



INTERNATIONAL
MARINE DEBRIS CONFERENCE

Fifth International Marine Debris Conference

Waves of Change: Global lessons to inspire local action

About the Conference

The Fifth International Marine Debris Conference will take place March 20-25, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme are co-organizers of the conference, which will bring together international marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers, industry representatives, and the nongovernmental community. This conference will highlight research advances, allow sharing of strategies and best practices to assess, reduce, and prevent the impacts of marine debris, and provide an opportunity for the development of specific bilateral or multi-country strategies.



People and entities around the world have gotten involved to help address marine debris. Here a volunteer in Thailand displays some marine debris. *Photo courtesy of Ocean Conservancy.*

Background

Cooperation and coordination among many countries was fostered through four international marine debris conferences held between 1984 and 2000 as well as through smaller international agreements, meetings, and workshops. Each conference developed a suite of recommendations on how to move forward. Some recommendations were implemented, and many others showed up repeatedly at multiple conferences and meetings over the course of the past 25 years. This conference will allow the sharing of information on the implementation, progress, and obstacles to these recommendations and reviewing their effectiveness.



Marine debris comes in many forms, like these derelict fishing nets on a shoreline in Japan. *Photo courtesy of NOWPAP.*

5th International Marine Debris Conference
www.5IMDC.org



Conference Outcomes

This conference will...

- Heighten global understanding and appreciation of the threats posed by marine debris, the cost to coastal communities and marine biodiversity, and the sources of marine debris.
- Highlight recent advances in marine debris research.
- Encourage sharing of strategies and best practices to assess, reduce, and prevent the impacts of marine debris.
- Provide an opportunity for the development of collaborative solutions to real problems, including specific bilateral or multi-country strategies.
- Emphasize the importance of individual behavioural change in preventing marine debris.
- Better integration of marine debris management strategies with product design, waste prevention, solid waste management, and maritime waste management strategies around the world.

Conference Outputs

- **“The Honolulu Commitment”** – a multi-stakeholder pledge to address marine debris (this will be a non-negotiated statement prepared by a representative drafting committee reflecting key principles, messages and commitments stemming from the conference).
- **Action Plans** – including, but not limited to, The Honolulu Strategy: A global strategy for the prevention, reduction and management of marine debris.



Small debris items (e.g., degraded pieces of plastic) litter a beach in Greece. *Photo courtesy of HELMEPA.*

- **New Partnerships and Alliances** – multi-stakeholder partnerships, large and small, will be announced or initiated at the conference. These will be focused on global awareness raising, stakeholder involvement, research and development, policy development and enforcement, waste prevention and management, debris removal and cleanup initiatives, etc.
- **Key Messages** – identified and used to raise high-level attention to marine debris.
- **VIP Media Events** – during and subsequent to the conference reflecting conference findings.
- **A Co-Chair’s Summary of the Conference; Conference Proceedings.**
- **Communications Tools** – includes a web page and other multimedia products showcasing conference messages, key findings, success stories, best-practice models, and emerging issues, along with presentations, art displays, field trips, and workshops.

For more information

visit www.5IMDC.org

or contact

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