

Sea Grant Marine Debris Symposium Agenda

November 12, 13, & 14

Venue: NOAA Auditorium and Science Center

1301 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attendee Registration Link: bit.ly/Register-Marine-Debris

Goals 1) To introduce new Sea Grant Marine Debris awardees to NOAA, Sea Grant, the Marine Debris Program, and existing support and programs available to them through NOAA; 2) To build a sense of community between awardees; 3) To foster future partnerships and collaborations between awardees to build a broader marine debris effort nationwide.

Day 1: Tuesday, November 12 (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern)

Science Center

09:00 AM Registration and Networking

- Symposium attendees and Sea Grant awardees can check in, connect, and enjoy a cup of coffee together. Please bring your own nametag and travel mug to help us keep the symposium eco-friendly.

Auditorium

09:30 AM Welcome and Introductions

- Jainey Bavishi, Deputy Administrator, NOAA
- Jonathan Pennock, Director, National Sea Grant College Program
- Scott Lundgren, Director, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration

10:00 AM Sea Grant's Investments in Marine Debris

- Madison Willert, Marine Debris Specialist, National Sea Grant Office

10:10 AM Panel Discussion - Pressing Issues in Marine Debris and Resources to Combat Them

- Madison Willert, Marine Debris Specialist, National Sea Grant Office
- Susan Sherman, Executive Director, Marine Debris Foundation
- Romell Nandi, National Program Lead, EPA Trash Free Waters
- MaryLee Haughwout, Deputy Director, NOAA Marine Debris Program
- Kit Cunningham, Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Office

11:15 AM Break

11:30 AM Session 1 - Addressing the Current Challenges of Marine Debris

- Detection and Conversion of Marine Debris to Make High-Value Products as a Tool to Protect Coastal Communities (Clay Wang)
- Gullah/Geechee CREATE: Coastal Debris Removal Engaging Artists Through Environmental Cleanups (Queen Quet and Matt Gorstein)
- TRACKing Suspected Human-sourced Marine Debris and Suspected Plastics via Ocean Modeling, Satellite Imaging, and Machine Learning (TRASH DISPOSAL) (Nazanin Chaichitehrani)
- Understanding, Mitigation and Prevention of Waste Plastic Marine Debris in the Gulf Coast (Shenghua Wu)
- Plastic-Free Cleveland: An Expansion of Coalition-Based Efforts to Reduce Marine Debris Throughout the Great Lakes Region (Leah Holloway and Abigail Comar)

12:30 PM Lunch Break (on your own)

- Enjoy a self-directed lunch break. The Science Center will be open for those wishing to convene for a meal in a collaborative setting.

02:00 PM Session 2 - Marine Debris Education and Community Engagement

- A Community Education and Research Development Initiative to Develop New Materials and Uses From Ghost Traps (Dana Morse and Buzz Scott*)
- Beach and On-water Trash Trapping Tech Team for Lake Erie (Abigail Comar)
- Community Science to Address Microplastic Pollution in Environmentally Underserved Watershed Communities in New Jersey and New York (Diana Burich)
- Fashioning a Model Response: Educating Members of the Fashion Industry About Microplastics to Reduce Marine Debris in Local Waters (Ginny Carlton and Leah Holloway)
- Fish-Finders for Stewardship: Training Volunteers to Use Side-Scan Sonar to Find and Remove Derelict Crab Pots From Delaware's Recreational Blue Crab Fishery (Art Trembanis)
- Massachusetts Marine Debris From Source to Stellwagen: A Comprehensive Suite of Tools for Environmental Educators (Kristi Burkholder and Ben Bray)
- Raising Awareness of Marine Pollution in Underserved Populations (RAMP-UP) (Maurice Crawford)

03:25 PM Break

Science Center

03:40 PM Networking and Collaborative Conversations

- Symposium attendees and Sea Grant awardees come together to share insights and explore potential collaborations.

