

Project AWARE Foundation

2009

INTERNATIONAL CLEANUP DAY REPORT



Courtesy of St. Johns School - USA



Foreword

Thank you for taking the plunge to protect underwater environments.

On behalf of the team at Project AWARE Foundation, we truly appreciate your efforts to join a global movement to combat litter in our oceans and waterways. Thousands of volunteers in almost 100 countries and territories of the world took part in International Cleanup Day 2009. With the health of our underwater environments a top priority, it is exciting to see so many inspired to commit to clean waterways year after year.

We know the commitment does not end when the cleanup event is over. It takes time and patience to record and submit all the data: a critical component of this important initiative. I understand it is a big task and Project AWARE would not be able to achieve its conservation goals without the commitment of so many dedicated cleanup coordinators and volunteers like you – thank you.

Each year, I am amazed when looking through the data cards recording tonnes of rubbish you have collected. The data cards are a tangible record of the positive difference we are making together. There are solutions to the marine debris crisis and it is inspiring to see divers leading the way.

I am happy to report that annual cleanups simply are not enough for Project AWARE's network of enthusiastic volunteer divers. A movement is taking shape. Inspired by Project AWARE, many divers remove rubbish and record data on every single dive. I encourage you to use this report to highlight your efforts and encourage others to become part of this global movement to bring about change.

We're only able to help protect fragile aquatic environments thanks to your commitment to the cause and for this we are extremely grateful.

Kindest Regards,



Jenny Miller Garmendia
Director, Project AWARE Foundation



Project AWARE's Cleanup Initiative

Six million tonnes of debris enter the world's oceans every year wreaking havoc on underwater creatures and environments every day. For 16 years, Project AWARE Foundation has led underwater and shoreline cleanup efforts worldwide in partnership with Ocean Conservancy.

Today, Project AWARE supports International Cleanup Day and year round efforts by volunteer divers and water enthusiasts. In 2009, they have removed over 252'000 kg/555'000 lbs of debris. Debris that would otherwise continue to poison our waters and be "out of sight and out of mind" for most.

International Cleanup Day

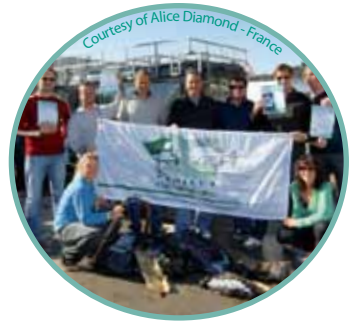
Annual International Cleanup Day events are recognized by divers worldwide as Project AWARE's most prominent initiative on the 3rd Saturday in September.

The power of these actions is not only in the debris removed but in the data volunteers collect. What happens to this data?

Cleanups held each September and October contribute data to the Global Marine Debris Index. The index, compiled by our key environmental partner, the Ocean Conservancy, consists of a country-by-country breakdown of the amount and type of trash collected in the world's oceans and waterways, and along their coasts.

These efforts have been recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme. The 2009 report "Marine Litter: A Global Challenge" highlights Project AWARE as one of a number of key organizations working to raise awareness and target marine debris through volunteer led cleanups.

A continued drive for strong, consistent data is the key to help illuminate the devastating effects of debris on underwater environments. The data you collect and report helps build awareness and support policy changes worldwide.



Courtesy of Alice Diamond - France



Courtesy of Angelina Lehmann - Switzerland



Snapshot of International Cleanup Day 2009

In **September and October 2009**, dedicated Project AWARE coordinators organized **879** cleanup events and removed **222'215 kg or 489'900 lbs** of debris from our shoreline and underwater environments.

Nearly **11'000** divers and over **20'000** non diving volunteers in **92** countries collected a staggering **140'814** cigarette filters, **78'854** plastic bags and found baby sharks, fairy penguins, moray eels and sea turtles, entangled and killed by the debris.

"It is in our interest and responsibility to conserve our 'playground.'"

