

2017

# INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP RHODE ISLAND REPORT & CALL TO ACTION

**SAVE THE BAY®**

NARRAGANSETT BAY

# It's Not Okay to Trash the Bay



Trash on the beach is more than just ugly and unsanitary; it is a threat to the health of our oceans. Marine animals consume bits of plastic, leading to injury and death. Plastic bags and discarded fishing line can fatally entangle wildlife. And plastics are accumulating in the ocean at an alarming rate.

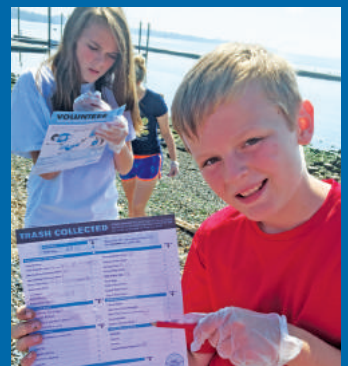
But thanks to volunteers around the world, the International Coastal Cleanup has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean. Save The Bay is proud to coordinate Rhode Island's part in the International Coastal Cleanup. Our Ocean State volunteers join with others all over the world to say that the solution to trash and plastics in our waters begins with us. From simply being responsible with our trash, to participating in and leading cleanups, to calling our legislators in support of policy action on marine debris, we can all make a difference.

This report highlights the results of Rhode Island's 2017 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

*The 2018 International Coastal Cleanup is on Saturday, September 15, 2018.  
Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER).*



The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 500,000 volunteers worldwide work together to clean up beaches and shorelines in all corners of the world.

