Trash on the beach is more than just ugly and unsanitary; it is a threat to the health of our oceans. Marine animals consume bits of plastic, leading to injury and death. Plastic bags and discarded fishing line can fatally entangle wildlife. And plastics are accumulating in the ocean at an alarming rate.

But thanks to volunteers around the world, the International Coastal Cleanup has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean. Save The Bay is proud to coordinate Rhode Island’s part in the International Coastal Cleanup. Our Ocean State volunteers join with others all over the world to say that the solution to trash and plastics in our waters begins with us. From simply being responsible with our trash, to participating in and leading cleanups, to calling our legislators in support of policy action on marine debris, we can all make a difference.

This report highlights the results of Rhode Island’s 2018 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

The 2019 International Coastal Cleanup is on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Sign up at SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even miles from the water, litter finds a way to our Bay.

You’d be surprised how trash makes its way to our oceans. Sure, plenty of it is left there carelessly by people on the shore. But beach trash also originates in our inland cities and towns, where litter left on the ground is carried to our waterways.
Cigarette filters are NOT biodegradable. Use a container for your butts so they don’t reach waterways and the ocean.

CONTAIN YOUR BUTTS.

Trash tossed out on streets and sidewalks, even far from the shore, ends up in storm drains and washes into the Bay. Use trash cans.

TOSS IT IN.

Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

CARRY IT OUT.

“ICC cleanups are vital to Save The Bay’s mission. Recording the type and amount of debris at International Coastal Cleanup sites is changing policy locally and worldwide.”
— Stan Dimock, Beach Captain, Colt State Park

All data represents early results. Numbers may increase when the final international report is published in the spring. For more International Coastal Cleanup data and reports from around the world, visit COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG
When you go to the beach, take a trash bag with you and pick up surrounding trash you see. People are less likely to litter on a clean beach.

**SET AN EXAMPLE.**

If you see friends and family members littering, let them know it is NOT OK to trash our Bay.

**SHOUT IT OUT.**

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that contaminate our waters and seafood and make humans sick.

**PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

Plastics never go away; they just break down into tinier and tinier pieces that end up being ingested by marine life, and, in turn, by us humans. These “microplastics” are found in plankton, artic sea ice, and the gills and digestive tracts of the seafood we humans eat. How much plastic do YOU want to eat?
Cigarette Butts 36,147 23.16%
Plastic Pieces 23,296 14.92%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.) 10,841 6.94%
Glass Pieces 10,671 6.84%
Bottle Caps (plastic) 9,550 6.12%
Foam Pieces 9,314 5.97%
Beverage Bottles (plastic) 6,935 4.44%
Straws, Stirrers 4,966 3.18%
Bottle Caps (metal) 4,606 2.95%
Beverage Cans 4,071 2.61%
Other Plastic Bags 3,714 2.38%
Beverage Bottles (glass) 3,701 2.37%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging 3,377 2.16%
Lids (plastic) 2,015 1.29%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece) 1,928 1.24%
Grocery Bags (plastic) 1,862 1.19%
Cups, Plates (plastic) 1,749 1.12%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece) 1,738 1.11%
Cups, Plates (foam) 1,317 0.84%
Construction Materials 1,278 0.82%
Strapping Bands 1,207 0.77%
Paper Bags 1,167 0.75%
Take Out/Away Containers (plastic) 1,153 0.74%
Forks, Knives, Spoons 1,113 0.71%
Tobacco Packaging/Wrap 1,098 0.70%
Cups, Plates (paper) 1,085 0.70%
Cigar Tips 862 0.55%
Fishing Net & Pieces 752 0.48%
Take Out/Away Containers (foam) 741 0.47%
Balloons 737 0.47%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.) 410 0.26%
Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps 405 0.26%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators 361 0.23%
Cigarette Lighters 320 0.20%
Fireworks 316 0.20%
Other Trash (Clean Swell) 267 0.17%
6-Pack Holders 255 0.16%
Condoms 214 0.14%
Syringes 163 0.10%
Diapers 134 0.09%
Tires 92 0.06%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.) 56 0.04%
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell) 42 0.03%
Toys 40 0.03%
Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell) 31 0.02%
Other Packaging (Clean Swell) 5 0.00%

Total Pieces of Trash 156,102

“I have been doing the cleanup since it started. The beach is much cleaner than it was on my first cleanup in the last century!”
~ Bill Aldrich, Beach Captain, Passeonquis Cove
The success of Rhode Island’s beach cleanup efforts depends on their generosity of time and love for our environment. Thank you to all our volunteers and to our Volunteer Beach Captains who lead dozens of other volunteers at each cleanup location!

“I was stunned by the compounded effect of our single-use lifestyles after collecting a dizzying amount of trash. Events such as ICC show how our everyday choices can make an impact in a positive or negative way. Leading ICC cleanups made me face my own consumption, and, consequently, contribution to the international litter problem plaguing us today.” ~ Deborah Woolley, Beach Captain, Moonstone Beach, Salter Grove, Tongue Pond and others

“We had thirty volunteers who were appalled by how much trash would have gone into the river. I feel like each science department in every single school should talk to kids about how watersheds work, why and how it is that tiny cigarette butt, that tiny candy wrapper, gets into our public waters.” ~ Amanda O’Bannon, Beach Captain, Woonasquatucket River

GET INVOLVED.

Be a Beach Captain: Shoreline cleanups are a popular activity, and what we need most are leaders! Learn how to organize a cleanup in your community at our trainings at the Bay Center in Providence. Visit SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER or email volunteer@savebay.org for the dates and times of upcoming beach captain trainings.

Volunteer for a Cleanup: Save The Bay holds beach cleanups from April through November. Bring your family, a group of friends, or even just yourself.

Use the CleanSwell App: Lead your own small cleanup on your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Download the CleanSwell app, take a bag with you to the beach, record the litter you pick up in the app, and take the trash home with you when you leave. The app tracks your efforts, and you can even share your results on social media with a selfie. Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy’s global ocean trash database! OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL
Thank you for your support of Narragansett Bay. Please pass this report on to a friend who may want to know more about how they can help us protect and restore our Bay.

Find out more about Save The Bay at SAVEBAY.ORG

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Through the ICC, our colleagues joined forces to make a big impact by collecting hundreds of pounds of trash, including the number one collected item—cigarette butts. This partnership advances our purpose of helping people on their path to better health and supports our commitment to help people lead tobacco-free lives.”
~ Eileen Howard Boone,
Senior Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility & Philanthropy, CVS Health

“Bradford Soap supports Save The Bay and the International Coastal Cleanup because we take pride in this beautiful state that has been our home for 142 years. Bradford is doing our part to reduce packaging by creating condensed personal care products that contain little or no water, but we also know the importance of cleaning up garbage that is already polluting our beaches and bays.”
~ Deborah McDonough,
VP of Marketing, Bradford Soap Works

“Our coastline is one of our state’s great treasures and is critically important to the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Citizens is proud of our colleagues’ continued support of the International Coastal Cleanup to ensure that our coastline is healthy for generations to come.”
~ Barbara Cottam, Rhode Island Market Executive, Citizens Bank

Thank you for your support of Narragansett Bay. Please pass this report on to a friend who may want to know more about how they can help us protect and restore our Bay. Find out more about Save The Bay at SAVEBAY.ORG

DESIGN: DonnaDeForbesCreates.com