



2006 International Coastal Cleanup

Summary Report Netherlands Antilles

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The International Coastal Cleanup

The International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris, and to change the behaviors that cause pollution.

The 2006 ICC: A Monumental Year

In the fight against marine debris, 2006 was a monumental year. More than 350,000 volunteers participated in the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) worldwide. Participants scoured nearly 35,000 miles of shoreline and removed some seven million pounds of trash. That's an average of more than 19 pounds per person. Led by Project AWARE, more than 7,300 divers removed more than 227,000 pounds of debris from 3,100 miles of underwater habitat – an average of more than 31 pounds per diver.

Five countries – Bangladesh, China, El Salvador, Iran, and Ireland – joined the ICC's efforts in 2006. Several other countries saw an increase in participation: Egypt increased volunteer numbers by 53 percent, Thailand saw a 65 percent increase, and Venezuela's volunteer numbers nearly doubled.

Internationally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme for Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities developed and implemented a number of activities on the management of marine litter, including a series of regional actions in several Regional Seas Conventions. The "Global Framework for Marine Litter Reduction" is in development through a partnership between the UNEP – Regional Seas Programme and GPA and also participates in the annual ICC.

In addition, the U.S. Congress passed the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and

Reduction Act, which establishes a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its effects on the marine environment. The Act also directs NOAA to reestablish the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee (IMDCC). Co-chaired by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The IMDCC works with the U.S. Coast Guard to establish a definition of marine debris, develop a federal marine debris information clearinghouse, emphasize the importance of outreach and education, and work with the international community to address marine debris on a global scale.



2006 ICC: Netherlands Antilles

In Netherlands Antilles, 314 volunteers participated in the ICC, removing 3,480 pounds of trash and debris from 34 miles of shoreline. In addition, 87 volunteers participated in underwater cleanups, removing 1,149 pounds of debris from 5 miles of riverbed and sea floor.

Land-based activities – such as picnics, festivals, sports, and days at the beach – accounted for 69.8 percent of the debris found in Netherlands Antilles. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed to this category of debris. Worldwide, these activities represented more than 60 percent of collected debris.

In 2006, land-based activities accounted for 69.8 percent of the debris items collected in Netherlands Antilles.

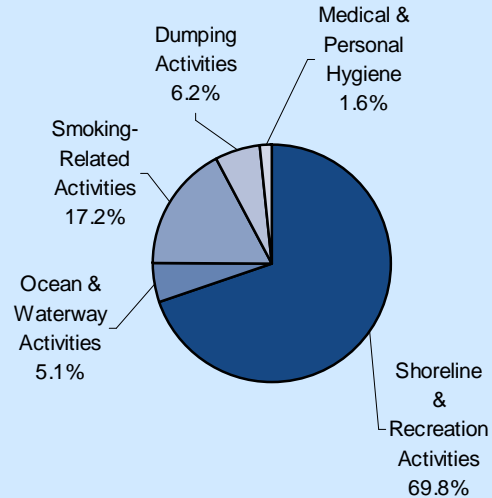
Debris items from ocean- and waterway-based activities – activities that originate offshore – accounted for 5.1 percent of the debris found in Netherlands Antilles. Globally, less than seven percent of collected debris came from ocean- and waterway-based activities.

Smoking-related activities – including cigarette filters, cigar tips, and tobacco packaging – accounted for 17.2 percent of the debris found in Netherlands Antilles. Worldwide, debris from smoking-related activities comprised 29.2 percent of the collected debris.

Each year, Ocean Conservancy compiles a list of the “Top Ten” debris items found by volunteers. In 2006, the items found in the Top Ten accounted for 83.0 percent of all the debris found in Netherlands Antilles.

Netherlands Antilles: Marine Debris

Sources of Marine Debris



Top Ten Debris Items

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,028	14.1%
2. Cups, Plates And Utensils	1,614	11.2%
3. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	1,459	10.2%
4. Caps/Lids	1,211	8.4%
5. Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	1,120	7.8%
6. Bags	1,103	7.7%
7. Food Wrappers and Containers	1,102	7.7%
8. Beverage Cans	1,005	7.0%
9. Straws/Stirrers	673	4.7%
10. Car/Car Parts	606	4.2%
Totals	14,364	83.0%

Dangers of Marine Debris

Each year, ICC volunteers find animals entangled in various forms of marine debris, and the results can be deadly. Debris can wrap around marine animals, hampering mobility and causing lethal cuts, suffocation, and even drowning. When animals mistake debris for food, ingestion can lead to choking and or starvation.

In 2006, ICC volunteers found 1,074 animals entangled in debris worldwide. Discarded fishing line and nets were the top debris items involved in entanglement. While marine mammal entanglements may be the most well known, they comprise only 17 percent of all recorded entanglements. At 38 percent, seabirds accounted for the majority of entangled creatures, proving

that marine debris also affects those species that spend less time in and on the water.

Conclusion

While marine debris continues to be a problem, both globally and locally, efforts such as the ICC indicate that people are willing to take steps to address the issue. In addition to cleaning up existing debris, success is dependent upon pinpointing the types of activities that cause debris and creating educational programs to help people develop a new mindset toward littering. Inspiring this course of change and encouraging people to become good ocean stewards is one of – if not the most – important components of the ICC's mission.



