

# 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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[www.blueoceansociety.org](http://www.blueoceansociety.org)

# 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.

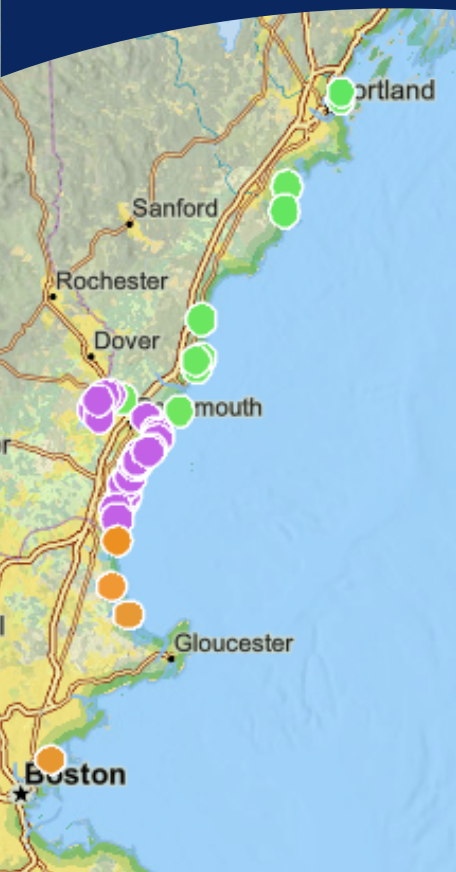
Read more about the litter we found at...  
[blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data](https://blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data)

	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?

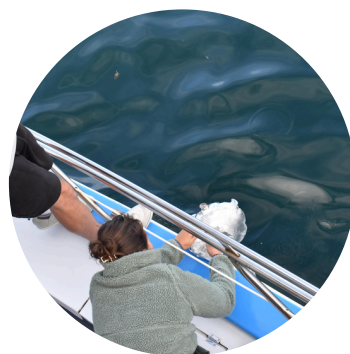
Our cleanups spanned 38 coastal sites from Portland, ME to Revere, MA.

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](https://blueoceansociety.org/cleanup-data).

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

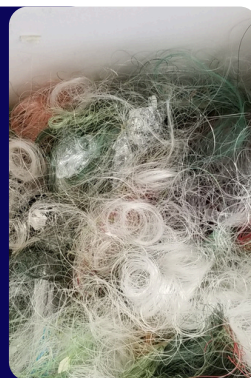
**The top litter items found at sea were balloons and plastic wrappers.**



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.



54,227 of the debris collected were single-use plastic items, equaling 34% of all items.  
Some of those items are:

- 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  
Deltek  
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®  
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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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