



Mississippi Coastal Cleanup



Since 1988, thousands of volunteers gather in the fall to remove millions of pounds of trash from Mississippi's coastline, waterways, and barrier islands. Additionally, these volunteers help collect data that are used to categorize the major sources of marine debris entering the coastal environment.

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is a partnership between the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force. It is a part of the International Coastal Cleanup and is one of the largest volunteer efforts in all of Mississippi.

The 2016 **Mississippi Coastal Cleanup** was held October 22, and over *200 miles* of Mississippi's coastlines, waterways, and barrier islands were covered. During the *2016 cleanup*, *2,469 volunteers* picked up *2,286 bags* of trash. The

weight of trash collected was an astonishing *28,079 pounds*—that's *14 tons* of marine litter!

A detailed summary of the trash items collected during the 2016 cleanup is shown in Table 1. Among the items collected, a large percentage of the marine debris was plastic. Some of the commonly found trash items included plastic bottles, straws, food wrappers, and nearly 28,000 cigarette butts! Throughout the cleanup, no live, entangled animals were found, but there was one dead, entangled sea turtle.

The *2017 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup* will be held **October 21**. Please visit mscoastalcleanup.org if you're interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or learning more about cleaning up our coast!



The **Mississippi Coastal Cleanup** would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. We would like to thank Chevron Pascagoula Refinery | The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint | Mississippi Department of Marine Resources | Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality | NOAA | Waste Pro | Domino's | Allen Beverages Inc. | Coca-Cola | Ship Island Excursions | Sam's Club | Hard Rock Hotel & Casino | Singing River Electric Power Association | Gulf Coast Community Foundation | Dick's Sporting Goods | WLOX News | Hotel & Restaurant Supply | Waste Management | Everything Kayak | Paddles Up | and Ocean Conservancy.

Table 1. Marine debris collected during the 2016 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

CLEANUP SUMMARY

Number of trash bags filled	2,286
Weight of trash collected (pounds)	28,079
Distance cleaned (miles)	202
Number of volunteers	2,469

COMMONLY FOUND ITEMS

TOTAL #

Cigarette butts	27,916
Food wrappers	8,590
Take-out containers (plastic)	2,008
Take-out containers (foam)	1,999
Bottle caps (plastic)	6,923
Bottle caps (metal)	3,263
Lids (plastic)	4,013
Straws/stirrers	5,396
Forks, knives, spoons	1,030

COMMONLY FOUND ITEMS

TOTAL #

Beverage bottles (plastic)	8,468
Beverage bottles (glass)	4,313
Beverage cans	5,874
Grocery bags (plastic)	4,380
Other plastic bags	4,691
Paper bags	2,001
Cups and plates (paper)	2,389
Cups and plates (plastic)	2,926
Cups and plates (foam)	1,595

PACKAGING MATERIALS

TOTAL #

6-pack holders	80
Strapping bands	316
Tobacco packaging/wrap	1,490
Other plastic/foam packaging	2,972
Other plastic bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	829

PERSONAL HYGIENE

TOTAL #

Condoms	106
Diapers	85
Syringes	67
Tampons/tampon applicators	60

FISHING GEAR

TOTAL #

Fishing buoys, pots, and traps	181
Fishing net and pieces	291
Fishing line (1 yard = 1 piece)	976
Rope (1 yard = 1 piece)	403

OTHER TRASH

TOTAL #

Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	116
Balloons	412
Cigar tips	1,868
Cigarette lighters	386
Construction materials	1,729
Fireworks	2,027
Tires	462

TINY TRASH

TOTAL #

Foam pieces	5,104
Glass pieces	5,559
Plastic pieces	13,018



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