORWAY

GERMANY

PHILIPPINES

CAMBODIA

MALAYSIA

FIJI

CYPRUS

SOUTH AFRICA

Cleanup MILESTONES

“Bin It!” in Belize

“Greetings from Sunny Belize” is how Ricardo (Rick) Alcoser, International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Coordinator for Belize, almost always starts his emails. He represents the Scout Association of Belize, which has led the ICC throughout the country for over two decades. After a successful 2024 ICC season, Rick brought together the national Anti-Litter Committee, complete with stakeholders from the Ministry of Sustainable Development to the Department of Environment to local municipality leaders and dedicated Scout leaders,

to plan something even bigger. The Committee crafted *Our Belize, Our Responsibility: Bin It!*—Belize’s first nationwide effort to tackle trash in the environment. Spanning a full weekend in January 2025, *Bin It!* took inspiration and guidance from the Association’s many years of experience leading the ICC to engage even more inland and coastal communities across the country. Thrilled at the opportunity to support this celebration of community and impact, Ocean Conservancy joined Rick in Belize to experience *Bin It!* The initiative drew nationwide

media attention and even a spot on the morning newscast, where, together with Ocean Conservancy, we promoted the cleanup and noted the shared responsibility we all have to dispose of our waste properly. The call was answered! More than 2,000 Belizeans turned out in their communities to remove over 43,750 pounds of debris and recorded an incredible 187,759 individual items using the Clean Swell® mobile app—data that will inform both localized and national solutions into the future for a more beautiful (and sunny!) Belize.




BELIZE



PUERTO RICO



Scuba Dogs Society Celebrates over Two Decades of Change



Scuba Dogs Society (SDS) of Puerto Rico recently celebrated 20 years of leading the International Coastal Cleanup, rallying communities with their inviting theme, “Veinte Tú” (“Twenty—YOU”). From environmental talks and workshops to island-wide cleanups, SDS brought together government agencies, nonprofits, businesses and volunteers to protect Puerto Rico’s stunning natural spaces. SDS has championed change and community impact, even in the midst of devastating natural disasters. In 2022 when Hurricane Fiona hit Puerto Rico

and dumped two feet of rain on the island, they powered through—cleaning 117 sites, removing over 80,000 pounds of trash and mobilizing more than 3,000 volunteers. This story of perseverance even reached the global stage, as former Program Coordinator Sandra Schleier shared their experience virtually at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference (7IMDC) in South Korea despite island-wide power outages in Puerto Rico. This milestone also came at a critical moment, aligning with Puerto Rico’s new single-use plastic ban under Law 51-2022 which,

thanks to SDS, used data collected from ICC cleanups throughout the island. As Puerto Rico phases out single-use items, such as bags, foam containers and straws, SDS’s work is helping reinforce public awareness and community responsibility. Their efforts highlight how local action and policy can move in sync to reduce plastic waste at the source, showing exactly why the ICC Network continues to create lasting impact across the globe. In 2025, SDS celebrates 24 consecutive years of participation in the International Coastal Cleanup.

The International TRASH TRAP NETWORK



Using Technology to Increase Our Cleanup Impact

Ocean Conservancy collaborates with the [University of Toronto Trash Team](#) to coordinate the [International Trash Trap Network \(ITTN\)](#), a global network of local groups working to increase plastic cleanup efforts using technologies known as trash traps. Trash traps are a recent addition to the International Coastal Cleanup, as technologies can be used to access areas humans can't. Some can even function 24 hours a day, gathering microplastics that are notoriously challenging to collect by hand. Through each trash trap program in the network, we bring together local stakeholders, engage communities and collect data that is shared in our global cleanup database to inform solutions to tackle plastic pollution.

Since 2021, network contributors have collected approximately 664,445 pounds (301,387 kilograms) of trash, including 3,961,667 macrodebris items (>2.5 cm) and 1,194,622 microdebris items (<2.5 cm). Throughout this time, cigarette butts have consistently been the top macrodebris item collected by trash traps throughout the network, and plastic foam pieces have been the top microdebris item collected.

Each year the network continues to grow. With 143 trash traps across the United States, Canada and Taiwan, the network looks forward to welcoming more groups to continue sharing data, knowledge and resources for using trash traps worldwide.



MICHIGAN



TAIWAN



ITTN Member Spotlight: Azure Alliance

In Taiwan, over 2,200 tons of fishing gear are lost to the ocean annually (Su et al. 2023). As such, fishing gear constitutes nearly 70% of marine debris along the coastline (Schneider et al. 2022). When Cheer Chen noticed this pollution in her local fishing harbor in Taipei, she took action and assembled a passionate team who together formed the Azure Alliance—a nonprofit organization advocating for clean water sources and preserving marine and freshwater

ecosystems from pollution. Since their organization was founded in 2019, the Azure Alliance team have designed and developed their own remote-controlled cleanup technology, the Azure Fighter, that is now regularly deployed in Taipei's fishing harbors, skimming the water surface to collect and remove floating plastic waste. Alongside developing new iterations of their technology, the team focuses on raising awareness of the issue and collecting and reporting data

on the trash they collect to identify plastic “hotspots” and inform local policies to prevent plastic pollution. In 2024, their Azure Fighter collected 3,468 pounds (1,573 kilograms) of trash, including 79,785 macrodebris items such as fishing gear and single-use plastic items such as bottles and grocery bags. So far, their Azure Alliance team has deployed one Azure Fighter in a fishing port and have completed the assembly of their second vessel.