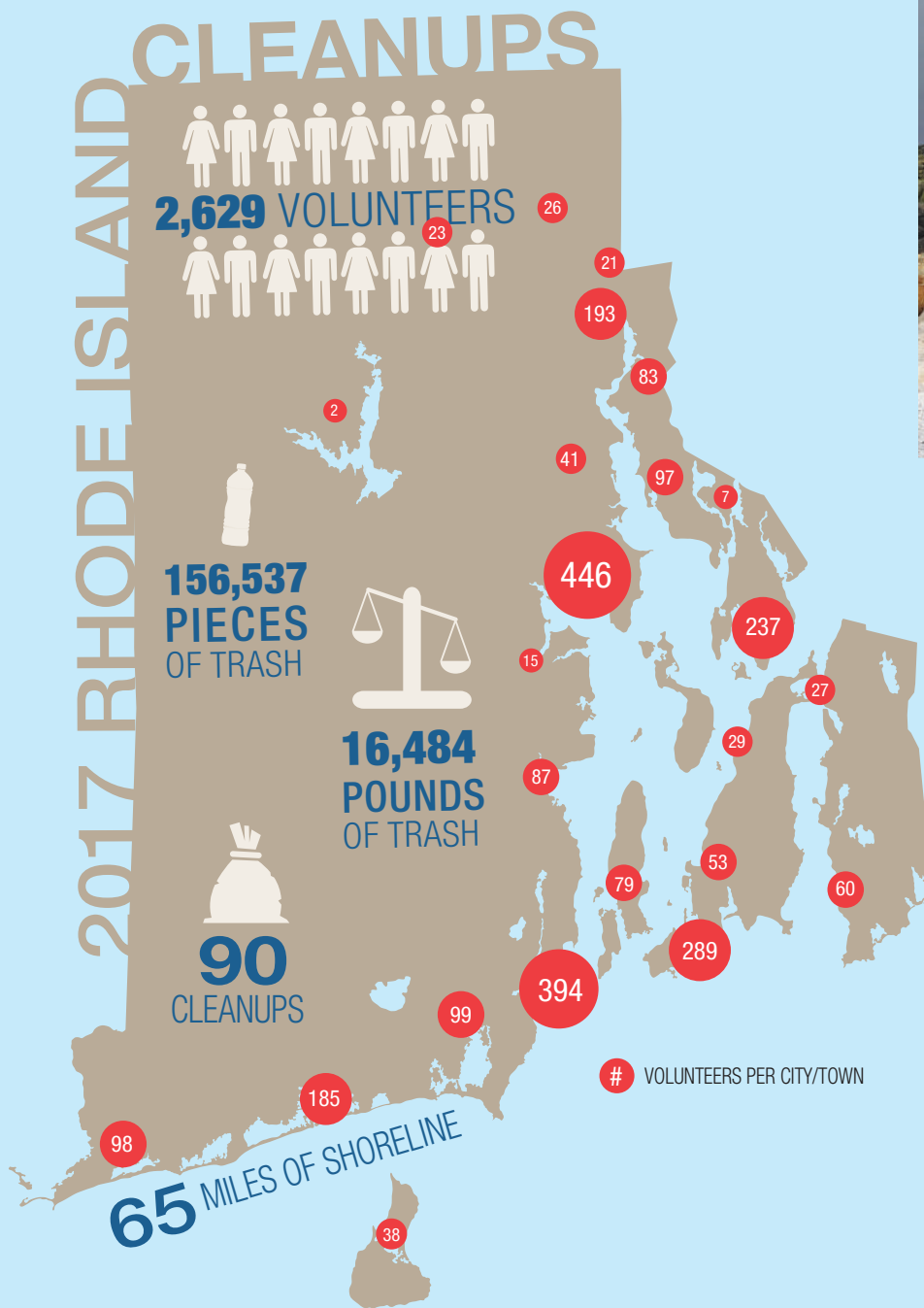


## DID YOU KNOW?

*Even miles from the water, litter finds a way to our Bay.*

You'd be surprised how trash makes its way to our oceans. Sure, plenty of it is left there carelessly by people on the shore. But beach trash also originates in our inland cities and towns, where litter left on the ground is carried to our waterways.


  
 Ocean  
Conservancy



*"The ICC is very important to me because I have always lived less than 10 miles from the ocean. The ocean is instilled in me—it has shaped my career, my interests, and my passion for conservation. Nothing is worse than seeing debris littering the marine environment I call home."*

