

# It's Not Okay to Trash the Bay

THE **2015** INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP  
RHODE ISLAND REPORT  
& CALL TO ACTION

**SAVE THE BAY.®**

NARRAGANSETT BAY



**W**e love our beaches and coastlines in Rhode Island. We're the Ocean State, after all. But trash left behind by beach-goers, blown to the shorelines by the wind, and washed to the coast by stormwater runoff has countless negative effects on ocean life, coastal communities and Rhode Island's economy.

On September 19, 2015, Save The Bay led 85 beach cleanups in 20 towns, where 2,199 volunteers collected trash and debris from 65 miles of shoreline and recorded what they found. In this report, you'll find a summary of trash collected during this year's cleanup. Our local data will become part of a global report on marine trash around the world.

We call on you, our community members, to take the actions found in this report to help us protect and improve the water quality and marine life of Narragansett Bay.

The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean, bringing 560,000 volunteers worldwide together to clean up the world's beaches and shorelines. Save The Bay is proud to be the state coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup in Rhode Island.

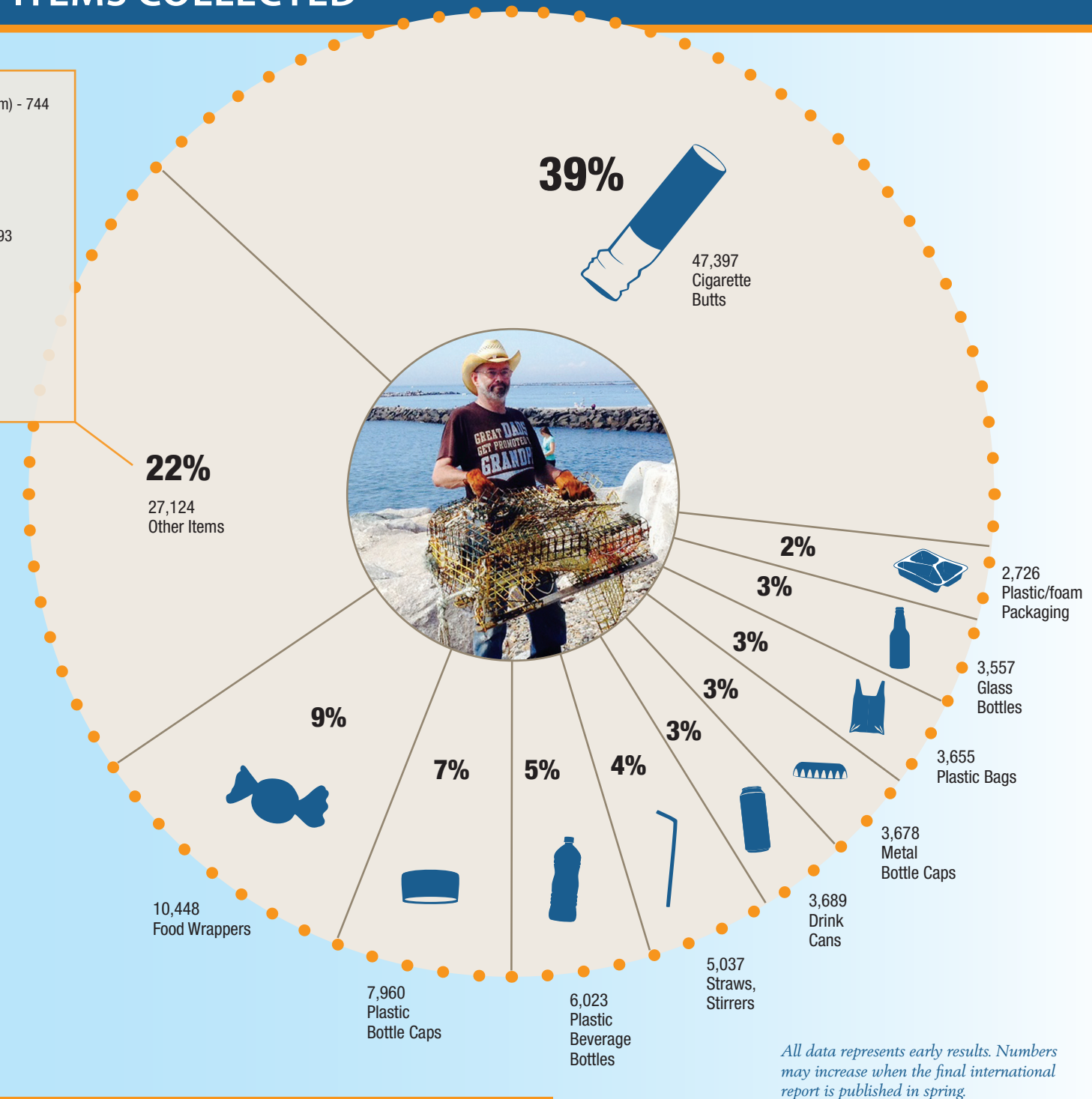
## 6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION: How Does Trash Travel?



*Graphic courtesy of Ocean Conservancy*



# CLEANUPS



Save The Bay cleanups happen year-round. For upcoming cleanups and other volunteer opportunities, visit **[SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.savebay.org/volunteer)**.



# VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE

of the cleanup, and the success of Rhode Island's efforts depends on their generosity of time and love for our environment.



**S**pecial appreciation to our Save The Bay beach captain volunteers who coordinated dozens of other volunteers at each cleanup location.



*"I am inspired every year by the dedication of dozens of community organizations and more than 2,000 volunteers who roll up their sleeves to do something about a problem that may, to some, seem hopeless. Together, we declare that the problem of marine debris can be solved and that we can do something about it. We believe that the tide can be turned."*

— July Lewis,  
Volunteer and  
Intern Manager



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Thank you for your support of Narragansett Bay. Please pass this report on to a friend who may want to know more about how they can help us protect and restore our Bay. Find out more about Save The Bay at [SAVEBAY.ORG](http://SAVEBAY.ORG)

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