

## We Are All The Solution!



Marine debris is considered any improperly discarded or otherwise lost man-made item that enters the coastal and marine ecosystem. Not only is marine debris unsightly, it can clog waterways, become a navigational hazard, and pollute swimming and recreational areas. Worst of all, it can entangle and injure birds, fish, turtles, dolphins, and other marine life. Many marine debris items may appear as food to marine animals, and ingested pieces of litter can cause malnutrition, starvation, and death.



The most common marine debris items found in Louisiana are cigarette filters; food wrappers; plastic lids, bottles, and grocery bags; paper bags; metal and glass beverage containers; and plastic straws and utensils.

# Marine Debris

Marine debris items are often a problem because they persist in the environment for long periods of time. A plastic grocery bag can last more than 20 years, while a glass bottle may take more than 1 million years to degrade. Prevention and removal of marine debris are the responsibility of all citizens. Simple steps can be taken to eliminate problems associated with marine debris.

## **Tips to prevent marine debris:**

- 1. Always properly discard trash.**
- 2. Reduce, reuse, or recycle.**
- 3. Use ashtrays for cigarette filters.**
- 4. Never place trash in the bed of a truck.**
- 5. Use reusable grocery bags.**
- 6. Cut beverage rings into small pieces before properly discarding.**
- 7. Properly discard or recycle fishing line and other tackle.**
- 8. While boating off shore, secure all trash onboard until it can be disposed of properly.**
- 9. Participate in or organize debris removal programs.**
- 10. Lead by example. Encourage others to prevent marine debris.**

For more information about marine debris, derelict crab traps, and opportunities to participate in annual derelict crab trap removal programs visit:

[www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps](http://www.laseagrant.org/crabtraps)

