

G7 Workshop on Marine Litter

Session 2: Global, regional and national best practices and strategies on Marine Litter to implement the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter

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Prevention Initiatives

- The U.S. highlights prevention and reduction initiatives as critical to reducing the flow of plastics and trash to the marine environment.
- The Microbead Free-Waters Act of 2015 – phases out microbeads in rinse off cosmetics by 2017.
- Single-use plastics: bag bans, bag fees, bottle bills are regulated at the local level and encourage people to reduce, reuse, and recycle single-use plastic items when appropriate.
- For example, a plastic bag fee implemented in the District of Columbia has resulted in a 65% reduction in bag use.
- Puerto Rico has recently passed an island-wide ban on plastic bags as part of EPA's Regional Trash Free Waters efforts



Prevention Initiatives continued



EPA's Trash Free Waters Program

A holistic, strategic national approach

A land-based trash prevention and reduction focus

Trash Free Waters Goal Statement:

Significantly reduce the amount of trash entering U.S. water bodies and the ocean through actions taken by government (at all levels), the business community, and individual citizens, approaching zero loadings of trash entering aquatic ecosystems within 10 years (by 2023).

EPA's Trash Free Waters Program: Four Focus Areas



(1) Regional Strategies

Build State and Municipal Trash Prevention Programs

- EPA is a catalyst and facilitator for strategic planning within the United States regions and States
- Create tools & resources to support state/local programs that focus on prevention and reduction of trash from entering waterways

(2) Research

- Assess ecological and human health effects from plastics (macro and micro) in the marine food chain.
- Efforts to standardize monitoring methodologies on microplastics:
 - Webinars to help standardize methodologies
 - Capacity-building trainings for citizen scientists on monitoring methodologies



EPA Trash Free Waters Program: Four Focus Areas (continued)

(3) International

- Engage in multi-national & bilateral initiatives, e.g. the Land-Based Sources Protocol to the Cartagena Convention
- Capacity building workshops on Trash Free Waters stakeholder process and identification of pilot projects
- Implementation of pilot projects and development of toolkit

(4) Public/Private Partnerships

- Collaboration to Address Key Leverage Points for Source Reduction



Scenes from 2016's Our Ocean Conference, held in Washington, DC.

Removal

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Fishing for Energy partnership

- Partnership with Covanta Energy, Schnitzer Steel, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- **44 participating ports** in 9 states
- Over **3 million pounds** of fishing gear collected

Community-based marine debris removal grants

- Grants support removal projects nationwide
- Recipients include NGOs and local governments
- Funded more than **100 projects** since 2006

Photo: NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Program



Prevention

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Action Plans

- 2016-2020 Strategic Plan
- **5 completed** regional plans

Prevention grants

- Projects focus on outreach, education, and behavior change
- Funded more than **30 projects** since 2013

Outreach and Education partnerships

- Partnerships with zoos, museums, and aquaria
- **4 completed exhibits**
- Curriculum and teacher workshops

Photo: Hawaii Wildlife Fund

