

Marine Plastic Debris in Bermuda

Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce

Anne Hyde

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Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce

Representatives and Partner Organizations

Anne Hyde	Keep Bermuda Beautiful
Dr. Robbie Smith	Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo
Dr. Dörte Horsfield	Bermuda National Trust
Kyla Smith	Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences
Jennifer Gray	Bermuda Turtle Project
Vanese Gordon	Dept. of Works & Engineering, WM Section
Amy Harvey	Bermuda College
Jonathan Starling	Greenrock
J.P. Skinner	Waterstart Program
Mel Ferson	Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute
Weldon Wade	Guardians of the Reef dive group
Jennifer Flood	Bda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce
Judie Clee	Citizen scientist, beach plastic collector

BMDT was founded in 2010 following a visit from the 5 Gyres team

Large volumes of marine plastic debris from the North Atlantic gyre litter our beaches and coasts.



BMDT's Goals

To promote awareness

of the impact of marine debris on Bermuda, oceans, coastlines and marine life.

To assess the quantity

of marine debris stranding on Bermuda's coasts and beaches.

To develop advocacy initiatives

to reduce Bermuda's contributions to the marine debris problem.



Promoting awareness through:

- School presentations
- Trash Art Shows
- World Ocean's Day events
- Summer camp events
- Recognizing the work of our global colleagues



Over the years, Bermuda has participated in:

- **Assessing the quantity**...22 years of plankton tow data collected for SEA's plastic density study (Lavender Law et al.)
- 30 years of marine debris data collected during annual International Coastal Cleanup for Ocean Conservancy

- Visits from:

5 Gyres Institute 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015

Race for Water 2015, 2017

Plastic Change 2015

Plastic Tides 2015, 2016, 2017

11th Hour Racing/

Land Rover BAR 2017

Parlay for the Oceans 2017

Seakeepers Society 2017

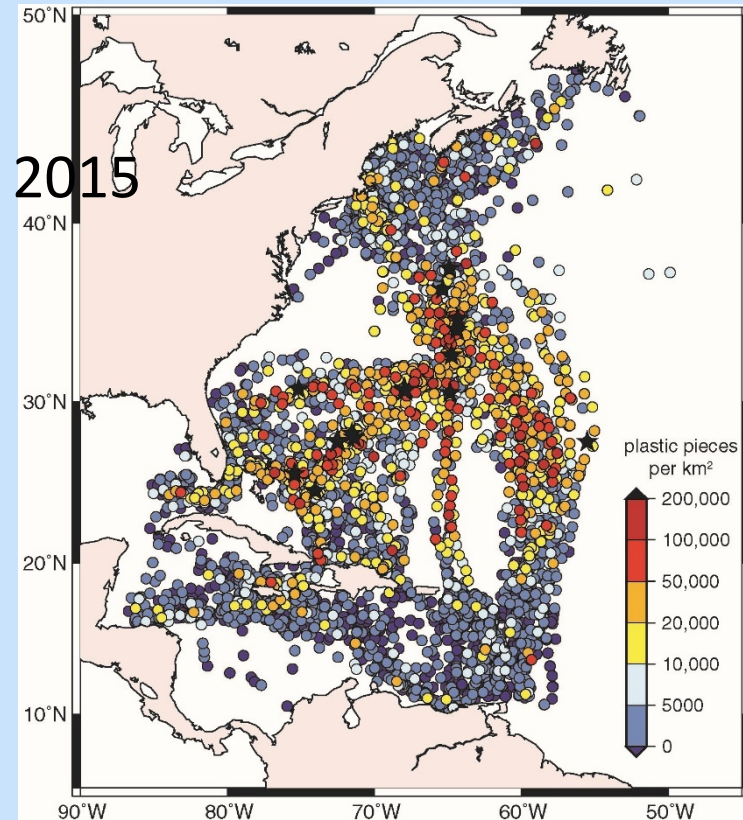


Fig. 1. Distribution of plastic marine debris collected in 6136 surface plankton net tows on annually repeated cruise tracks from 1986 to 2008 in the western North Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Symbols indicate the location of each net tow; color indicates the measured plastic concentration in pieces km⁻². Black stars indicate tows with measured concentration greater than 200,000 pieces km⁻². Symbols are layered from low to high concentration.

Developing advocacy initiatives

Greening public events

Promoting positive behaviours

Setting goals for sustainable action



Glastonbury Festival (UK)

SUSTAINABLE EVENT GUIDELINES FOR BOATERS

HELP ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

MARINERS ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO MONITOR MARINE VHF CHANNEL 16 WHEN ON THE WATER.



PROTECT HABITATS

Minimise and avoid damage to our environment.

Use appropriate anchors and do not anchor on reefs or seagrass beds.

Practice environmentally friendly cleaning, preferably non-phosphate.

Consider having a bilge sponge and fueling spill pad on board for accidents. Do NOT apply detergents to visible oil slicks or sheens.

Report any animal incidents (e.g. injured/sick turtle): to Bermuda Radio (VHF CH16 / Tel: 441-297-1010).

For more information on environmental obligations, visit: WWW.GOV.BM/ENVIRONMENTAL-OBLIGATIONS-FOR-VESSELS-VISITING-BERMUDA



REDUCE WASTE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Whatever you take out, bring it back.

Be plastic free: do not bring balloons, straws, Styrofoam; minimise single-use plastic bottles, single-use plastic bags. Use re-usable dishes and utensils.

Sort waste - Bring blue bags for glass and cans and separate from regular trash.

Dispose of trash on land in proper bins.

Pick up waste - if you see trash and debris floating in the water, pick it up and dispose of it.

Manage sewage – do not discharge within 500m of shore, in the sounds or in the harbours.



ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Practice safety on the water. Watch your wake. Ensure you have safety equipment. Don't drink and drive. Observe the 5 knot no wake limits.

Look to prevent accidents before they happen.

Healthy bites – ensure you and your guests are hydrated and eat well.

Be sun smart – use sunscreen and sun-protective shirts, hats, and glasses.

For more information on water safety visit the Bermuda Water Safety Council at: WWW.WSC.BM



REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Do not idle your engine for long periods of time when tied up alongside or at anchor.

Travel at a steady speed – high speeds use a disproportionate amount of fuel.

Shut off your engine when it is not in use.

For more information on Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre (RCC Bermuda / Bermuda Radio) visit WWW.MAROPS.BM