Spotlight ON CLEANUPS

Cleaning Through the Cold

ICC partner Dive Alaska hosted the third annual Harbor Cleanup in Whittier, Alaska, in early 2025. The underwater cleanup was a huge success, bringing together over 125 volunteers on a brisk 22-degree Fahrenheit (-5.5 C!) day to clean the depths of the local harbor. Scuba divers, free divers and shore crews worked together to remove an impressive 3,000 pounds of debris. Their haul included everything from buoys and boat batteries to fishing line,

cell phones, sunglasses and aluminum cans. Volunteers also gathered valuable data on the types and quantities of debris collected. With the support of 17 partner organizations, including Ocean Conservancy, this community-driven event demonstrated the incredible impact of collaboration on ocean health. A huge thank you to Dive Alaska for leading the charge—and to every volunteer who braved the cold to make a difference for our ocean!



ALASKA





Association Bahri: Uplifting the Informal Waste Sector

Since 2014, Association Bahri—founded by Saad Abid, a former Moroccan champion in surfing—has led an innovative and socially transformative pilot project in Morocco aimed at empowering waste pickers, locally known as *chiffonniers*. At the time, more than 10,000 individuals in this informal waste-collecting sector were living in extreme poverty. In response, Bahri partnered with HAMRI to reimagine the role of waste pickers in Moroccan society. The idea was simple: What if Morocco's waste pickers could become heroes of recycling? Together, they created a system where Bahri coordinated

with companies to pre-sort waste, and HAMRI would collect the recyclables using a specially designed bike sourced with Bahri's support. This initiative tripled the income of participating waste pickers and reshaped how their role was perceived: no longer invisible, but integral to the country's waste management solution. Now HAMRI is a social media leader for the waste-picker sector and can be found as HAMRI *le chiffonnier* online.

The project also emphasizes long-term change through education and awareness. Schoolchildren are taught how to properly sort waste,

cultivating a generation that respects environmental responsibility and honors the contributions of waste workers. By making the work of waste pickers more visible and respectable, Association Bahri is redefining the profession as both essential and honorable. Looking ahead, Bahri is leveraging its connections through the International Coastal Cleanup network to replicate and scale this success beyond Morocco. Talks are already underway to launch similar initiatives with ICC partners in Cameroon, bringing the same model of social impact, environmental progress and human dignity to communities across Africa.





VEITNAM

To take a deeper dive into policies that can help tackle some of the most common forms of plastic pollution, check out these additional resources:



Tackling Plastic Pollution Through Producer Accountability:

Ocean Conservancy's toolkit for comprehensive state extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation.



Fibers to Filters: A Toolkit for Microfiber Solutions:

A toolkit on washing machine filtration as a solution to address microfiber pollution.



Ocean Conservancy's report on how to keep plastic foam foodware out of our ocean.



Plastics Policy 101

An Introduction to Science-Based Solutions to the Plastic Pollution Crisis

Plastic Policy **UPDATES**

Policy in Action: New Tools for Effective Plastics Policy

Ultimately solving the plastic-pollution crisis means tackling the problem at its source, making and using less plastic in the first place. The most effective way to make that shift is through policies that reduce single-use plastic, phase out unnecessary plastics and drive systemic change through holding plastic producers accountable. That's why Ocean Conservancy launched the [Plastics Policy 101](#) report in early 2025 as a comprehensive guide to equip policymakers, advocates and communities with the knowledge and strategies necessary to combat plastic pollution.

Plastics Policy 101 outlines the latest science on the plastic-pollution crisis and its impact on our ocean along with science-based policy solutions ranging from preventing microplastic pollution

to phasing out problematic single-use plastics to explaining how extended producer responsibility (EPR) and deposit return systems (DRS) together can reduce plastic pollution. This report draws on years of experience working alongside local leaders and policymakers across the U.S. to outline some of the best available policy tools to prevent plastics from becoming pollution in the first place.

Ocean Conservancy is calling everyone—from advocates to policymakers to ocean lovers—to work together to achieve real change. *Plastics Policy 101* is one more way to make change possible. With growing momentum for bold state action and an increasing number of ways to get involved, with your help, we're getting closer to a world without plastic pollution.



Passing Better Bag Bans

In 2024, Ocean Conservancy staff helped policymakers in California pass a major update to the state's plastic bag law by closing an exemption that allowed thicker plastic bags to be sold as "reusable." The new law ([SB 1053](#)), signed in 2024 and set to take effect in 2026, bans all plastic film bags at checkout. That's a huge step forward in the nation's most populous state where plastic bag waste had increased since the original bag ban was passed in 2014.

Oregon followed suit just months later. In May 2025, the state legislature passed a new bill ([SB 551](#)) banning all plastic checkout bags statewide, including thick plastic film bags sold as "reusable."

These "Better Bag Bans" illustrate exactly the kind of progress our ocean needs. If you have taken part in a cleanup, it's likely you have come across plastic bags. In fact, plastic

bags continue to be among the most commonly collected items at cleanups around the world. They're lightweight and easily blown into waterways where they can harm marine life and persist in the environment for hundreds of years. By eliminating them at the source, as is happening in states across the U.S., we can help save countless wildlife and reduce the plastic pollution burden placed on coastal communities.



