



MARINE DEBRIS ON SANCTUARY SHORELINES

An assessment of activities contributing to marine debris, categories and composition, spatial distribution, and predictor variables.

All marine debris comes from people and can threaten wildlife. It can enter waterways and the ocean from land through littering, poor waste management practices, storm water discharge, and extreme natural events.

DATA ANALYZED

5
CITIZEN SCIENCE
data sets

4,725
SURVEY POINTS

7
HUMAN ACTIVITIES
41
debris categories

SURVEY SPAN

276

shoreline miles
divided into

9

mile segments

5

year period from
2017-2021

COLLECTED BY

37,000

volunteers

RESULTS

3 activities contributed to 95% of marine debris

VARIOUS*
42.5%

27.9%
EATING and DRINKING

SMOKING
24.5%

* Items not attributed to a specific human activity because they were small unidentified plastic, glass, or metal fragments or could have originated from multiple activities.

PLASTIC FRAGMENTS, CIGARETTE BUTTS, and WRAPPERS contributed to **59%** of marine debris categories by count.

Debris composition:

72.7% plastic
7.8% paper
5% glass
4.5% metal
0.5% cloth
9.6% mixed materials

How YOU can help!

Dispose of trash properly

Get Involved in beach clean ups

Reduce, Refuse, Reuse, Replace, and Recycle