What You Can Do

- 1) Join the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.
- 2) Clean up your trash, even when not near the water. It's amazing that a vast majority of trash in our waterways comes from land-based activities. Even trash discarded miles inland can make it to the ocean, washed there by the rain and the winds.
- 3) Retrieve your monofilament fishing line. Don't leave fishing line in the water and remove others' when you find it...being careful not to tug on snagged lines that could be caught on important things below the surface.
- 4) Contain and properly clean spills when boating. Use oil-absorbent rags or even diapers to clean spills. The Ocean Conservancy's Good Mate program can provide you with plenty of tips for reducing your impact when on the water.
- 5) Recycle used motor oil and oil filters. Your local gas station should have facilities for recycling these materials. Never pour oil, paint, antifreeze, or other household chemicals into an open sewer.
- 6) Find alternatives to household chemicals. Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that can wash into open waters. Use lemon juice, vinegar, and baking soda for household cleaning.
- 7) Become a storm drain sentry. Stencil your local drains to remind people where the things they dump there end up...and of the potential consequences.
- 8) Use cloth bags for groceries. Take them with you when you shop to reduce the number of plastic bags you use. In addition to being unsightly, discarded plastic bags can choke marine wildlife when mistaken for food.
- 9) Properly dispose of used batteries and electronics. Use your local recycling center. Electronics leach harmful chemicals into the environment. Once there, these toxic pollutants can take a long time to go away.
- 10) Contact your elected representatives. Let them know you care about marine debris and that you are watching what they do to stop it. Then, vote for candidates who support marine debris prevention.



ICC 2006 Donors

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ITW Hi-Cone

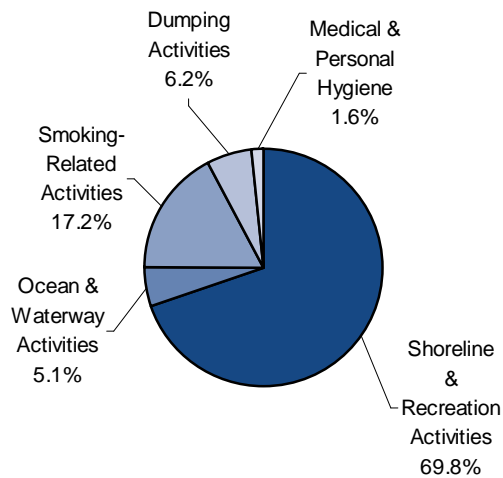
ICC 2006 Netherlands Antilles Sponsors

Saba Island Government, Harbor Master and Public Works Dept
Saba Lions and Leos Club
Saba Conservation Foundation
Saba Sea Scouts
Big Rock Market and Engineering
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Unique Store
Clean St. Maarten N.V.
Sint Maarten LIONS CLUB
St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association
VOVIC Water-Caribbean Liquors and Tobacco

Debris items collected during the 2006 ICC in Netherlands Antilles

DEBRIS ITEMS	LAND	UNDERWATER	TOTAL
Shoreline and Recreational Activities			
Bags	1,103	0	1,103
Balloons	52	0	52
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liter or less	1,120	0	1,120
Beverage Bottles (glass)	1,459	0	1,459
Beverage Cans	1,005	0	1,005
Caps/Lids	1,211	0	1,211
Clothing/Shoes	286	0	286
Cups, plates, etc	1,614	0	1,614
Food Wrappers	1,102	0	1,102
Pull Tabs	162	0	162
Six-Pack Holders	119	0	119
Shotgun Shells	27	0	27
Straws/Stirrers	673	0	673
Toys	99	0	99
Ocean and Waterway Activities			
Bait Containers	63	0	63
Bleach/Cleaner	50	0	50
Buoys/Floats	42	0	42
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	29	0	29
Crates	41	0	41
Fishing Line	34	0	34
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	31	0	31
Fishing Nets	31	0	31
Light Bulbs	25	0	25
Oil/Lube Bottles	41	0	41
Pallets	52	0	52
Plastic Sheeting	184	0	184
Rope	69	0	69
Strapping Bands	42	0	42
Smoking-Related Activities			
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	2,028	0	2,028
Cigarette Lighters	73	0	73
Cigar Tips	256	0	256
Tobacco Packaging	118	0	118
Dumping Activities			
Appliances	31	0	31
Batteries	39	0	39
Building Materials	138	0	138
Car/Car Parts	606	0	606
55-Gallon Drums	27	0	27
Tires	49	0	49
Medical and Personal Hygiene			
Condoms	71	0	71
Diapers	82	0	82
Syringes	35	0	35
Tampons	45	0	45
Totals	14,364		14,364

Netherlands Antilles 2006 ICC – Sources of Marine Debris – Land and Underwater Cleanups



Land Cleanups

Netherlands Antilles 2006 ICC “Top Ten” Debris Items – Land and Underwater Cleanups

Land Cleanups Only

Debris Items	Amount	Percent of Total
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2006 ICC Entangled Animals

Entangling Debris	Invertebrates	Fishes	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals	Amphibians	Total
Balloon Ribbon/String	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing Line	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fishing Nets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plastic Bags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Six-Pack Holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1