

Alabama's Coastal Cleanup

Get the Trash out of the Splash!

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, thousands of volunteers will head to the beaches, lakes, and streams of Alabama to remove trash and debris from land and water. Volunteers of all ages will form the largest one-day volunteer event in the state on behalf of clean oceans and waterways — Alabama's Coastal Cleanup.

During last year's cleanup, 2,293 dedicated volunteers removed 23,678 pounds of debris from the coastal areas. We are proud of our 2022 volunteers and look forward to a successful cleanup in 2023!

Pollution prevention is the key

Alabama's Coastal Cleanup isn't just about pollution cleanup — it's also about pollution prevention. The event focuses on educating and empowering people to become a part of the marine debris solution.

What makes the Alabama Coastal Cleanup unique is its data collection component. Volunteers record specific types of marine debris being found, allowing Ocean Conservancy, sponsor of the International Coastal Cleanup, to compile, analyze, and track this data year-by-year and make discoveries about the behaviors that cause the debris. The Ocean Conservancy's trash collection mobile app, *Clean Swell App*®, is used by many volunteers to easily record each item of trash collected.

The final information is used to educate the public, business, industry, and government officials about the problem. We believe understanding the problem is the key to finding long-lasting solutions.

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is coordinated by



Over the past 35 years...

--108,078 volunteers have participated in the Alabama Coastal Cleanup.

--6,688 miles of coastline have been cleaned.

--1,757,902 pounds of debris have been removed.



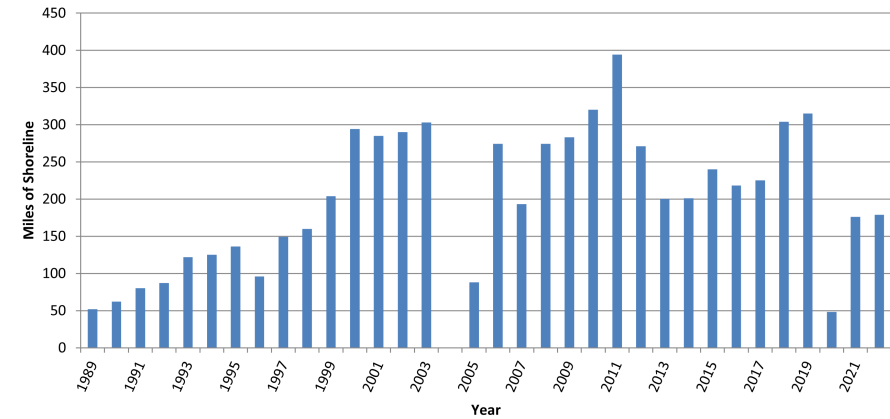
Marine debris is dangerous

Marine debris negatively impacts coastal and marine animals. Animals may become entangled in or could ingest derelict fishing gear, trash, or other discarded debris. For example, a plastic sandwich bag floating in the ocean can easily be mistaken for a jellyfish, a favorite food of sea turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico. If ingested, the results could be fatal. Reducing marine debris will help protect all marine-life.

Ten things you can do to help prevent marine debris

1. Join Alabama's 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup on September 17th, 2022.
2. Clean up your trash, even when not near the water. A vast majority of trash in our waterways comes from land-based activities. Even trash discarded miles inland can make it to the ocean, carried by the rain and the winds.
3. Retrieve your monofilament fishing line. Don't leave fishing line in the water, and remove others' when you find it; be careful not to tug on snagged lines that could be caught on important habitat below the surface. ALWAYS be aware of hooks that may be left on the line.
4. Contain and properly clean spills when boating. Use oil-absorbent rags or even diapers to clean spills. Ocean Conservancy's Good Mate program can provide you with plenty of tips for reducing your impact when on the water.
5. Recycle used motor oil and oil filters. Your local gas station should have facilities for recycling these materials. Never pour oil, paint, antifreeze, or other household chemicals into an open sewer.
6. Better yet, find alternatives to household chemicals. Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that can wash into open waters. Use lemon juice, vinegar, and baking soda for household cleaning.
7. Become a storm drain sentry. Stencil your local drains to remind people of where the things they dump there end up...and of the potential consequences.
8. Use reusable cloth bags for groceries. Take them with you when you shop to reduce the number of plastic bags you use. Plastic bags can be harmful to marine wildlife when mistaken for food.
9. Properly dispose of used batteries and electronics. Use your local recycling center. Electronics leach harmful chemicals into the environment. Once there, these toxic pollutants can affect the environment for decades.
10. Contact your elected representatives. Let them know you care about the effects of marine debris and that you are watching what they do to stop it. Then, vote for candidates who are in support of marine debris prevention and are good stewards of the waterways.

Miles of Shoreline Cleaned per Year



Pounds of Debris per Year



Volunteers per Year