The Latest Science: OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION

Ocean Conservancy's Science-backed Tool Calculates the Positive Impact Your Cleanup Had on Marinelife

Many of us have firsthand experiences visiting beautiful beaches and shorelines that have, over time, become littered with plastic. While the plastic pollution crisis is highly visible, there are also hidden problems caused by plastics when ocean animals eat them. Right now, almost 1,300 ocean species, including every family of marine mammals and sea birds and all seven species of sea turtles, are known to swallow plastic. While there is ample evidence of plastics in the stomachs and guts of ocean animals, little is known about how much plastic is actually too much for those animals to eat. More science is needed to determine how much plastic is too much before we can determine the overall risk of plastic pollution to marine life and better understand how plastic pollution affects ocean life more broadly.

Over the last three years, Ocean Conservancy scientists have compiled large amounts of scientific data to model lethal doses of plastic for sea

turtles, sea birds and marine mammals. To make our powerful science on the mortality risks of macroplastic (> 2.5cm in size) ingestion publicly accessible and understandable, we will soon release Ocean Conservancy's *Wildlife Impact Calculator* tool to illuminate the real-life positive impacts that cleaning up plastic from our coastlines can have on marine life. With the click of a button, the Wildlife Impact Calculator will quantify the direct impact individuals can have on helping protect wildlife by participating in a cleanup, big or small.

We believe our Wildlife Impact Calculator tool will help unleash broader engagement in the fight to reduce ocean plastic pollution and encourage more people to join the movement against it. Additionally, with the launch of our Wildlife Impact Calculator will come the release of our Plastic-Wildlife Impact Database, containing over 10,000 entries of all

the research on macroplastic ingestion that informed our models. Together, these new resources will help conservationists and decision-makers understand how cleanup efforts can benefit marine life and guide policies to reduce plastic waste.

Like ingestion, entanglement is a leading cause of plastic-related harm to marine wildlife. That's because plastics—including abandoned and derelict fishing gear (ADLFG) such as nets, line, ropes and pots—ensnare marine animals, causing injuries or restricting an animal's ability to forage, move or breathe. In many cases, this interaction results in death. Ocean Conservancy's science team is currently working to determine the lethal impacts of marine animal entanglement with plastic pollution, which we plan to model and share publicly soon. Please stay tuned for the launch of these exciting new resources!



GRAND CAYMAN





SAN FRANCISCO



Tracking trash: What GPS-Tagged Bottles Reveal About River Plastic Pollution

Water bodies like rivers are known to transport plastics of all sizes from inland locations out to sea, but there is still much that remains unknown, like the distance floating plastics are able to travel, the factors that affect the distance and speed they travel, and the likelihood of their reaching the coast and ocean. Globally, research on river plastic is increasing, but studies in North America are [lacking compared to other regions](#).

Ocean Conservancy is currently collaborating with partners from several institutions across the United States and Canada to track how floating plastic bottles move through North American rivers. To do this, research teams are using bottles equipped with GPS tags that share a bottle's location at regular intervals so distance and speed can be calculated. Throughout 2022 and 2023, our research teams deployed more than

300 bottles in seven major watersheds and followed their movement for several months before we located and retrieved them. By following the movement of these bottles, our team is working to better understand the long-term movement of floating plastics throughout different seasons, all of which come with different weather, various storms and rainfall amounts.

What have we found so far? Our bottles have been on quite a journey! On average throughout the study period, each bottle travelled about 466 meters (1,529 feet). The distance travelled was highly variable among the watersheds we studied, with some bottles becoming trapped in vegetation along the river course and others starting to move downstream very quickly after weather events such as heavy rain. One bottle in the Los Angeles River even traveled 53.5 kilometers (33.2 miles)!

As well as understanding how the bottles interact with the environment, we also documented some interactions with people. Some bottles were collected during cleanup events, and we have had several members of the public get in touch during the course of the study to let us know where they have seen bottles while paddleboarding, kayaking or strolling along river shores.

While this study is ongoing, our data reveals interesting patterns, and we look forward to sharing those broadly when they are published in a scientific journal. Huge thanks to our collaborators on this project at University of New Hampshire, University of Toronto, Loyola University of Chicago, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Florida International University, Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research and San Francisco Estuary Institute.

2024 International Coastal CLEANUP RESULTS



Total trash collected equals
the weight of over

4,000

F1 race cars or
4,000 beluga whales
(or more than
2,000 belugas racing
in F1 cars)!

Global Top 10 Items Collected

	1	FOOD WRAPPERS (CANDY, CHIPS, ETC.)	1,442,860
	2	BEVERAGE BOTTLES (PLASTIC)	1,284,225
	3	CIGARETTE BUTTS	1,227,124
	4	BOTTLE CAPS (PLASTIC)	979,400
	5	FOOD CONTAINERS (PLASTIC)	523,998
	6	OTHER BAGS (PLASTIC)	480,371
	7	GROCERY BAGS (PLASTIC)	468,394
	8	CUPS, PLATES (PAPER)	444,485
	9	CUPS, PLATES (PLASTIC)	436,397
	10	FOOD CONTAINERS (FOAM)	404,636

Placed end to end, enough plastic beverage bottles were collected to stretch the Monaco Grand Prix circuit over

75 TIMES.

PROTECT[™] WHERE WE PLAY

WITH OCEAN CONSERVANCY

Ocean Conservancy is working collectively with the sports and entertainment industries to protect our ocean by mobilizing millions of fans and supporters to Protect Where We Play. Learn more at ProtectWhereWePlay.com

