

Beach Cleanup Results

MA, ME, NH • 2024

**9,221
plastic
wrappers**

**2,557
plastic
straws**

**1,188
plastic food
containers**

**7,584
plastic
bottle caps**

How many Atlantic
white-sided
dolphins would
equal the weight of
litter collected in
2024?

Find the answer
inside!

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The 2024 Trash Tally

Since 2001, Blue Ocean Society, with the help of our community have been cleaning beaches along the Gulf of Maine. Data gathered from these cleanups help prevent marine pollution. Check out what we accomplished together in 2024!

293 cleanups

160,811 items collected

8,212 lbs removed

4,055 volunteers



Cleanup volunteers of all ages
serving the ocean and collecting data!

Top 10 Litter Items

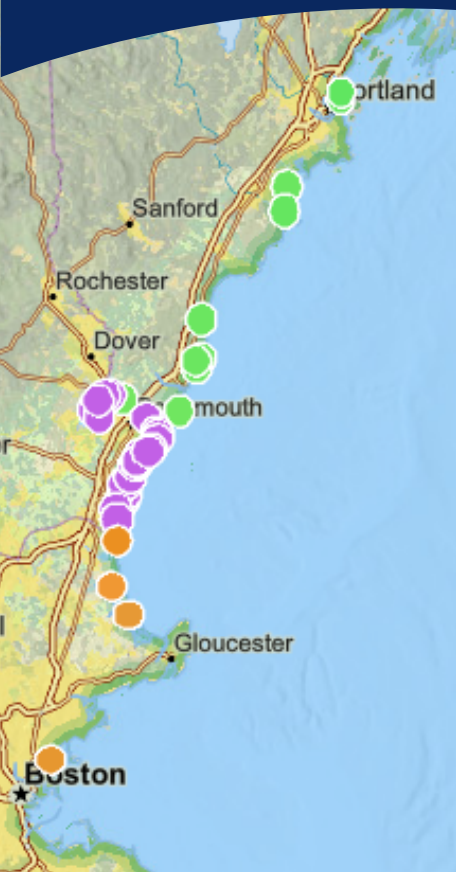
We collected these items from beaches the most often. Almost all of these items are made of plastic.

Read more about the litter we found at...
blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data

	Item Name	Count
1	Cigarette butts/filters	22,175
2	Other (firework remnants, fabric, etc.)	20,665
3	Plastic pieces (5mm-2.5cm)	10,538
4	Plastic pieces (5mm or less)	9,521
5	Other unknown plastic (> 10 cm)	9,325
6	Wrappers - Plastic	9,221
7	Bottle caps - Plastic	7,584
8	Rope scraps (smaller than 1m/yd)	7,097
9	Plastic pieces (2.5cm-10cm)	6,935
10	Foam pieces (5mm-2.5cm)	5,726

Did you know
cigarette filters
are made of
plastic?

This is our top
beach litter
item year after
year!



Where did we clean?

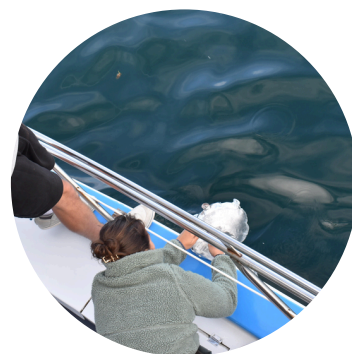
Our cleanups spanned 38 coastal sites from Portland, ME to Revere, MA.

The most frequently-cleaned beaches were Hampton Main Beach in Hampton, NH and Jenness Beach in Rye, NH.

Did we clean your favorite beach? Find out more at blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data.

We record litter found on the open ocean during whale watches, too!

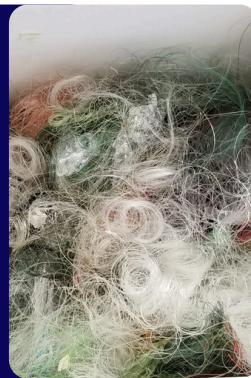
The top litter items found at sea were balloons and plastic wrappers.



The weight of litter collected in 2024 is equivalent to 16 full-grown male Atlantic white-sided dolphins!



Hold on to your line!
Fishing line entangles marine life.
Recycle your line in one of our bins at local marinas and tackle shops.



We collected 24,980 of these single-use plastic items from beaches in 2024:

- Wrappers
- Bottles & caps
- Straws
- Zip ties (cable ties)
- Strapping bands
- Grocery bags
- Produce bags
- Trash bags
- Foam cups
- Balloons



What single-use plastic item in your life can you replace with something reusable, non-plastic, or thrifted?

Join us!

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers that adopted a beach and clean it monthly.

Albers Family
Allagash Brewery
Bill Hall
Christine Ward
Costello Family
Chuck Sampson

Club Finz of Southern Maine
East Coast Cannabis
FUUSE/PEA
I Got Bridged
Maia Manesis Naylor
NH Climate Action

NH DES Coastal Program
Riley Levesque
Rod Mattson
Seacoast Paddleboard Club
Sophie Pike
Work Opportunities Unlimited

Thank you to all of our cleanup partners who clean beaches with us year after year.

Aland Realty
AmWins
Apple Store
Berwick Academy
Bow High School
Breakthrough Manchester
Chinburg
Chop Shop 166
Coach
Conval Regional High School
Deltak
Dover High School
Durgin Pines
Enterprise Mobility
Exeter Subaru
First Citizens Bank #2
Flatbread Company
Gathering Waters Charter High School
GE Aerospace

Girls Inc. of NH
Governor's Academy
Granite State Credit Union
Granite United Way
Great Bay Charter School
Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School
International Association of Privacy Professionals
Jobs for America's Graduates
John Hancock Signature Services
Jordan Park Group
Lincoln Akerman School
Little Harbour School
Londonderry High School
Lonza Biologics
Manchester West High School
MegaFood
Milford Girl Scouts
National Association of Women in Construction

NESC Staffing
New Hampton School
NH Certified B Corporations
Nottingham Elementary
Novocure
Nute Middle High School
Oyster River High School
Philips Exeter Academy
Pinkerton Academy
Planet Fitness
Point32Health
Portsmouth High School
Project Management Institute
Prospect Mountain High School
Stonyfield
Santander
Seacoast Financial Planning
Southern New Hampshire University

St. Thomas Aquinas High School
Starbucks
Temple Israel Manchester
The Derryfield School
The Seacoast Board of REALTORS®
The World Affairs Council of NH
Thornton Academy
Timberland
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Winfield Children's House

Thank you to our major sponsors:



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Our mission is to protect marine life in the Gulf of Maine through research, education and inspiring action. Join us for a beach cleanup, whale watch, or educational program, and visit our Blue Ocean Discovery Center!

To learn more, visit us online or connect with us on social media!

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