WEST COAST MARINE DEBRIS ALLIANCE

Washington  Oregon  California

The West Coast Marine Debris Alliance is leading an effective and collaborative West Coast effort to eliminate marine debris and its impacts.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Provide a forum for communication and sharing of information, resources, and tools.
- Elevate the issue of marine debris throughout the region in ways that drive action.
- Develop and support projects that advance recommended actions of the West Coast Marine Debris Strategy and address emergent marine debris issues.
- Monitor and assess progress on curtailing marine debris on the West Coast.
- Secure funding for Alliance supported projects.
- Identify and work towards policy changes necessary to achieve goals.

FOUNDING MEMBERS:

- California Coastal Commission
- Heal the Bay
- NOAA Marine Debris Program
- Northwest Straits Commission
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Fishermen’s Cable Committee
- Oregon Sea Grant
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Port of Seattle
- SeaDoc Society
- Stillaguamish Tribe
- Surfrider Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
MARINE DEBRIS

Marine debris is any man-made material in the ocean or on beaches that should not be there.

Marine debris comes from many sources:
- Litter that washes out into the ocean from population centers along rivers, streams and bays
- Debris from vessels on the ocean
- Catastrophic events such as floods and tsunamis
- Items left on the beach

Plastic is the most common type of marine debris and it never “goes away” – it just degrades into smaller and smaller pieces.

Marine debris negatively impacts the natural environment, human health and our economy.

Animals mistake marine debris for food often leading to starvation.
Rope floating in the ocean became entangled in this boat rudder.
Debris from the 2011 Japan Tsunami transported non-native species.

We can all work together to put an end to marine debris by:
- Reducing trash production
- Using reusable items
- Picking up litter and marine debris whenever we see it
- Spreading the word about this important issue
ALLIANCE VISION

Zero debris entering the marine environment from land and minimal impact from ocean-based debris on the West Coast of the US.

CURRENT ALLIANCE PROJECTS

Derelict Fishing Gear

Objective: Research and report on best practices of derelict fishing gear removal methods and safety protocols.

Anticipated Results: Using best practices will lead to increased effectiveness of derelict fishing gear removal, ultimately removing more debris from the ocean leading to reduced impacts.

Marine Debris Source Reduction Policy

Objective: Promote adoption of effective marine debris source reduction policies and regulations in West Coast communities.

Anticipated Results: A database of existing source reduction policies/laws, their relative effectiveness and lessons learned by communities with policies.

Marine Debris Data

Objective: Effectively monitor marine debris using consistent language and data collection standards in West Coast communities.

Anticipated results: Consistent marine debris data collection language standards will allow for marine debris data to be analyzed on a regional scale, providing a better understanding on the progress of and identifying gaps in marine debris efforts.
JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Membership is open to any entity or individual interested in participating. The aim is to have a diverse membership including representatives across all sectors from NGOs to government to business and beyond.

Being a member means participating according to your capacity and interests. There are multiple levels of membership. Steering Committee members provide oversight and leadership. Working Group members develop and carry out projects. General members share information and support projects.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- A forum for communication and collaboration on a regional level.
- Combined capacity to make a bigger impact on marine debris.
- Share lessons learned with others working on marine debris issues.
- Assistance in securing funding for collaborative projects.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?
Contact us at debris@westcoastoceans.org

WEST COAST GOVERNORS ALLIANCE on OCEAN HEALTH
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