Enough food wrappers to give a snack to every fan for

72 GAMES

at Madison Square Garden.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Enough standard plastic grocery bags were collected to cover an entire FIFA soccer pitch more than

11 TIMES.

Regional CLEANUP TRENDS

Each year, thousands of volunteers in over one hundred countries, from every corner of the globe, contribute data and amplify their positive impact as part of the International Coastal Cleanup. Here is a breakdown of the 2024 ICC across regions defined by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Oceania

1) Other plastic waste (unidentifiable or fragments)	33,357
2) Plastic bottle caps	10,298
3) Aluminum beverage cans	8,741
4) Cigarette butts	8,631
5) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	8,430
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	136,138

North America

1) Cigarette butts	443,463
2) Plastic bottle caps	219,280
3) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	182,256
4) Plastic beverage bottles	136,784
5) Other waste (metal, paper, etc.)	134,517
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	2,975,057

Caribbean

1) Plastic beverage bottles	572,118
2) Plastic food containers	368,054
3) Plastic bottle caps	323,389
4) Paper cups & plates	316,339
5) Foam food containers	282,248
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	3,897,394

Latin America

1) Plastic beverage bottles	124,984
2) Cigarette butts	112,455
3) Plastic bottle caps	82,500
4) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	67,767
5) Metal bottle caps	60,512
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	1,113,005



Africa

1) Cigarette butts	125,197
2) Plastic bottle caps	46,965
3) Plastic cups and plates	31,726
4) Other plastic waste (unidentifiable or fragments)	30,803
5) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	26,255
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	3,372,674

Europe

1) Cigarette butts	164,414
2) Fishing gear (Lines, nets, traps, ropes, etc.)	40,005
3) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	28,906
4) Other plastic waste (unidentifiable or fragments)	23,683
5) Plastic bottle caps	21,975
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	520,268

Central & South Asia

1) Cigarette butts	28,826
2) Plastic grocery bags	22,304
3) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	21,051
4) Other plastic bags	15,393
5) Plastic beverage bottles	12,629
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	186,364

East & Southeast Asia

1) Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	921,070
2) Plastic beverage bottles	379,552
3) Plastic grocery bags	243,842
4) Other plastic bags	223,611
5) Plastic bottle caps	218,275
TOTAL ITEMS REPORTED	5,178,006

2024 Global OCEAN TRASH INDEX

LOCATION	Total Volunteers	Total Kilograms	Total Pounds	Total Kilometers	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	1 Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	2 Beverage bottles (plastic)	3 Cigarette butts	4 Bottle caps (plastic)	5 Food containers (plastic)	6 Other bags (plastic)	7 Grocery bags (plastic)	8 Cups, Plates (paper)	9 Cups, Plates (plastic)	10 Food containers (foam)
							GLOBAL—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
Antigua and Barbuda	20	18	40	0.4	0.3	452	16	30	9	20	15	5	5	20	20	6
Argentina	1	3	7	0.2	0.1	27	1	1			1					1
Australia	1,987	153,298	337,964	20.3	12.6	75,654	4,812	1,593	4,530	5,844	120	27	872	1	29	6
Azerbaijan	270	4,937	10,885	0.2	0.1	2,461	18	144	32	11	35	282	41	36	82	44
Bahamas	974	8,841	19,491	29.5	18.3	20,380	553	1,580	130	2,756	406	447	550	214	916	173
Bangladesh	530	16,200	35,715	19.0	11.8	114,063	19,379	6,350	12,565	707	2,048	10,207	18,130	2,587	2,158	2,707
Belgium	139	913	2,013	35.1	21.8	6,277	304	149	1,300	55	16	368	136	26	28	32
Belize	254	1,047	2,309	14.0	8.7	12,705	847	1,905	201	1,011	90	1,094	828	257	341	287
Bermuda	830	32,939	72,619	26.6	16.5	16,727	384	709	1,481	1,099	181	304	151	64	181	83
Brazil	1,486	13,293	29,305	53.4	33.2	85,111	3,984	9,024	5,183	6,211	2,092	1,933	1,992	52	2,566	1,906
British Virgin Islands	334	364	803	9.8	6.1	3,885	44	784	63	373	9	56	75	38	253	81
Brunei	254	1,422	3,135	20.3	12.6	4,427	157	1,108	112	306	217	161	299	13	179	39
Cambodia	504	620	1,368	4.5	2.8	9,600	487	821	14	599	128	395	1,172	4	306	438
Cameroon	531	48,407	106,720	1.0	0.6	595,236	564	2,249		9,773		1,012	6,000	121	52	
Canada	4,768	8,220	18,121	613.7	381.4	255,380	18,332	4,700	82,566	9,000	2,061	2,569	2,552	101	2,629	1,427
Cayman Islands	8	63	139	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chile	11,023	85,701	188,938	139.9	86.9	125,041	5,683	3,949	55,591	3,400	1,792	3,771	5,297	1,125	1,766	1,284
China	722	2,283	5,034	195.5	121.5	70,668	3,297	3,972	36,215	2,418	363	2,126	1,822	713	862	233
Colombia	703	6,603	14,558	29.1	18.1	2,486	40	416		32		15	28	6	11	
Costa Rica	174	480	1,059	19.7	12.2	6,199	270	470	14	420	63	64	10	9	41	4
Croatia	60	97	213	0.8	0.5	764	42	55	11	18	2	4	2		6	
Curaçao	2,600	57,000	125,663	2.0	1.2	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cyprus	1,178	4,219	9,300	10.9	6.8	636	38	12	206	41	1	15	2	3	10	
Denmark	2	15	34	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica	12	20	45	0.2	0.1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	23,512	156,412	344,830	56.8	35.3	2,890,708	53,113	304,175	81,330	203,089	354,161	79,848	50,268	297,547	81,373	268,467
Ecuador	8,394	33,347	73,517	306.8	190.6	212,292	14,476	26,882	10,702	10,406	6,832	8,127	8,768	4,102	8,664	5,752
Egypt	803	542	1,196	2.3	1.5	34,805	1,073	1,106	14,142	3,063	21	5	560	7	35	1,043
El Salvador	50	127	281	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fiji	82	403	889	16.6	10.3	4,627	349	441	194	205	259	41	42	33	273	14

