

Marine Debris: National and International Perspectives

Nancy Wallace, Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Debris Program

Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit
June 17, 2019



Issue Awareness

- Dramatic increase of awareness in past two-three years: both domestically and internationally
- Release of 2015 Jambeck, et al report and its global impact
- Discussed at highest levels of international fora
- Frequent news stories, studies produced, initiatives launched, etc.
- Key issue for many coastal communities across the U.S. and world



Program Pillars

- Prevention
- Removal
- Research
- Regional Coordination
- Emergency Response





National to State and Local Action

- **National level facilitation**
 - Action planning
 - Project grant funding
 - Public awareness and education materials
 - Scientific reports and guidance materials
 - Emergency response guides
- **Mid-Atlantic Regional Action Plan**
 - Focus regional efforts and facilitate coordination
 - Set priorities
 - Framework for action



Recent U.S. Legislative Developments

- **Save Our Seas Act of October 2018**
 - Reauthorized NOAA's Marine Debris Program
 - Emergency response
 - International elements
 - IMDCC and federal coordination





NOAA is just one piece of the puzzle

- Many other federal, state, local/municipal government entities
- Importance of industry engagement
- Civil society partnerships
- Research and academia
- Communities and individual citizens



Global Relevance and Action

- UN efforts
- Global conventions
- High-level multilateral for a
- International initiatives
- Regional organizations/efforts
- Donor banks
- NGOs
- Private partnership efforts



United Nations Activities

- **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)**
 - UNEA4 resolution (Mar 2019)
 - UNEA5 (Feb 2021)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- FAO/COFI – gear marking guidelines 2018
- GESAMP guidelines & new working group
- UN Decade of Ocean Science: 2021-2031
- UN Ocean Conference 2020 and **2030 SDG 14**



Global Conventions & Organizations

- Basel Convention
- International Maritime Organization
- London Dumping Convention/Protocol
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions
- International Union for Conservation of Nature



Other High-Level Multilateral Fora

- G7 (France in 2019 & U.S. in 2020)
- G20 (Japan in 2019 & Saudi Arabia in 2020)
 - Implementation framework for G20 action plan
- Our Ocean Conferences
 - Indonesia in 2018
 - Norway in Oct 2019
 - Palau in 2020

Regional Efforts

- Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) – marine debris roadmap-Chile 2019
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - regional marine litter framework
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
- Arctic Council
- Africa Waste Initiative
- Zero Waste Europe
- Others...





Other Initiatives: Donor, NGO and Industry/Private

- World Bank GEF: ProBlue Fund (\$100mill)
- MacArthur Foundation– New plastics economy
- Alliance to help end plastic waste (\$1.5 bill)
- Closed Loop Partnership
- Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Ocean Conservancy
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- Int’l Solid Waste Association Task Force on Marine Litter
- Pew Trusts – preventing ocean plastics
- More...



Marine Debris: Global Issue -- Local Action

- Multifaceted solutions
- Recognizing differences and what works where
- Share practices
- Wide range of stakeholders needed to engage



Thank You

Nancy Wallace, Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Marine Debris Program

Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit
June 17, 2019