~ Nina Quaratella,  
Prudence Island

All data represents early results. Numbers may increase when the final international report is published in the spring. For more International Coastal Cleanup data and reports from around the world, visit [COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG](http://COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS IN NARRAGANSETT BAY



### CONTAIN YOUR BUTTS.

Cigarette filters are NOT biodegradable. Use a container for your butts so they don't reach waterways and the ocean.

### CARRY IT OUT.

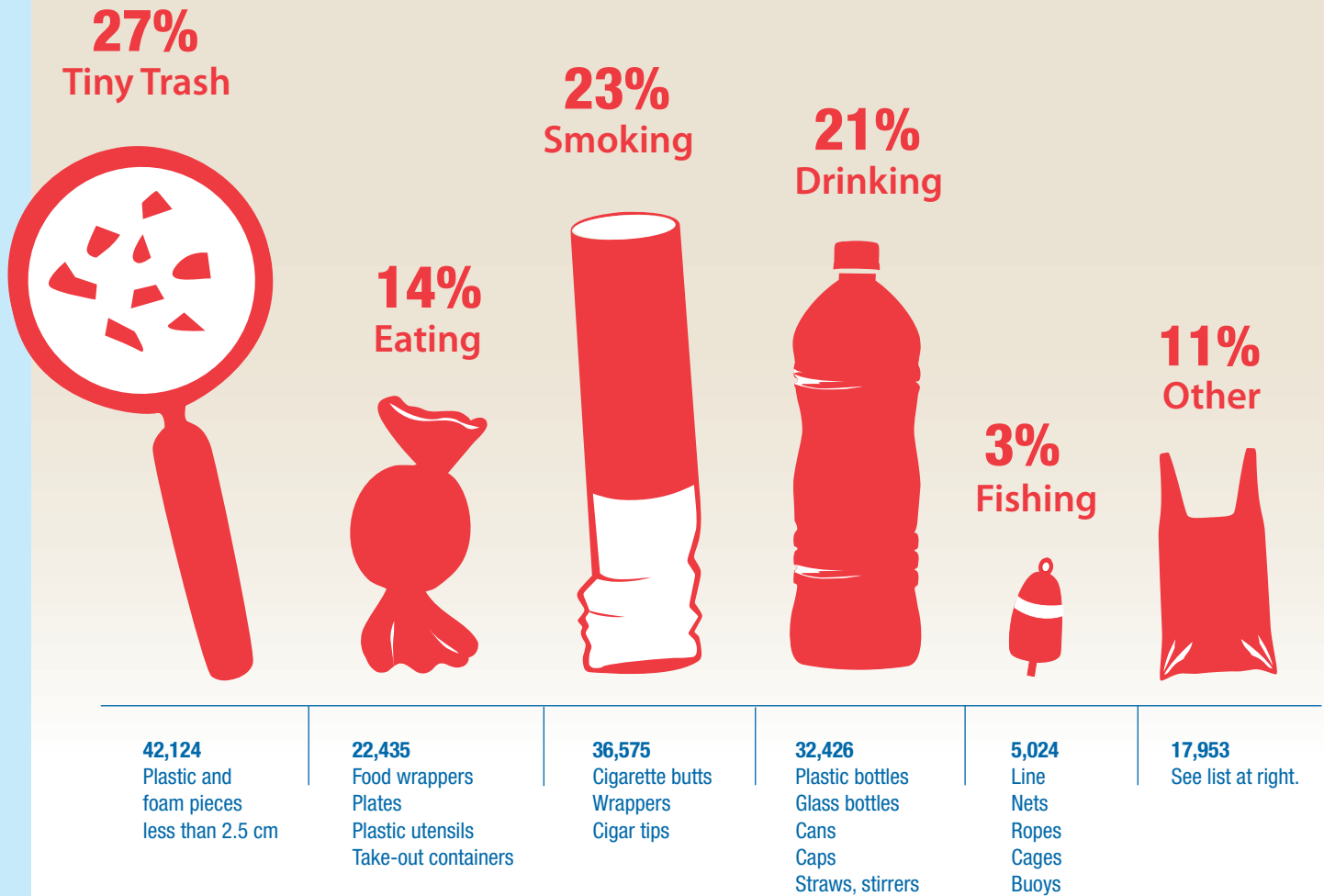
Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