LOCATION	Total Volunteers	Total Kilograms	Total Pounds	Total Kilometers	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	1 Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	2 Beverage bottles (plastic)	3 Cigarette butts	4 Bottle caps (plastic)	5 Food containers (plastic)	6 Other bags (plastic)	7 Grocery bags (plastic)	8 Cups, Plates (paper)	9 Cups, Plates (plastic)	10 Food containers (foam)
							GLOBAL—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
France	19	23	50	4.7	2.9	846	4	3	5	6	1	7	2			14
French Polynesia	2	1	2	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gabon	137	4,614	10,173	4.8	3.0	5,765		3,863	35	615		15	8			177
Gambia	100	206	454	1.2	0.8	10,965		1,303	57	25						8,754
Germany	751	1,086	2,394	44.9	27.9	27,410	1,119	310	10,420	123	122	947	723	235	149	83
Ghana	203	1,277	2,815	0.2	0.1	2,348,422	2,786	1,075	106,254	13,098	1,108	4,085	6,079	—	19,533	1,076
Greece	13,344	24,072	53,070	68.0	42.2	114,747	1,153	5,687	29,143	5,847	366	976	2,221	528	1,066	354
Greenland	25	6,600	14,551	0.7	0.4	184	5						5			
Guam	3,122	5,656	12,469	203.3	126.3	28,164	1,403	1,844	2,537	1,827	300	810	417	370	451	258
Guatemala	8	82	181	0.2	0.1	913	2	24	3	3	13	13	13	154	435	11
Guernsey	77	5	11	0.4	0.2	162	14	12	8	7	1	1		3		1
Guyana	60	317	698	18.2	11.3	5,617	232	514	168	530	136	211	59	125	304	88
Honduras	157	73	160	0.2	0.1	2,892	193	68		200	8	212	2	25	1	45
Hong Kong	1,890	41,002	90,393	27.5	17.1	518,890	7,680	7,760	2,741	6,432	3,540	2,649	2,383	2,417	2,394	2,268
Iceland	92	24,493	53,998	3.7	2.3	11,906		20	76	61		16	37	12	6	2
India	900	8,554	18,858	1.6	1.0	4,197	74	106	69	68	78	120	92	65	76	64
Indonesia	1,634	9,216	20,318	17.3	10.7	17,045	3,110	795	792	627	95	4,135	968	40	1,634	89
Ireland	1,340	2,502	5,517	176.6	109.7	31,489	3,433	1,210	4,867	1,437	537	831	446	339	369	344
Israel	141	186	411	0.7	0.4	3,395	50	186	1,801	69	18	111	111	30	446	1
Italy	297	940	2,073	1.9	1.2	3,008	21	107	287	111	10	47	65	13	19	6
Jamaica	6,009	31,757	70,012	198.9	123.6	513,371	14,851	193,386	3,311	80,064	9,880	15,008	6,105	11,556	25,696	6,053
Japan	4,101	9,521	20,990	176.6	109.7	101,226	4,598	9,072	8,599	6,247	2,654	4,341	1,594	520	1,237	1,988
Kenya	5,434	12,656	27,902	17.4	10.8	202,739	88,199	2,837	192	30,526	14,069	1,469	1,266	55	746	847
Kuwait	120	1	2	0.2	0.1	38	1	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	5
Lithuania	23	14	31	17.1	10.6	350	33	8	55	12	2	46	11	12	13	3
Madagascar	20	12	26	2.4	1.5	394	109	71	65	3			1		6	
Malawi	9	28	61	0.2	0.1	481		84				122	100		11	
Malaysia	11,147	51,106	112,669	539.3	335.1	452,029	23,915	61,139	47,894	21,504	12,333	21,218	31,740	6,632	15,708	8,430
Maldives	16	23	50	4.2	2.6	294	3	65		9	1			1	1	1
Malta	5	43	95	0.2	0.1	158	4	7	2		2		3			1