05:00 PM Day One Adjourn

05:30 PM Optional Social Hour (Cash Bar) - Silver Branch Brewing Lagerhaus & Biergarten

- An informal happy hour awaits those who wish to unwind and connect at 8401 Colesville Rd #150, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Day 2: Wednesday, November 13 (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern)

Auditorium

08:30 AM Overview and Announcements

08:40 AM Session 3 - Tackling Derelict Fishing Gear: Innovations and Strategies for a Cleaner Marine Environment

- From Learning to Willing to Doing: A Collaborative Approach to Implementing the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan (Joseph Barnes)
- Reducing Derelict Fishing Gear in the Gulf of Maine: Educating and Empowering Boaters to be a Part of the Solution (Keri Kaczor)
- Prevention, Education, and Removal of Marine Debris from Underwater Cultural Heritage (Kirstin Meyer-Kaiser)
- Development of New Detecting, Cutting, and Lifting Technologies to Increase the Efficiency of Derelict Fishing Gear Removal (Kevin O'Brien)
- Nets to Roads: Innovative Research to Scale-up Removal and Repurposing of Derelict Fishing Gear (Jennifer Lynch)

09:40 AM Session 4 - Action Through Alliances: How Community Coalitions Drive Marine Debris Prevention and Removal (Part I)

- Pacific Islands Marine Debris Community Action Coalition (Beth Polidoro)
- Foam-Free Lake Champlain: Marine Debris Community Action Coalition (Kris Stepenuck and Aude Lochet)
- Oregon Coalition to Combat Marine Debris (Cait Goodwin)

10:16 AM Break

10:30 AM Session 5 - Transitioning to Sustainable Practices to Reduce Marine Debris

- Cape Cod Coalition to Shift Tourism Businesses to Sustainable Serviceware (Adam Gracia)
- Distributed Mobile Upcycling (Patrick Simpson)
- From Blue-Gray to Blue-Green: Facilitating the Transition to Non-Plastic Natural Material Use Within the Coastal Zone Economy (Mariah Livernois)
- Reducing Marine Debris at the Source: Material Replacement and Source Reduction for Single-Use Food Packaging (Harsha Elizabeth James and Colleen Walker)

11:18 AM Session 6 - Community-Based Solutions to Marine Debris Challenges

- Advancing Equitable Resources to Marine Debris Solutions Through California's Ocean Litter Strategy (Tanya Torres and Sydney Rilum)
- Consider Litter: Data-Driven, Community-Centered Marine Debris Prevention and Mitigation (Julie Falgout)
- Fostering Community Partnership and Understanding Financial Vulnerabilities to Reduce Marine Debris and Enhance Louisiana's Resilience to Disaster (Julie Falgout)

- Our Marsh Counts: A Watershed Approach to Marine Debris Reduction in South Carolina’s Seafood Capital (Kelly Thorvalson)
- The Brooklyn-Queens Marine Debris Clean Up Program (Matt Malina)
- The Lowcountry NETwork: Building a Coalition of Community Members, Shrimpers, Educators, and Conservationists to Remove and Recycle Marine Debris (Brooke Saari)

12:30 PM Lunch Break (on your own)

- Enjoy a self-directed lunch break. The Science Center will be open for those wishing to convene for a meal in a collaborative setting.

02:00 PM Session 7 - Detection and Reduction of Microplastics in Aquatic Systems

- Beyond the Drain: Tackling Anthropogenic Particle Pollution Sources to Wastewater and Biosolids Across Communities (Beyond TAPPS) (Elise Granek)
- Developing Sustainable and Closed-Loop Solutions to Reduce Synthetic Fibers, Microplastics, and Nanoplastics Leakage from Laundry Systems into the Marine Environment (Beizhan Yan)
- Holistic Detection, Monitoring, and Removal of Microplastics Using Integrated Sensing and Filtration Systems (Mark Cheng)
- Pinpointing the Key Drivers for the Bioaccumulation of Micro- and Nanoplastics in the Great Lakes Using a Modular Separation and Plasmonic Imaging Platform (Haoran Wei)
- Plastic-Free Restored Habitats: Reducing Nano-, Micro- and Macro-Plastic Pollution in Community-Based Restoration of Coastal Shorelines and Oyster Reefs (Jennifer Pollack and Linda Walters)