Florian Labanti, Cleanup Organizer, Switzerland

Courtesy of Angelo Scherrer - Switzerland



Courtesy of Progetto Sub - Italy



"Thanks to the event we are now having a recycling center created to help with the problem of too much plastic coming into our shores from other countries and areas."

Julie Minter, Cleanup Organizer, Mexico

Courtesy of Instituto Eco Faxina Santos - Brazil



Courtesy of Claudia Kuser - Switzerland



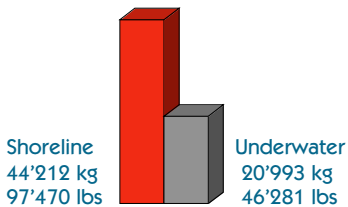
© Mark Nijman / Marine PhotoBank



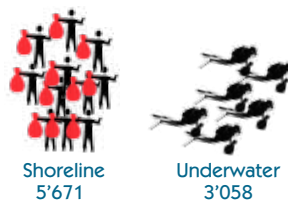
Americas

- 143 USA
- 20 Mexico
- 16 Canada
- 11 Brasil
- 6 Colombia
- 4 Cayman Islands
- 4 Chile
- 4 Ecuador
- 4 Honduras
- 3 Belize
- 3 Costa Rica
- 3 Dominican Republic
- 3 Puerto Rico
- 2 Bahamas
- 2 Barbados
- 2 Grenada
- 2 Panama
- 2 Venezuela
- 1 Argentina
- 1 Aruba
- 1 British Virgin Islands
- 1 Curacao
- 1 Guatemala
- 1 Trinidad and Tobago

Weight Collected



Volunteers



Volunteers

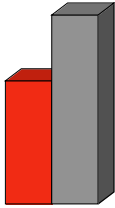


Shoreline
3'060



Underwater
2'904

Weight Collected



Shoreline
27'911 kg
61'534 lbs

Underwater
42'852 kg
94'472 lbs

Europe

46 Germany
32 Italy
26 UK
17 Switzerland
15 Greece

15 Spain
12 Netherlands
11 Portugal
10 Cyprus
8 Poland
8 Turkey

4 Estonia
3 Austria
3 Belgium

3 Finland
3 France



Volunteers



Shoreline
612



Underwater
736

Weight Collected

Shoreline
3'519 kg
7'758 lbs



Underwater
2'771 kg
6'109 lbs

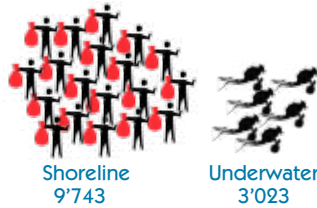
Africa

44 Egypt
10 South Africa
2 Cape Verde Islands
2 Kenya
2 Libya
2 Mauritius
1 Tanzania

- 3 Ireland
- 3 Luxembourg
- 3 Malta
- 3 Norway
- 2 Croatia
- 2 Denmark
- 2 Russia
- 2 Sweden
- 2 Ukraine
- 1 Gibraltar
- 1 Guernsey
- 1 Hungary
- 1 Lithuania
- 1 Slovakia
- 1 Slovenia



Volunteers



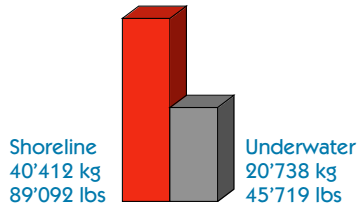
Shoreline
9'743

Underwater
3'023

Asia

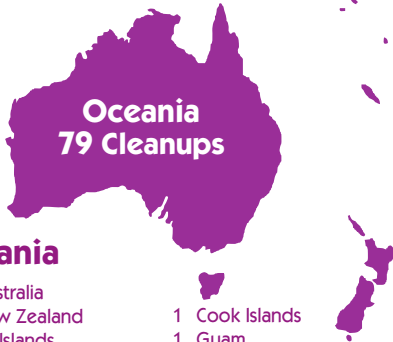
- 74 Japan
- 45 Philippines
- 27 Thailand
- 24 Malaysia
- 21 Indonesia
- 17 China
- 14 Maldives
- 8 India
- 6 Taiwan
- 5 Iran
- 2 Saudi Arabia
- 2 United Arab Emirates
- 2 Vietnam
- 1 Bahrain
- 1 Bangladesh
- 1 Cambodia
- 1 East Timor
- 1 Jordan
- 1 Sri Lanka