2024 Global OCEAN TRASH INDEX


LOCATION	Total Volunteers	Total Kilograms	Total Pounds	Total Kilometers	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	1 Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	2 Beverage bottles (plastic)	3 Cigarette butts	4 Bottle caps (plastic)	5 Food containers (plastic)	6 Other bags (plastic)	7 Grocery bags (plastic)	8 Cups, Plates (paper)	9 Cups, Plates (plastic)	10 Food containers (foam)
							GLOBAL—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
Mauritius	101	56	125	1.3	0.8	2,050	175	120	180	110	56	7	100	34	131	44
Mexico	2,731	14,003	30,872	145.4	90.4	94,559	1,560	8,157	11,057	12,374	951	2,444	3,501	783	1,954	800
Montenegro	9	2	5	14.1	8.8	47	5	12		2		2	2		2	
Montserrat	43	464	1,023	3.4	2.1	1,162	3	190		77	18	58	13	19	13	8
Morocco	2,072	9,961	21,960	44.8	27.9	1,001	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mozambique	1,229	210,485	464,040	12.0	7.5	3,077	87	39	47	517	7	28	16		11	4
Namibia	100	1,528	3,368	3.9	2.4	11,976	547	407	111	536	210	168	131	13	13	119
Netherlands	13	13	28	0.2	0.1	50	5			1						
New Zealand	161	425	937	35.2	21.9	8,531	297	119	217	233	33	217	216	30	62	30
Nicaragua	277	1,406	3,100	8.9	5.6	921	29	23	3	113		17	10		2	
Nigeria	276	1,482	3,268	1.9	1.2	13,921	1,359	315	206	289	1,550	2,505	1,307	154	105	481
Northern Mariana Islands	618	999	2,203	55.5	34.5	10,062	720	774	931	457	121	570	443	90	181	49
Norway	20,591	257,917	568,611	2,412.0	1,498.8	77,397	3,015	2,274	8,956	1,329	610	1,242	851	20	479	1,924
Pakistan	56	238	525	0.2	0.1	6,171	123	300	39	300		1,028	3,156			
Panama	816	48,184	106,227	36.6	22.8	33,268	424	20,906	15	590	695	788	2,318	327	293	123
Peru	1,256	21,393	47,163	14.4	8.9	74,388	3,225	3,127	2,174	5,067	5,270	4,408	3,579	380	5,156	1,534
Philippines	134,125	486,343	1,072,417	1,033.0	641.9	3,793,716	868,943	269,669	61,794	163,759	52,551	183,495	195,986	71,859	152,957	49,639
Poland	2	1	2	0.2	0.1	12	1	1					1			
Portugal	53	444	979	2.5	1.6	3,006	88	48	1,396	149	7	17	11	6	18	7
Puerto Rico	11,001	47,753	105,276	669.5	416.0	324,101	9,437	30,124	33,994	25,536	2,096	12,028	6,968	4,893	11,114	3,683
Romania	36	1	2	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rwanda	143	2,233	4,924	10.3	6.4	1,205		164	5	43	16	28	62		22	3
Saba	1	1	2	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saudi Arabia	2	1	2	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Serbia	6	1	2	0.2	0.1	11		1		1		1	1			1
Seychelles	328	746	1,645	169.0	105.0	19,857	434	1,104	404	1,601	42	244	24	3	124	24
Sierra Leone	301	5,145	11,342	24.2	15.0	1,500	500	500	100	200			200			
Singapore	1,536	1,215	2,679	25.3	15.7	21,879	747	1,984	1,657	834	387	2,386	1,255	155	504	3,241
Sint Eustatius	44	622	1,372	4.8	3.0	6,858	70	375	2	1,367	17	24	11	14	23	28

LOCATION	Total Volunteers	Total Kilograms	Total Pounds	Total Kilometers	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	1 Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	2 Beverage bottles (plastic)	3 Cigarette butts	4 Bottle caps (plastic)	5 Food containers (plastic)	6 Other bags (plastic)	7 Grocery bags (plastic)	8 Cups, Plates (paper)	9 Cups, Plates (plastic)	10 Food containers (foam)
							GLOBAL—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
Sint Maarten	146	719	1,586	24.6	15.3	3,565	95	721	50	177	25	133	127	78	140	138
Slovakia	22	3,576	7,885	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slovenia	104	185	408	9.7	6.1	26,901	604	205	19,740	177	147	22	173	28	75	35
South Africa	4,913	112,288	247,552	792.3	492.3	262,754	17,640	8,751	3,647	16,087	3,032	3,314	7,853	893	1,164	6,141
South Korea	2,698	17,561	38,716	70.1	43.5	58,659	3,004	4,382	5,179	671	63	459	2,302	91	168	70
Spain	1,300	1,931	4,257	19.9	12.4	114,259	3,874	1,240	76,783	2,762	469	1,001	1,362	27	650	12
Sri Lanka	303	390	859	0.2	0.1	6,443	99	63		453	7	3,045	51	21	14	
St Kitts & Nevis																
St. Kitts	565	1,051	2,318	6.3	3.9	12,064	209	3,175	70	2,419	64	334	181	37	129	161
Nevis	137	1,057	2,330	14.6	9.1	1,745	52	368	10	68	23	23	71	20	115	48
Sweden	1,374	2,615	5,765	10.6	6.6	212	14	9	53	8	2	6	4			1
Switzerland	162	740	1,632	3.5	2.2	2,849	169	109	1,170	393	10	17	2	4	19	3
Taiwan	6,967	10,392	22,909	35.7	22.2	72,175	1,485	16,276	4,566	11,432	2,702	3	2,938		1,888	1
Tanzania	9,213	60,616	133,636	4.7	2.9	58,946	746	2,882		1,287	520	3,280	868	1,618	1,567	540
Thailand	1,340	4,050	8,928	70.1	43.6	50,216	3,279	2,178	10,554	3,194	313	1,707	737	154	793	174
Trinidad and Tobago	2,254	9,234	20,357	836.9	520.1	114,722	3,164	40,330	1,426	5,327	931	2,443	1,375	1,539	2,597	3,148
Tunisia	2	2	4	0.2	0.1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Türkiye	293	2,200	4,850	3.0	1.9	12,495	20	120	12,000	80		4	20		25	
Turks and Caicos	82	147	324	2.4	1.5	1,405	65	303	12	78	8	19	15	15	19	6
U.S. Virgin Islands	389	984	2,169	3.2	2.0	15,227	840	1,011	502	1,510	265	429	213	224	478	160
Uganda	82	5,667	12,494	4.1	2.5	7,902	221	529	241	168	125	279	249	360	108	396
United Arab Emirates	977	6,358	14,018	29.8	18.5	16,314	812	4,177	1,709	1,805	320	335	673	186	397	139
United Kingdom	6,487	7,624	16,808	66.2	41.2	140,297	14,999	3,040	12,558	9,461	1,133	2,822	1,861	280	14	1,131
United States	144,423	1,120,053	2,469,294	14,580.1	9,059.7	2,798,520	178,572	129,561	388,738	218,988	22,325	57,902	46,558	21,540	34,148	15,339
Uruguay	2,550	3,921	8,643	26.0	16.2	20,179	756	1,124	5,408	1,724	381	922	794	228	419	359
Vanuatu	32	227	501	2.0	1.2	7,692	819	929	73	1,608	597	80	216	20	32	104
Venezuela	8,195	25,445	56,096	119.9	74.5	536,583	37,837	57,065	33,161	53,323	9,283	19,238	24,864	7,890	35,922	8,407
Vietnam	293	996	2,196	1.7	1.0	7,928	406	455	64	281	414	536	646	240	309	322
Wallis and Futuna	88	209	461	1.0	0.6	1,408	30	306	149	124	14	45	22		29	
Grand Total	486,706	3,387,301	7,467,721	24,629.8	15,304.3	17,820,206	1,442,860	1,284,225	1,227,124	979,400	523,998	480,371	468,394	444,485	436,397	404,636

