



Items discarded or lost overboard threaten your fishing livelihood:

- Curtailment of fishing and your income due to species endangerment
- Diminished markets and sales due to negative consumer perceptions
- Reduction in the safety of your family, friends & customers
- Expensive repairs and lost fishing time
- Fines and legal hassles
- Ugly, degraded ocean environment on which to work



Help eliminate marine debris:

- Secure everything onboard
- Never discard anything overboard; take all trash to shore and dispose of properly
- Create less trash: reduce, reuse, recycle
- Participate in beach clean-up
- Report littered beached and floating debris

Stow It Don't Throw It

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Marine Conservation Alliance
Foundation

Written by:

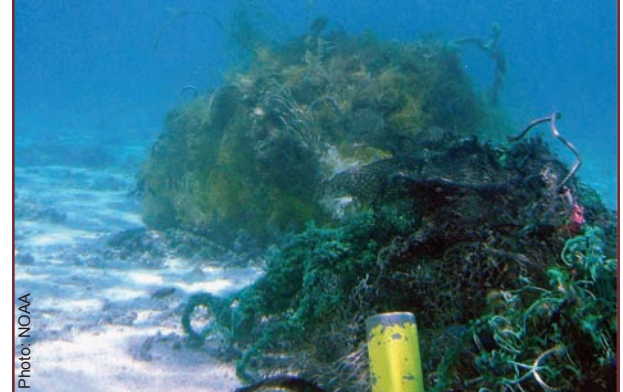
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It's Trashing Your Livelihood

Marine Debris & Commercial Fishing



Prevent curtailment of fishing and your income due to species endangerment

Entrapping depleted species can close fisheries.

267 marine species harmed worldwide by plastics; more than a million seabirds die every year from plastic entanglement or ingestion.

Discarded gear fishes in perpetuity, catching more than fish! For example, entanglement in fishing gear is the biggest threat to whales, dolphins and porpoises, killing more than 300,000 per year worldwide.



Photo: Ocean Conservancy

Stop expensive repairs and lost fishing time



Photo: NZ Grand Pacific Proline Divers

Debris can clog cooling system intakes and cause breakdowns. Debris can foul propellers or gear.

In a survey of fisherman in Oregon, 58% had experienced vessel problems due to plastic marine debris.

The Japanese fishing industry spent \$4.1 billion US on boat repairs in just one year (1992) due to marine debris.

Safeguard against diminished markets and sales due to negative consumer perceptions



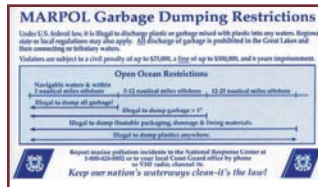
A poisoned resource can kill your market. 60-90% of all ocean debris is plastic. Sunlight, wind and wave action break down plastic to microscopic size. Small marine organisms ingest it; larger prey eats the small creatures.

Plastics contain toxic chemicals including biocides, fire retardants, colorings

and plasticizers. Plastics tend to attract hydrophobic toxins from other sources including PCBs and pesticides. Fish accumulate toxins from smaller feed fish, and these toxins show up in consumer tests. Long-lived, predator fish such as halibut, rockfish and cod accumulate the most toxins.



Avoid fines and legal hassles



Illegal discards at sea can result in fines up to \$50,000 and up to 6 years in jail; civil penalties up to \$25,000 can

accrue for each day of violation.

Moreover, it is costly to you as a US tax payer. The Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act authorizes up to \$120 million through FY 2010 for marine debris cleanup.

Protect the safety of your family, friends, crew & customers



Plastic and toxins end up in the fish to take home to your family. Fishermen eat more fish than the general population. It gets

in YOUR food chain. Mercury, for example, has proven, negative health effects on pregnant women and young children.

If discarded line or nets foul a prop, or plastic is sucked into an intake at an inopportune time, you can find yourself in danger in a hurry.

Protect against an ugly, degraded ocean environment on which to work

Appearance of debris has economic consequences when the public perception is that your fishing is negatively impacting the environment.



Photo: Colin Lowe



Photo: Louisiana Sea Grant

Marine debris is ugly!