Weight Collected



Shoreline
40'412 kg
89'092 lbs

Underwater
20'738 kg
45'719 lbs

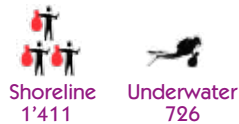


Oceania
79 Cleanups

Oceania

- 46 Australia
- 13 New Zealand
- 9 Fiji Islands
- 2 Papa New Guinea
- 2 Samoa
- 2 Vanuatu
- 1 Cook Islands
- 1 Guam
- 1 Marshall Islands
- 1 Palau
- 1 Tonga

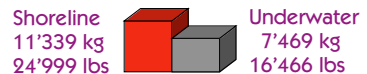
Volunteers



Shoreline
1'411

Underwater
726

Weight Collected



Shoreline
11'339 kg
24'999 lbs

Underwater
7'469 kg
16'466 lbs

Total Weight of Trash Collected



Equals the weight of:

222 Small cars

or

44 Orcas

or

2778 Humans



"The team spirit we all experienced when staff and guests of Meridis Dive & Relax joined forces to clean up the house reef Dhonakulhi was fantastic."

Kirsten Nolte, Cleanup Organizer, Maldives

Courtesy of Antonio Lacorte - Italy



Courtesy of Angelina Lehmann - Switzerland



Courtesy of Daniel Balmer - Portugal



Courtesy of Aegean Scuba - Greece



Some of the Peculiar Items Found

- 237 Shoes, Australia
- 40 Shopping trolleys, Australia
- Prayer rug, Egypt
- Bowling ball, UK
- 5 Washing drums, Germany
- First aid station tent, Switzerland
- New door still packed, Italy
- Stolen motorbike, New Zealand
- Gravestone, Switzerland
- Confidential military documents, UK
- Bar stool, UK
- 12 Garden gnomes, Germany
- Company signboard, Italy
- Television, USA

"It was great to experience the fantastic reaction from the general public."

Marc Sanderson, Cleanup Organizer, United Kingdom

Courtesy of Buceo Puerto Javea - Spain



Courtesy of Carlo Pagani - Italy



Courtesy of Plongée XL - Canada



Top Ten Trash Items Found: The Facts

140'814
Cigarette
Filters



TOXIC
CHEMICALS IN THE
4.5 TRILLION CIGARETTE
FILTERS LITTERED WORLDWIDE
EVERY YEAR THREATENS THE
WELLBEING OF MARINE
LIFE.

UP
TO **50 YEARS**
TO DEGRADE

91'596
Plastic
Bottles



78'854
Plastic
Bags



ONE
MILLION
PLASTIC BAGS ARE
USED EVERY MINUTE
OF THE DAY.

PLASTICS
DO NOT DEGRADE.
WHEN PLASTIC DEBRIS
MEETS WATER IT REMAINS
FOR CENTURIES, BREAKING
DOWN SLOWLY INTO SMALLER
FRAGMENTS AND FINALLY
INTO PLASTIC DUST.

67'527
Beverage
Cans



ALUMINUM
CANS TAKE UP
TO **100 YEARS** TO
DEGRADE AND **6-PACK**
HOLDER RINGS
450 YEARS.