2024 United States OCEAN TRASH INDEX



STATE	Total Volunteers	Total Pounds	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	UNITED STATES—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
Alabama	338	2,490	28.0	6,752	1,270	383	295	285	495	454	430	206	130	259
Alaska	736	7,851	45.8	19,722	866	348	968	3,600	263	1,276	340	138	237	156
Arizona	141	523	14.0	1,244	256	218	88	17	46	17	41	24	8	21
California	46,072	496,995	1,648.0	353,583	79,790	14,013	33,831	20,125	9,144	14,265	7,393	7,180	8,570	6,026
Colorado	1,797	38,795	124.0	1,850	82	49	225	307	155	213	123	26	44	42
Connecticut	3,707	20,697	314.3	129,600	13,465	5,561	12,096	4,990	5,618	3,905	4,274	2,283	3,319	3,907
Delaware	1,057	4,591	86.4	35,299	6,281	2,636	3,287	204	1,872	142	1,512	792	830	575
District of Columbia	295	1,131	7.5	4,765	94	203	363	168	1,498	148	190	44	72	150
Florida	25,244	250,550	1,236.2	733,644	99,198	109,628	31,455	15,626	26,801	31,901	14,856	19,639	17,900	11,355
Georgia	5,608	95,374	462.9	51,329	5,380	1,951	4,391	3,239	6,952	362	4,080	983	992	3,581
Hawaii	854	23,839	142.0	47,715	11,842	1,938	3,202	6,122	775	3,944	1,054	621	649	796
Illinois	2,156	29,128	32.4	109,402	18,571	6,151	7,512	14,880	2,234	5,185	2,791	2,801	1,303	1,398
Indiana	527	25,652	16.0	2,578	280	140	172	245	51	147	62	102	25	33
Iowa	73	3,001	5.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	246	51,944	10.0	312	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	793	12,285	11.7	8,688	138	1,772	255	70	1,058	574	207	161	160	121
Maine	1,287	12,323	94.4	47,476	10,682	1,106	2,212	653	2,424	1,436	825	370	830	320
Maryland	623	4,747	26.1	47,039	493	5,865	3,354	1,136	3,947	1,555	417	2,728	688	438
Massachusetts	5,649	79,577	429.5	204,018	25,695	8,306	10,012	4,787	8,523	7,603	5,934	3,687	3,165	4,826
Michigan	1,513	3,098	24.1	66,578	10,481	2,596	4,334	6,752	1,071	3,239	1,138	1,423	574	339
Minnesota	35	426	2.6	431	188	4	25	47	7	50	19	7	3	2
Mississippi	897	2,543	21.8	43,891	10,962	2,342	3,207	420	1,596	153	1,101	1,140	1,062	566