Science Center

03:00 PM Partnership Building Roundtables

- Sea Grant awardees self-sort into tables based on region or project themes to engage in higher-level conversations about collaborations, partnerships and future work.
 - Curriculum Development & Literacy
 - Microplastics
 - Upcycling and Recycling
 - Debris Interception
 - Civic Engagement Around Single-Use Plastics
 - Trash & Derelict Fishing Gear Removal
 - North East & Great Lakes Regions
 - Mid-Atlantic Region
 - South Atlantic & Gulf Regions
 - Pacific Region

05:00 PM Day Two Adjourn

Day 3: Thursday, November 14 (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern)

Science Center

08:30 AM Partnership Building Roundtables

- Sea Grant awardees self-sort into tables based on region or project themes to engage in higher-level conversations about collaborations, partnerships and future work.
 - Curriculum Development & Literacy
 - Microplastics
 - Upcycling and Recycling
 - Debris Interception
 - Reduction of Single-Use Plastics
 - Trash & Derelict Fishing Gear Removal
 - North East & Great Lakes Regions
 - Mid-Atlantic Region
 - South Atlantic & Gulf Regions
 - Pacific Region

Auditorium

10:30 AM Overview and Announcements

10:40 AM Session 8 - Grate Expectations: Stormwater, Urban Runoff and Marine Debris

- Clean Streets, Clean Seas: Innovating Public Works to Intercept Microplastics in Urban Runoff (Sydney Rilum)
- Mitigation of Stormwater-Derived Debris: A Community-Based Approach I & II (Christy Tyler and Jake Anderson)
- Protecting the Neuse River Estuary Through Community-Engaged Prevention of Stormwater-Derived Litter in Urban Headwaters (Barbara Doll*)

11:22 AM Short Break

11:30 AM Session 9 - Action Through Alliances: How Community Coalitions Drive Marine Debris Prevention and Removal (Part II)

- Cultivating a Trinational Marine Debris Leadership Coalition to Find Solutions to Complex Cross-Border Land-Based Marine Debris (Empress Holliday)
- Philadelphia Marine Debris Action Coalition (Andrew Kleiner and Zach Nemeč)
- Plastic Free Orlando: Building a Community of Ocean Champions (Maggie Winchester-Weiler)
- Washington CoastSavers Clean Coast Quest (Megan Juran)
- Preventing Marine Debris Through the Zero Waste Miami Coalition (Ana Zangroniz and Madeline Kaufman)

12:30 PM Lunch Break (on your own)

- Enjoy a self-directed lunch break. The Science Center will be open for those wishing to convene for a meal in a collaborative setting.

- 02:00 PM** **Session 10 - Technology and Innovation in Marine Debris Monitoring and Removal**
- AI-powered characterization of solids and microplastics in stormwater runoff and their mitigation via green and gray infrastructure in urban coastal areas (Ali Ebrahimian)
 - Aquatic Microplastic Filtration Device Research and Pilot Deployment (Nathaniel Banks)
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Assisted Characterization and Capture of Aquatic Nano/microplastic Debris (Kyoo-Chul Kenneth Park)
 - Commercially Scalable End-Of-Life Solutions for Agriculture Field Plastic Films Used in Watersheds Draining to National Marine Sanctuaries (Jazmine Mejia-Munoz)
 - MOLLUSCA: A Snail-Inspired Robot for Efficient Marine Microplastic Removal (Maha Haji and Jacob Anderson)
 - Precision Plastic Waste Cleanup and Monitoring: AI-Enhanced Solution for Sustainable Waterways and Ocean Health (Beizhan Yan)
- 03:12 PM** **Break**
- 03:25 PM** **Workshop - Avoiding Parachute Science: Working With, Rather Than Alongside, Communities**
- Katie May Laumann, Science Integrator, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- 04:45 PM** **Closing Remarks**
- Nikola Garber, Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program
 - Madison Willert, Marine Debris Specialist, National Sea Grant Office
- 05:00 PM** **Day Three Adjourn**