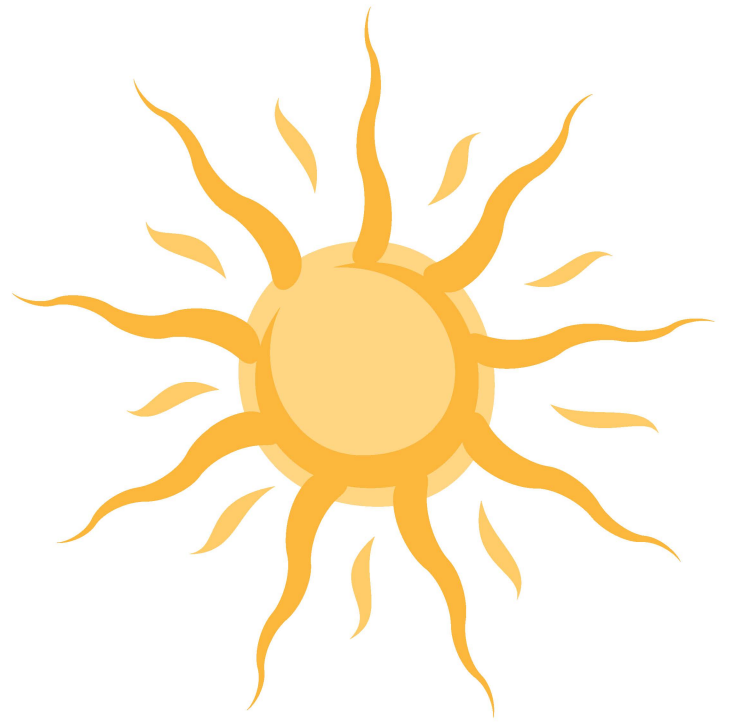


# The Educator's Guide to Marine Debris

Southeast and Gulf of Mexico

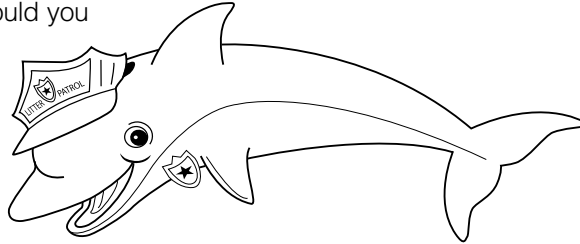




# Activity

# MAKE YOUR OWN MARINE DEBRIS LAWS

Are existing laws on litter and marine debris adequate? What happens to those who litter or abandon gear and boats? Each state and city manages litter regulations differently. How does your city or state manage litterbugs? If you were in charge, would you maintain these rules or create your own?



Action	What is your law and what is your legal consequence for a person who violates this law?	What are the effects of this litter on the environment?

Look up state litter regulations. Here are some suggested Web sites on state litter regulations.

### GEORGIA

Summary of Georgia's Comprehensive Litter Prevention and Abatement Act of 2006: [www.littercostsyoudo.com/change\\_enforcement.aspx#abate](http://www.littercostsyoudo.com/change_enforcement.aspx#abate)

Litter and Illegal Dumping in Georgia:

[www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb/illegal\\_dumping.html](http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb/illegal_dumping.html)

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Litter Laws for South Carolina:

[www.palmettopride.org/litterlaws.asp](http://www.palmettopride.org/litterlaws.asp)

[www.keepthemidlandsbeautiful.com/litterprevention/sclitterlaws.asp](http://www.keepthemidlandsbeautiful.com/litterprevention/sclitterlaws.asp)

### NORTH CAROLINA

[www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2001/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1014v9.html](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2001/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1014v9.html)

[www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp\\_chief\\_eng/roadside/Beautification/litterlaws/](http://www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/Beautification/litterlaws/)

### MISSISSIPPI

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2000/pdf/SB/2001-2099/SB2074IN.pdf>

[www.mscode.com/free/statutes/97/015/0029.htm](http://www.mscode.com/free/statutes/97/015/0029.htm)

[www.mscode.com/free/statutes/97/015/0030.htm](http://www.mscode.com/free/statutes/97/015/0030.htm)

### FLORIDA

<http://laws/flrules.org>

[http://flrules.org/files/ch\\_2006-295.pdf](http://flrules.org/files/ch_2006-295.pdf)

### PURPOSE

To have students become aware of local and state litter regulations.

### OBJECTIVES

*The students will:*

- Create their own laws and legal consequences concerning marine debris.
- Identify the litter laws and legal consequences of litter in their own state.

### MATERIALS

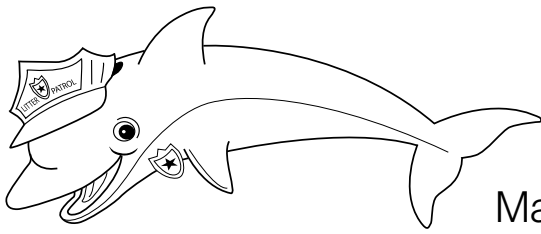
- Internet access
- Chart paper
- Markers

### PROCEDURE

*(done in teams):*

1. Research your state's laws on litter and marine debris. Note the consequences for littering.
2. Develop a list of actions related to littering, e.g., dumping garbage on the side of the road, leaving picnic waste at a beach, throwing gum out of a car, leaving a boat in a tidal creek for years.
3. Develop a law and a legal consequence of this action. For example, offenders might pay a fine, perform community service, go to jail, etc.
4. Create a chart to display your results to the rest of the class.
5. Send your ideas to your local elected officials.

Source: Modified from the *Post and Courier* Special Issue, "Turning the Tide on Trash," August 29, 2007



## Make Your Own Marine Debris Laws

Student Reporting Table

<b>Marine Debris Problem</b>	<b>What is your law and what is the possible legal consequence for a person who violates this law?</b>	<b>What are the effects of this litter on the environment?</b>

### Answer the following

1. When you developed your own laws on littering, how did you decide the appropriate legal consequences?

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2. Have you ever seen the current laws of your state enforced on the beach? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Conclusion:

In a short paragraph, describe your thoughts on the adequacy of your state's existing laws on litter and marine debris. Describe what you could do to ensure that the laws are enforced. Invite a law enforcement person to your class to discuss your results.

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