					 1 Cigarette butts	 2 Bottle caps (plastic)	 3 Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	 4 Other waste (metal, paper, etc.)	 5 Beverage bottles (plastic)	 6 Other plastic waste	 7 Beverage cans	 8 Straws/stirrers (plastic)	 9 Other bags (plastic)	 10 Beverage bottles (glass)
STATE	Total Volunteers	Total Pounds	Total Miles	Total Items Collected	UNITED STATES—TOP TEN ITEMS COLLECTED									
Missouri	11	109	7.0	222	17	5	27	1	15	7	15	6	7	10
Nebraska	54	614	9.3	288	112	15	20	10	6	16	23	9	1	
Nevada	195	969	30.0	5,600	497	304	918	818	68	845	85	126	105	81
New Hampshire	831	7,199	45.0	35,068	8,187	1,296	2,049	10,567	435	3,559	499	337	294	102
New Jersey	3,360	10,880	113.7	104,450	7,574	18,965	10,927	1,777	4,682	2,964	2,458	5,816	1,339	1,142
New York	2,334	125,039	433.0	136,922	14,415	8,281	9,391	8,372	23,741	5,306	9,089	5,332	2,308	7,811
North Carolina	1,130	54,378	119.4	12,938	1,887	904	1,706	576	758	568	462	351	295	238
Ohio	1,774	29,456	50.0	116,877	8,891	5,806	7,219	6,151	5,244	7,326	3,732	3,942	1,681	1,446
Oregon	1,135	5,315	5.5	302	40	17	9	29	13	26	8	2	8	8
Pennsylvania	15,274	845,835	2,125.0	24,046	2,553	1,490	2,258	404	1,638	145	2,063	630	472	756
Rhode Island	2,755	21,819	315.2	116,087	24,988	6,419	8,104	8,234	6,591	6,437	4,471	3,242	3,320	4,631
South Carolina	669	2,109	22.6	50,072	1,973	411	424	339	245	665	478	115	151	62
Tennessee	3,305	51,384	288.1	356	29	5	8	10	9	12	11	5	9	4
Texas	7,784	70,581	279.9	37,663	3,331	4,723	1,687	1,913	2,362	2,141	1,598	1,137	1,236	656
Utah	163	3,539	2.6	218	27	7	21	5	12	10	8	4	6	11
Vermont	187	8,266	30.2	104,019	237	89	367	436	244	134	599	68	177	154
Virginia	2,174	54,329	353.4	97,361	10,043	3,723	8,930	4,987	8,198	6,167	4,775	1,724	5,191	3,799
Washington	1,216	7,733	42.7	23,964	4,527	775	1,986	1,637	380	1,130	512	361	493	326
West Virginia	1	1	1.0	11	1		2	1		4				
Wisconsin	423	2,179	3.6	16,140	3,395	543	1,235	1,401	390	681	384	399	248	289
Grand Total	144,423	2,469,294	9,059.7	2,798,520	388,738	218,988	178,572	131,341	129,561	114,712	78,057	67,961	57,902	56,437

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Supporting Partner SPOTLIGHT

Global Reach, Local Impact

Hard Rock International, globally known for its iconic music-themed hotels, casinos, cafes and live entertainment venues, launched a collaboration with Ocean Conservancy to fuel its “Global Sound Waves” sustainability initiative. This dynamic partnership advances Hard Rock International’s long-standing ‘Save the Planet’ motto through waste reduction, employee engagement and community-driven cleanup campaigns worldwide.

Between September and November of 2024, “Global Sound Waves” rolled out four strategic “waves” throughout

their properties targeting team member education, innovation competitions, a donation drive and cleanup activations. With participation and input from Ocean Conservancy, hundreds of team members from Tampa and Goa to Ibiza and Bali participated in a trivia contest to sharpen their environmental knowledge while front-line champions leading the Sound Waves initiative submitted dozens of innovative ideas aimed at reducing waste.

On November 16, teams across multiple global locations took part in a cleanup

activation to tackle plastic pollution and boost biodiversity. Ocean Conservancy was on the ground at Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park in Dania Beach, Florida, with nearly 90 enthusiastic volunteers for a day of fun, education and beach cleaning. Over 120 pounds of debris was collected and properly disposed of, maintaining the coastal habitat where many sea birds and marine animals live.

We’re grateful to Hard Rock International and the example they set for how global brands can help safeguard our ocean for generations to come.

“At Hard Rock, one of our cherished mottos is ‘Save the Planet,’ and through our global team members’ common actions we aim to reduce waste and drive meaningful change to protect our planet.”

—Paul Pellizzari, Hard Rock’s VP of Global Social Responsibility



FLORIDA



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#SEATHECHANGE WITH CLEAN SWELL

Want to get involved with the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) any day of the year? Download Ocean Conservancy's free mobile app, Clean Swell®, and start tracking the trash you find while doing a cleanup in your neighborhood, park or any waterway. Clean Swell is the official app of the ICC, but it is also a tool available free to all for year-round and solo cleanup efforts. Since its first launch in 2016, Clean Swell has been a game changer when it comes to crowd sourcing data on marine debris. Millions of data points have been collected by volunteers around the globe to inform big-picture solutions to the ocean plastic crisis.

Data submitted through the app instantaneously upload to Ocean Conservancy's global Ocean Trash Index, the world's largest database of marine debris. These data are freely available and constantly utilized by scientists, environmentalists, governments and others to better

understand and characterize the global plastic pollution problem.

In addition to a new and improved interface that makes data recording easier than ever, users will now be able to increase their impact by connecting to Ocean Conservancy's action center directly through the app. Additionally, the latest update includes a route within the app for those volunteers who manage and remove debris from trash-capture devices of all shapes and sizes. These "trash traps" help provide a new type of marine debris data, further broadening our understanding of the issue and enabling us to see the effectiveness of this type of solution.

Clean Swell is available in 12 languages and can be used without Wi-Fi or cellular services once downloaded. Earn badges when you reach collection milestones and share your accomplishments via a social media share option. Thank you for doing your part so we can all #SeatheChange for our ocean.



WASHINGTON D.C.



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