

NOAA Marine Debris Capabilities Webinar March 11, 2020



NOAA National Ocean Service Office of Response & Restoration **Marine Debris Program**

Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist





Marine Debris Program

Mission: To investigate and prevent the impacts of marine debris

Mandate: 2006 Marine Debris Act, amended in 2012 and 2018





Marine Debris Program

Marine debris: any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes









Marine Debris Program What We Do

Mandated Activities

- identify, determine sources, assess, prevent, reduce, remove marine debris
- national and regional coordination
- lead & coordinate Interagency Marine Debris Coordination Committee
- maintain Marine Debris Clearinghouse
- reduce adverse impacts of DFG
- community outreach & education incl. w/ other Fed agencies
- timely response to severe marine debris events
- promote international action
- provide grants for marine debris projects (prevention, removal, research)



Marine Debris Program Organizational Structure

Director International Cooperative West Coast Team Response **Deputy Director &** Chief Scientist & Activities & Coordinator & East Lead & PNW Agreements Comms Team Lead Partnership Science Team Lead **Špecialist** Coast Team Lead Region Coordinator Coordinator Research Regional Staff Regional Staff Education Northeast Alaska Outreach Coordinator Mid Atlantic California Policy Pacific Islands Pacific Islands Florida & Caribbean Gulf of Mexico Great Lakes Emerg Response Staff Planning & Preparedness

Hurricane Response



Marine Debris Program FY 17 & 19 Research Priorities

Risk Assessment & Exposure/Response

- quantitative or qualitative estimates of exposure & effect
- population level effects: commercial, recreational, aquaculture species
- ecologically relevant exposure concentrations
- exposure across space and time (magnitude, frequency, duration)

Fate and Transport

nearshore/coastal

Habitat Impacts

- quantify damage from debris & recovery post-removal
- benthic, nearshore, intertidal foundation species

Marine Debris Program Anticipated Research

FY 20 National Academies of Sciences Study

- evaluation of US contributions to global ocean plastic waste in US waterways
- assessment of the prevalence of marine debris & mismanaged plastic waste in US waterways
- examination of the import and export of plastic waste to & from the US

FY 21 Research Grant Competition

details late summer 2020





Marine Debris Program Monitoring & Assessment Project

Status

- volunteer citizen science initiative
- NOAA standardized protocols
- monthly site surveys
- publicly accessible database







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