

Human Impact Lab: Talking Trash

Loggerhead Marineline Center

Loggerhead Marineline Center is an ocean conservation organization and sea turtle hospital located adjacent to one of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches in the world. The Center features an on-site campus hospital, research laboratory, educational exhibits and aquariums, and also operates the Juno Beach Pier, which hosts world-class angling and sightseeing. The Center's conservation team works with 76 local and international organizations across six continents to form partnerships and share conservation initiatives and best practices that are core to its mission of ocean conservation. The Center is expanding and has launched its Waves of Progress capital expansion campaign, designed to accelerate and amplify LMC's conservation and education impact.

Our mission is to promote conservation of ocean ecosystems with a special focus on threatened and endangered sea turtles. Our vision is to be recognized locally and internationally as the leading authority in sea turtle education, research and rehabilitation.



Lesson Objectives

- I can recognize ways in which humans can impact the environment
- I can discuss environmental threats to organisms living in the ocean
- I can conduct an activity to solve a real-world issue, such as pollution

Vocabulary

- **Pollution:** Anything added to the environment that is harmful to living things
- **Marine Debris:** Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or Great Lakes
- **Conservation:** Using resources in a wise, responsible manner; protection of natural resources

Resources

- NOAA Marine Debris program *Trash Talk*: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/discover-issue/trash-talk>



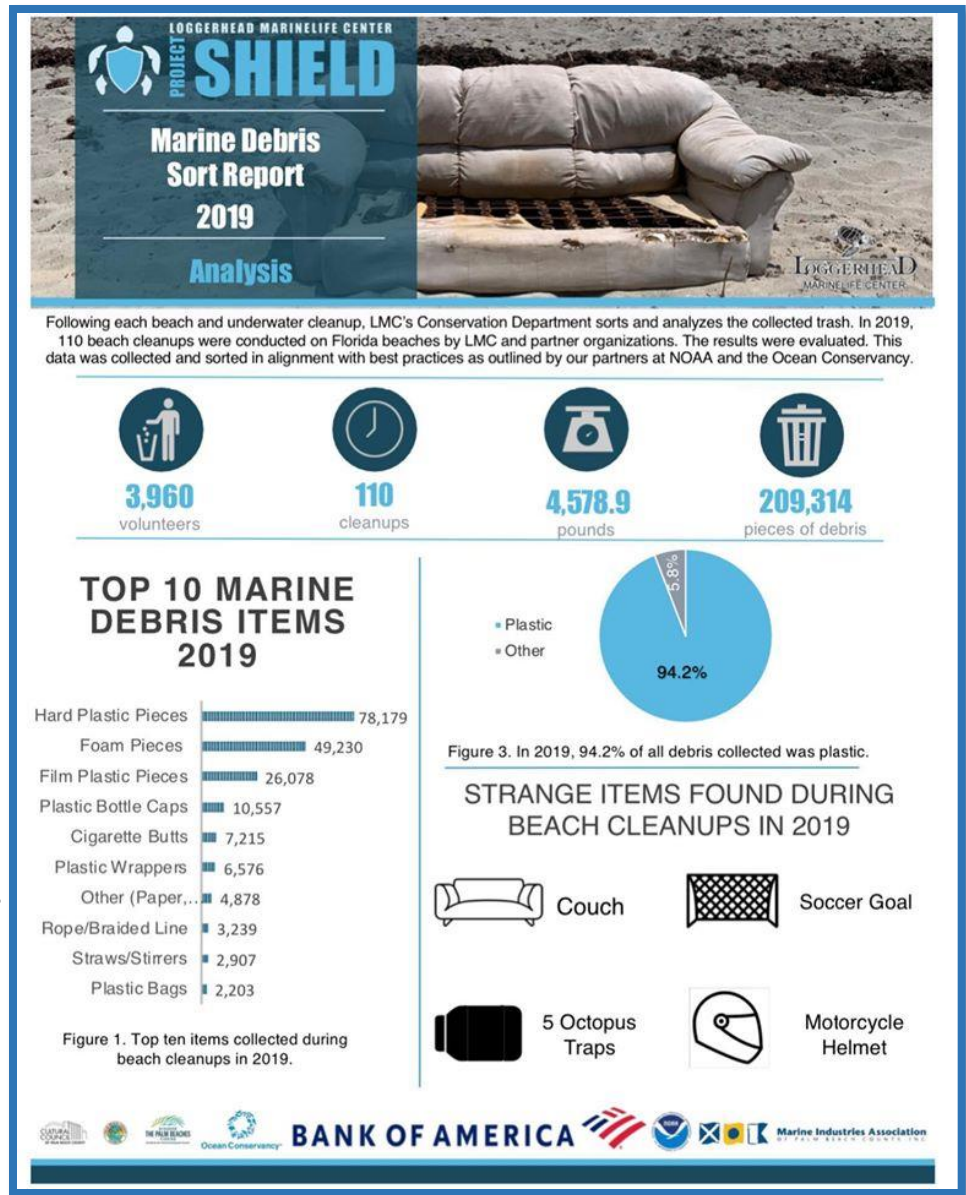
Visit [Marinelife.org](https://www.marinelife.org) to learn more about Loggerhead Marineline Center!

Project Shield – Pollution Prevention with LMC

In 2019, Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center conducted **110 beach cleanups** with partner organizations on Florida beaches. During these cleanups, **3,960 volunteers** helped to remove **4,578.9 pounds** of trash from Florida beaches, 94.2% of which was made of plastic. After every beach and underwater cleanup, the Conservation Department sorts and documents every piece of debris. Sorting this trash allows us to identify major types and sources of pollution. We use this information to develop targeted outreach and education programs that will reduce the amount of pollution entering the marine environment.

Our Center's unique location in Juno Beach allows us to target debris items that have already made its way to the beaches and our oceans, but most of this debris started its journey on lands inshore. You can help us understand what debris items are having the biggest impact in your area by conducting your own neighborhood or park clean-up!

Directions: Use Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center's Sort Report template on the next page to record your data. Let us know what you found by sharing it on your own social media outlets and tagging Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center or #PlasticFreeWithLMC





LOGGERHEAD MARINELIFE CENTER PROJECT SHIELD

Location:

Date:

Debris Sort Report



LOGGERHEAD
MARINELIFE CENTER

Following each beach and underwater cleanup, LMC's Conservation Department sorts and analyzes the collected trash. You can help us understand what debris items are having the biggest impact in your area by conducting your own neighborhood or park clean-up! Afterwards, use this Sort Report template to record your own data. Let us know what you found by sharing it on your own social media outlets and tagging Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center or #PlasticFreeWithLMC



minutes



pounds



pieces of debris



Plastic that enters the ocean will never go away, instead, it breaks down over time into smaller and smaller pieces posing a threat to sea turtles and other marine life.

Use this space to create a bar graph for the top 5 debris items found during your cleanup.

Use this space to create a pie chart for how many items found during your cleanup were plastic versus non-plastic.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Ditch single-use plastic water bottles by purchasing and using a reusable one!

Say no to Styrofoam! Instead, request for leftover food to be wrapped in aluminum foil when dining out.



Refuse disposable plastic utensils when ordering takeout or delivery. Try utensil sets made from sustainable materials, like bamboo, as an alternative.



Ocean Conservancy

BANK OF AMERICA



Marine Industries Association
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.