



# Cleanup Clues

Analyzing Marine Debris Data

North American Marine Environment Protection Association®

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2014 Lloyd's List Awards ENVIRONMENT AWARD WINNER



# What is the Ocean Conservancy?

The Ocean Conservancy (OC) is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes citizen advocates to facilitate change and protect the ocean for future generations. Every year, citizens from all over the globe participate in the **International Coastal Cleanup**, volunteering time to collect trash from coastal areas.

The data from the International Coastal Cleanup is analyzed and categorized and published in an annual report called the **Ocean Trash Index**.



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# Excerpt from the 2014 Ocean Trash Index

Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup began in 1986 with a handful of volunteers collecting trash along the Texas coast. Twenty-eight years later, it has grown into the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Nearly 650,000 people participated in the 2013 Cleanup, with events held in 44 states and in more than 90 countries and locations around the globe. As the event has grown in popularity, several locations have begun hosting events year-round.

Local, state and international Coordinators are the backbone of the Cleanup and have been instrumental in its growth and organization. Year after year, the success of the Cleanup depends on their generous contributions of time and resources – as well as those of their organizations – in this global effort.

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# Excerpt Continued

Coordinators are responsible for identifying Cleanup sites, mobilizing volunteers, organizing site logistics and materials, and engaging journalists.

And after all the trash has been collected, Coordinators ensure that it has been tallied on Ocean Conservancy's data form so that the data are ready to be analyzed by our team of scientists and marine debris experts.



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# Data Example

COUNTRY	People/Pounds/Miles				
	 PEOPLE	 POUNDS	 MILES	 TOTAL ITEMS COLLECTED	 TOTAL ITEMS PER PERSON
ARGENTINA	302	8,018	1.8	6,849	22.7
AUSTRALIA	54	242	0.1	470	8.7
AZERBAIJAN	356	6,600	0.8	–	–
BAHAMAS	689	4,366	27.0	16,739	24.3
BANGLADESH	1,452	2,311	159.7	53,662	37.0
BARBADOS	177	681	0.6	4,245	24.0
BELIZE	1,607	9,279	27.3	66,451	41.4
BERMUDA	454	7,961	12.0	35,602	78.4
BONAIRE	113	1,261	0.1	2,866	25.4
BRAZIL	5,441	70,036	86.2	75,555	13.9
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	196	2,674	8.0	9,230	47.1
BRUNEI	1,410	3,106	3.6	17,571	12.5
CAMBODIA	315	604	3.9	5,525	17.5
CANADA	29,509	199,557	1,514.3	960,689	32.6
CHANNEL ISLANDS	284	203	69.7	11,886	41.9
CHILE	7,396	144,091	54.4	270,981	36.6
CHINA	4,590	9,824	22.1	42,420	9.2
COLOMBIA	3,114	70,596	5.0	–	–
COSTA RICA	820	20,461	17.2	115,115	140.4
CROATIA	59	306	0.1	4,696	79.6
CURAÇAO	12	11	0.1	139	11.6
DOMINICA	200	1,500	6.0	–	–
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	13,505	146,318	46.1	423,396	31.4
ECUADOR	15,934	113,328	176.2	505,197	31.7
EGYPT	72	368	0.1	458	6.4

# Questions

- When did the OC begin collecting data?
- What are three types of cleanups conducted?
- Who is responsible for collecting the debris?
- Who is responsible for counting the people collecting the debris and organizing the cleanups?
- What does the data mean when it talks about “miles?”