

Trash Free Waters...

Reducing and Eliminating Aquatic Trash from Our Nation's
Waterways

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Trash Free Waters Program

A strategic approach to reduce trash and debris in aquatic ecosystems

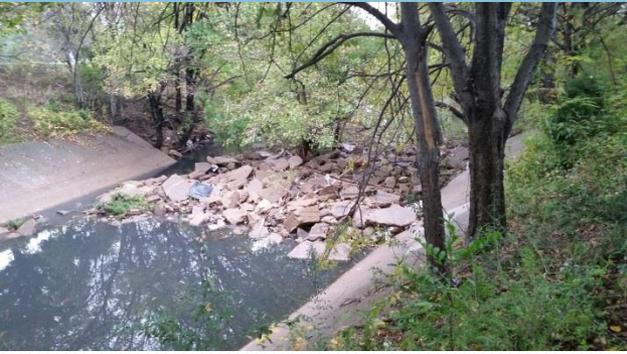


EPA Goal Statement: Develop a program with a focused set of actions that support trash prevention and reduction initiatives by many public and private stakeholders, resulting in significantly less trash entering watersheds and the marine environment, approaching zero loadings of trash into coastal watersheds and ecosystems within 10 years.

Aquatic Trash Impacts

- Trash is a pervasive problem for oceans and coasts, economic, aesthetic, and ecological impacts.
- No aggregate trash loading number exists (yet), but 2011 international coastal clean-up events collected over 9 million pounds of trash in a single day.
- **Approximately 80% of aquatic trash comes from land-based sources. Trash on land has numerous pathways to aquatic ecosystems.**
- Over 51 billion pieces of litter end up on US roads each year.
- Litter cleanup costs the U.S. almost \$11.5 billion each year.
- **Plastic is estimated to make up 60-80% of marine debris. Highly durable plastic containers and packaging are used for many short-term purposes.**
- Plastic debris appears to be a vector for transfer of PBTs from the water to the food web, increasing risk to all animals in the marine food web, including humans.
- Public can easily relate to reduction of aquatic trash goal and support. Gives EPA visibility in a positive way for an issue that the public cares about.





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The Regional Goals for the Gulf of Mexico

1. Develop policies and programs to achieve reductions of aquatic trash within Gulf eco-regions as they relate to specific waste streams of concern.
2. Support local initiatives to collect trash data within specific watersheds and use that data as a basis for analyzing the efficacy of tailored technologies, policies and programs to reduce and prevent aquatic trash.
3. Forge public-private partnerships that support sustainable materials management and activities that promote source reduction and the prevention of aquatic trash from entering our waterways.
4. Collaborate with federal and Gulf state partners, as well as quasi-governmental entities (e.g., Ports), to innovate and extend effective aquatic trash management practices to broader geographic areas.
5. Engage, inform, and educate stakeholders in a manner appropriate for the Gulf region cultures so as to inspire the proliferation of successful practices and the development of new technologies for controlling aquatic trash.

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The Seven Kick-Off Projects



- **Project #1: Atlas of Gulf States Litter Control Policy and Programs**
- **Project #2: State Agency Policy and Guidance on Employee Use of Plastic Bottles**
- **Project #3: We Love Florida's Water: NestleWaters Tampa Project**
- **Project #4: Mobile Bay Trash Boat Competition**
- **Project #5: Ordinances Across Louisiana**
- **Project #6: Port of New Orleans**
- **Project #7: Adopt a Spot – Trinity Watershed**
- **Project #8?: Galveston...**



Adopt-A-Spot –Trinity Watershed

Five Elements:

- **Task 1: Inventory Adopt-a-Spot Programs**
- **Task 2: Map current inventory as well as those already adopted**
- **Task 3: Overlay hotspots for aquatic trash**
- **Task 4: Work with Don't Mess with Texas, KTB and Take Care of Texas to broadcast opportunities to match adopters with the most important "corridors."**
- **Task 5: Evaluate programs and standards for care**

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