NOAA Marine Debris Program

Established in **2006** by Congress as the federal lead for marine debris

**Mission:** to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris

**Vision:** the global ocean and its coasts free from the impacts of marine debris
Program Pillars

Photo: NOAA
Removal
Prevention

Photo: Salem Sound Coastwatch
Substitute for Raised S.B. No. 341
Session Year 2018

AN ACT CONCERNING CLOTHING FIBER POLLUTION.

To establish a consumer awareness, education and clothing labeling program that is intended to reduce the amount of microfiber plastic in the state's waterways.

Introduced by:
Environment Committee

Text of Bill
- File No. 285 [pdf]
- ENV Joint Favorable Substitute [pdf]
- Raised Bill [pdf]

Committee Actions
- ENV Joint Fav. Rpt
- ENV Vote Tally Sheet [pdf]

Fiscal Notes
- Fiscal Note for Amendment LCO 5869 (No Fiscal Impact)
- Fiscal Note for Amendment LCO 4411 (No Fiscal Impact)
- Fiscal Note for Amendment LCO 4390 (No Fiscal Impact)
View our interactive map and table to learn more about marine debris projects in the Northeast.
Fate of Plastics in the Marine Environment

The view from 5IMDC (2011):

Marine Debris Inventory

- Beaches
- Water Column

Input → Debris → Collection
Derelict Fishing Gear

1. Develop mortality study research proposals
2. Develop cooperative program to provide shore side recycling/disposal
3. Incorporate gear avoidance into boater education
4. Promote WWF Smart Gear Competition, other innovation contests
Microplastics

1. Establish statistical rigor in sampling protocols for citizen scientists
2. Write protocols, including detailed resources for acquiring sampling materials
Wildlife & Habitat Impacts

1. Draft issue paper ranking different types of debris by threat to wildlife/habitat
2. Conduct a risk assessment by habitat type
3. Collect anecdotal interaction data
4. Populate data in NE Ocean Data Portal
5. Research effectiveness of existing legislation
6. Develop standardized responder protocols to include ingestion/entanglement information
Consumer Debris

1. Partner with restaurant and innkeeper associations to increase awareness
2. Identify barriers to plastic-free choices
3. Support and promote innovative strategies and products focused on the reduction of single-use plastics
Why is there no STRAW in my drink?
It's not a mistake...
We're helping our seas by SKIPPING the STRAW.