

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

Marine Debris

Management Issue

Marine debris found within the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS or Sanctuary) can adversely affect Sanctuary resources.

Description

Marine debris found within the Sanctuary includes fishing gear, monofilament, trawling nets, long lines, and aluminum cans. This debris not only poses a threat to the environment, but debris may be mistakenly treated as an artifact from the USS *Monitor*.

Questions and Information Needs

- 1) What is the source of the marine debris?
- 2) What types of marine debris are found within and around the Sanctuary?
- 3) What are the impacts of marine debris removal (biological and cultural)?
- 4) What are the impacts of disregarding marine debris (biological and cultural)?
- 5) Are there certain areas more susceptible to accumulation of marine debris?



*Diver cuts derelict fishing gear off a shipwreck.
Photo Credit: SBNMS*

Scientific Approach and Actions

- Use education and outreach to educate the public on implications of marine debris
- Investigate sources of marine debris
- Determine if debris can be removed, and properly discard.
- Establishment of interagency relationships for research and assistance with marine debris removal.

Key Partners and Information Sources

NOAA's National Center for Coastal Ocean Science, East Carolina University, US Coast Guard, University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, The Mariners' Museum, Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, US Navy

Sanctuary Resources Available

- Research vessel for marine debris monitoring and removal use
- Personnel and NOAA working divers to assist with monitoring and removal
- Permit required for diving within MNMS

Resource Needs

- Project funding and support
- Partnerships for regular marine debris monitoring and removal (NOAA, US Navy, academic institutions)

Management Support Products

- Scientific papers and reports
- Education and outreach materials used to educate public

Planned Use of Products and Actions

- Define sensitive areas
- Target marine debris sources
- Appropriate management implications

Updated: 6/18/2014

For More Information -- <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment>

Program References

MNMS Management Plan

- Resource Protection and Resource Monitoring Action Plan

MNMS Condition Report

- What are the levels of human activities that may influence habitat and maritime archaeological resource quality and how is it changing?

ONMS Performance Measures

- 3.2: Habitat Protection Performance
- 3.3: Measuring Living Resources Protection Performance

Other Documents

- Monitor National Marine Sanctuary State of the Sanctuary Report 2008

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