55'334
Caps,
Lids



*"From cleanup day forward – I was hooked on how caring and inviting the diving community is."
Florentina Renshaw, Cleanup Organizer, Philippines*



52'070
Food
Wrappers



49'046
Glass
Bottles

**DECOM-
POSITION RATE:**
1 MILLION
YEARS

*"I incorporated cleanup as part of my Open Water class beach dives to instill conservation and awareness in the students."
William Wang, Cleanup Organizer, USA*

34'882
Cups, Plates,
Forks, Knives,
Spoons



22'942
Straws,
Stirrers



**AN
ESTIMATED
46,000 PIECES OF
PLASTIC LITTER ALONE
ARE FLOATING ON EVERY
SQUARE MILE OF OCEAN,
70 PERCENT OF WHICH
WILL EVENTUALLY
SINK.**

23'758
Paper
Bags



*"Our environmental team thoroughly enjoyed the day, most of them have never before been out on a boat enjoying the wonders of a coral reef, which is essentially the base of their livelihood."
Sebastian Krug, Cleanup Organizer, Egypt*

Marine Debris Kills...

Dead Animals Found Include:

Sea lion	Ecuador
Manta ray	Mexico
Pelican	Australia
Snail	Italy
2 Ducks	Germany
Green turtle	USA
Hare	Germany
Frogs	Portugal
Fish in plastic debris	Germany
Mouse	Austria
Moray eel	Thailand
Parrot fish	Cambodia
4 Baby Sharks	Spain
Hawksbill turtle	Vietnam
Scorpionfish	Portugal
Fairy Penguin	Australia
Hammerhead shark	Mexico
Carp	Germany
Balloon fish	Mexico
Penguin	Argentina
Puffer fish	Egypt
Jellyfish	Philippines
Lizards	Portugal
Stingray	Turkey



© Fiona Ayerst/Marine Photobank

AN
ESTIMATED
100,000 MARINE
 MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES
 CHOKE OR GET TANGLED IN
 DEBRIS EVERY YEAR. **AND**
86 PERCENT OF ALL SEA
 TURTLES ARE AFFECTED BY
 MARINE DEBRIS.



© Tom Campbell/Marine Photobank



© Dave Peake/Marine Photobank

MORE
THAN 1 MILLION
SEABIRDS ARE
KILLED BY LITTER
EACH YEAR.



© David Cayless/Marine Photobank

Released Animals Include:

Grouper	Brazil
Octopus	France
Black eyed goby	USA
Crab	China
Eel	Switzerland
Moray eel	Portugal
Raccoon butterfly fish	Thailand
Seahorse	Australia
Sea turtle	Kenya
Grouper	Greece
Starfish	Portugal
Horseshoe crab	USA
Lobster	Slovenia
Sea cucumber	Portugal
Stonefish	Maldives



NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF ALL MARINE DEBRIS IS PLASTIC. IN SOME PARTS OF THE OCEAN PLASTIC OUTWEIGHS PLANKTON 6:1.



ENTANGLEMENT AND INGESTION OF FISHING LINE, NETS, ROPE AND OTHER DEBRIS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN MORE THAN 260 ANIMAL SPECIES WORLDWIDE.

MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE DECOMPOSES IN 600 YEARS

"Volunteers saw firsthand the damage discarded fishing equipment can have on wildlife, when the remains of a stingray and a turtle were found entangled in fishing lines."

Michelle Riethmuller, Cleanup Organizer, Australia

CLEANUP EVENTS



Dolphin Diving Center, Greece

21 divers
and
volunteers
1800 kg



Subtropic Dive Center, USA

28 divers
and
volunteers
140 lbs

206 divers
and
volunteers
1500 kg



Mermaids Dive Center, Thailand

31 divers
and
volunteers
600 kg



Scuba Viva, Switzerland

"We were amazed at the amount of trash we collected and we all felt good for doing something to protect the marine environment."

Erika Vermill, Cleanup Organizer, USA

+100 divers
and
volunteers
734 kg



Sultan Bey Hotel, Egypt

60 divers
and
volunteers
300 kg



Nemo Divers, Slovenia



Ia Laguna Beach Club & Dive Centre, Philippines

74 children
150 kg



25 divers and volunteers
1300 kg

Eco Scuba, South Korea

IN 2009,
10'447 DIVERS
REMOVED **94'822** KG /
209'047 LBS OF DEBRIS FROM
UNDERWATER ENVIRONMENTS,
AN AVERAGE OF **9** KG /
20 LBS PER DIVER.