### TOSS IT IN.

Trash tossed out on streets and sidewalks, even far from the shore, ends up in storm drains and washes into the Bay. Use trash cans.

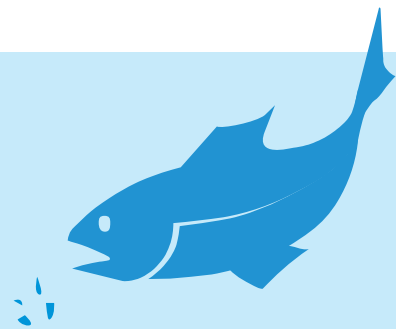


## TOP TRASH COLLECTED



### TINY TRASH IS A BIG PROBLEM!

Plastics never go away; they just break down into tinier and tinier pieces that end up being ingested by marine life, and, in turn, us humans. These "microplastics" are found in plankton, arctic sea ice, and the gills and digestive tracts of the seafood we humans eat. How much plastic do YOU want to eat?



### PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that contaminate our waters and seafood and make humans sick.



### SET AN EXAMPLE.

When you go to the beach, take a trash bag with you and pick up surrounding trash you see. People are less likely to litter on a clean beach.

### SHOUT IT OUT.

If you see friends and family members littering, let them know it is NOT OK to trash our Bay.

## UNUSUAL ITEMS

INDUSTRIAL BAGS OF RICE

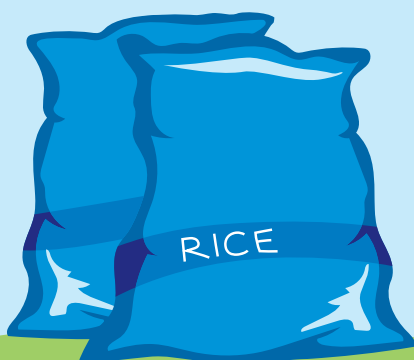
NEEDLE NOSE PLIERS

DENTURES

SHRIMP COCKTAIL PLATTER

TENT POLE

2 USB DRIVES



## ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	34,036	21.74%
Plastic Pieces	19,180	12.25%
Glass Pieces	13,848	8.85%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	12,118	7.74%
Foam Pieces	9,096	5.81%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	8,531	5.45%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	4,764	3.04%
Beverage Cans	4,446	2.93%
Straws, Stirrers	4,543	2.90%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	4,205	2.69%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	3,847	2.46%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	3,666	2.34%
Other Plastic Bags	3,237	2.07%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	2,856	1.82%
Bottle Caps (metal)	2,854	1.82%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	2,161	1.38%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	2,081	1.33%
Lids (plastic)	1,842	1.18%
Cups, Plates (foam)	1,596	1.02%
Paper Bags	1,468	0.94%
Forks, Knives, Spoons	1,452	0.93%
Cups, Plates (paper)	1,404	0.90%
Tobacco Packaging/Wrap	1,215	0.78%
Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	1,148	0.73%
Cigar Tips	1,004	0.64%
Construction Materials	904	0.58%
Balloons	835	0.53%
Take Out/Away Containers (foam)	778	0.50%
Strapping Bands	735	0.47%
Fishing Net & Pieces	655	0.42%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	458	0.29%
Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps	454	0.29%
Fireworks	332	0.21%
Cigarette Lighters	320	0.20%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	310	0.20%
Diapers	255	0.16%
6-Pack Holders	221	0.14%
Other Trash (Clean Swell)	196	0.13%
Condoms	167	0.11%
Syringes	113	0.07%
Tires	96	0.06%
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)	68	0.04%
Toys	64	0.04%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	50	0.03%
Other Packaging (Clean Swell)	37	0.02%
Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell)	31	0.02%
<b>Total Pieces of Trash</b>	<b>156,537</b>	

*"We had three National Junior Honor Society students determined to collect the same amount of trash as a team of nine adults. A little friendly competition went a long way; they stayed an extra half hour and doubled the amount of trash they would have collected."*  
~ Melissa Chaput, Smithfield town-wide cleanup





## VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The success of Rhode Island's beach cleanup efforts depends on their generosity of time and love for our environment. Thank you to all our volunteers and to our Volunteer Beach Captains who lead dozens of other volunteers at each cleanup location!



*"I think we need to change our attitudes towards everyday trash consumption. While leading cleanups, I realized how almost all of the trash we collected consisted of single-use products. Participating in the ICC allowed me to recognize how my own attitudes and actions need to adapt in order to be part of the change I want to see."*

*~ Alexis Dorman, Salty Brine and Point Judith*

*"I was amazed when I first saw the cleanup forms on the clipboards; the level of detail astounded—and overwhelmed—me. But numbers are persuasive. That's when I decided to make a difference and provide the numbers in my own community of North Kingstown. I am proud to have taken my volunteering activity from that of showing up at someone else's cleanup to leading a cleanup right in my own 'backyard.'" ~ Michael Michaud, Rome Point*



### GET INVOLVED.

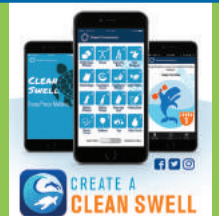
**Be a Beach Captain:** Shoreline cleanups are a popular activity, and what we need most are leaders! Learn how to organize a cleanup in your community at our upcoming trainings at our Bay Center in Providence:

- Saturday, February 24, 2018, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 17, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 9, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Volunteer for a Cleanup:** Save The Bay holds beach cleanups from April through November. Bring your family, a group of friends, or even just yourself.

➤ Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER)

**Use the CleanSwell App:** Lead your own small cleanup on your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Download the CleanSwell app, take a bag with you to the beach, record the litter you pick up in the app, and take the trash home with you when you leave. The app tracks your efforts, and you can even share your results on social media with a selfie. Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database! [OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL](http://OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL)



## SPONSORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Thanks to our generous sponsors and partners who host cleanups, bring teams of employee volunteers, and provide gloves and trash bags, first-aid kits, hazardous waste disposal, sunscreen and bug spray and more!

*"Citizens was proud to be involved, once again, in supporting the International Coastal Cleanup, and our colleagues were excited to pitch in. This effort goes a long way toward educating the public about the impact of marine debris, which helps bring about sustainable change for our coastline and wildlife."*  
~ Barbara Cottam, Rhode Island Market Executive, Citizens Bank



*"We are a small team and asked for a site that we could complete a significant cleanup within a few hours. Watchemoket Cove in East Providence was the perfect location. The team collected 120 pounds of trash and were thanked by numerous residents that morning. It was a great day for the National Grid team to make a difference."*  
~ Jane Rutana, National Grid

*"While we support the coastal clean up as a vital tool in keeping our environment clean, the bonding among our employees who participated was a wonderful experience."*  
~ Michael Akkaoui, Tanury Industries President & CEO



### 2017 SPONSORS:

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South County Tourism Council  
Matunuck Oyster Bar  
Bay Coast Bank  
MetLife Auto & Home  
Matunuck Beach Properties, Inc. Ray Carpenter's Beach  
New England Med Waste Services, LLC  
Walmart

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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