Kalkan Dive Center, Turkey

41 divers and volunteers
1540 kg

19 divers
143 kg



Exploramar Diving, Ecuador

"We joined forces with local fishers and the team of the boat rental station to clean up."
Harald Teitschik, Cleanup Organizer, Austria

10 volunteers
150 lbs



Aqua Visions Scuba, USA

29 divers and volunteers
155 kg



Easy Divers, Cyprus



Tips to Keep Waters Debris Free

- Remove debris on every recreational dive or shoreline visit.
- The number one item found in cleanups is cigarette filters. Always dispose of them properly and never overboard.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Avoid buying plastic products.
- Be aware of everything you buy and avoid excessive packaging.
- Demand improved and increased number of recycling facilities for your area.



Courtesy of Gone Diving - USA



© Mike Markovina/Marine Photobank



Courtesy of Irvin Pezzolati - Italy



"The cleanup art contest made our cleanup very special this year."

Luca Arrigo, Cleanup Organizer, Italy

- Properly dispose of all pieces of fishing line, net or other associated litter.
- Keep plastics and rubbish off the ground and the oceans.
- Keep storm drains and shorelines free of rubbish.
- Get involved in Project AWARE shoreline and underwater cleanups year-round or International Cleanup Day in September.

**MARINE
DEBRIS IN
THE WORLD'S
OCEANS CAUSES HARM
TO UNDERWATER
ENVIRONMENTS AND
WILDLIFE.**

"It is truly indescribable to see a beach changing from looking like a rubbish dump to a pristine place."

Daniel Pikarski, Cleanup Organizer, Egypt

Courtesy of Maui Dreams - USA



Courtesy of Aegean Scuba - Greece



Special Thanks

Project AWARE Foundation wishes to thank all those who generously contributed to International Cleanup Day 2009. We truly appreciate your efforts to support this important cause.

Special thanks to:

- Our corporate sponsors for their ongoing commitment to the environment.
- The private foundations for their generous grants.
- All the companies and small businesses for donating cash and in kind gifts to local coordinators.
- Dive Centres and coordinators who organized fundraising activities on the day.
- Each and every individual who made a donation to support lasting solutions to marine debris prevention.

Finally, thanks to the thousands of volunteers, dive professionals and water enthusiasts who have shown dedication to improving their local aquatic environment. The successes outlined in this report are a result of your efforts.

Collectively, we're building a sustainable future for our oceans and waterways and supporting the prevention of marine debris in the future. Let's keep up the momentum in 2010 and beyond.

Key supporters of Project AWARE's International Cleanup Day:



The McBeth Foundation

To make a donation supporting underwater conservation, to fundraise or become a corporate sponsor visit www.projectaware.org.

Courtesy of La Laguna Dive Centre - Philippines



Courtesy of Marjolein Hogendoorn - Croatia



Courtesy of ISA & Jads - Aruba



Courtesy of Francisco Javier Sanchez Acebes - Spain



Courtesy of Balkysub - Spain



"We do this with kids and adults offering a potluck with small prizes for most collected and unique item found."

*Laurie Hannula,
Cleanup Organizer, USA*

Courtesy of Sun International Diving School - Maldives



Courtesy of Antonio Lacorte - Italy



Courtesy of Exploramr Diving - Ecuador



Courtesy of Easy Diver - Cyprus



Courtesy of Roland Ranzi - Italy



"Even a small change in thinking by the next generation, can make a huge, long term difference and disseminating this information to the kids is of vital importance and is, as we say, 'Sanuk Maak' (very fun!)."

Saffron Kiddy, Cleanup Organizer, Thailand

For more information and to make donations, visit us at www.projectaware.org or contact a Project AWARE office nearest you:

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www.projectaware.org



Courtesy of Claudia Kuser - Switzerland