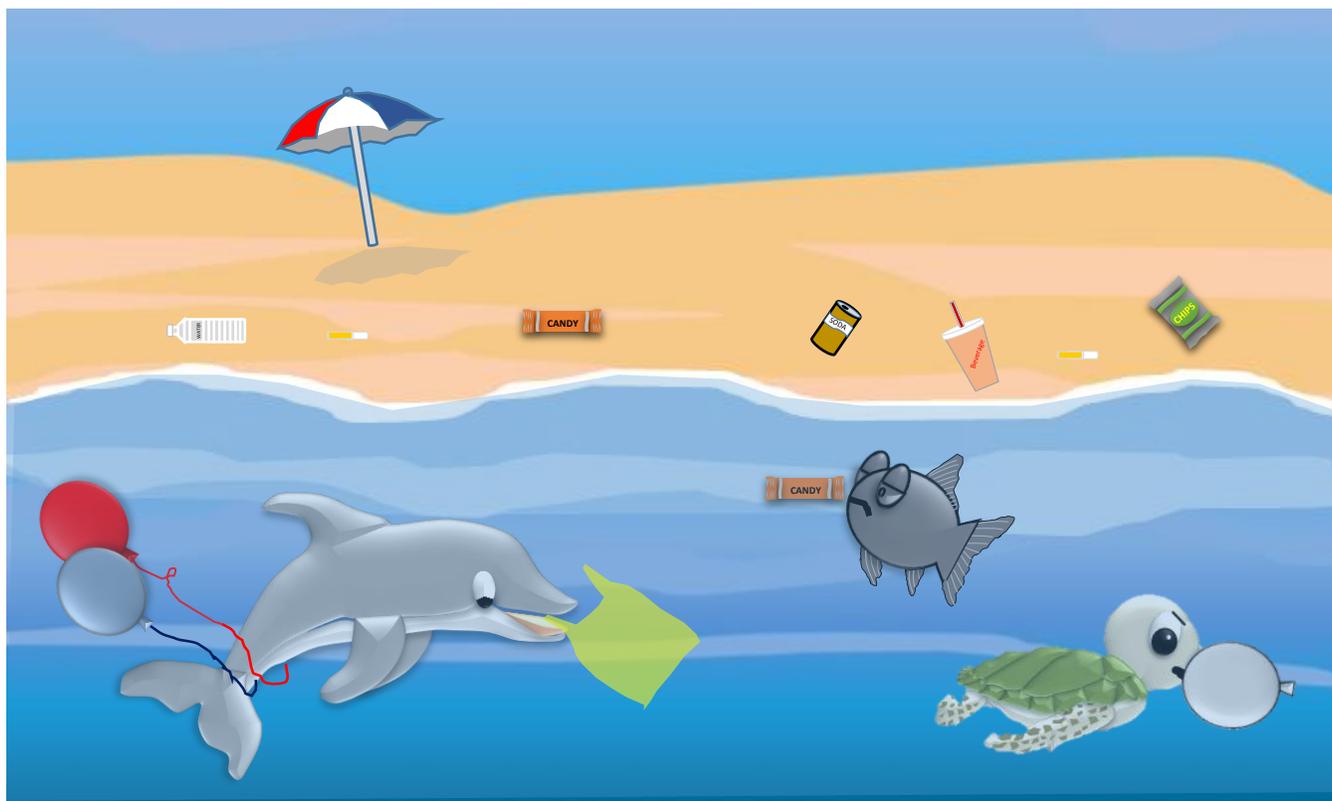




You Can Reduce Marine Debris A Little Can Go A Long Way!



Use Less Water During a Storm

Many of our sewers empty into bays and other waterbodies especially during rain and snow storms due to combined sewer outfalls. Ultimately that wastewater can wind up in the ocean along with all of the trash that was on our streets. If you can wait until it stops raining to do your laundry, run a dishwasher, or take a shower, etc. you can help to reduce the amount of water the system has to handle and lessen the risk that more storm water, debris and raw sewage will enter our waterways. Putting a rain barrel on your property could also help the problem.

Twist and Tug Snagged Fishing Line Don't Cut It

When you cut snagged fishing line you leave behind strands that can endanger wildlife. If you grab the line with a wrench and twist it around the wrench you may be able to tug on the line until it breaks at the weakest point which would be at its connection to the hook and you will be able to gather up that line and dispose of it properly.

Choose Glass & Aluminum Over Plastic

Glass and Aluminum can be endlessly recycled but plastic can only be downcycled. Plastic contains toxins and can take hundreds of years to disappear from the environment. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces that are eaten by marine life and birds. Sometimes animals stomachs become so filled with plastic that they can starve to death.

Cigarette Butts Are Made of Plastic and May Be Toxic



Cigarette filters are not biodegradable and the chemicals in them can leach into the surrounding land and water. These chemicals do not belong in the marine environment and may cause considerable harm. Laboratory tests have determined that cigarette butts can be toxic to marine life.



Less Garbage In You Trash Can = Less Marine Debris

Even when disposed of in garbage cans, trash sometimes winds up in our waterways. Light weight items often spill from, or are blown from, improperly covered trash and recycling cans and from garbage trucks, landfills and from garbage transfer stations and are carried by the wind to the nearest water body. By reducing the use of disposable and single-use items in your life, you can lessen the chances that your discarded items will find their way to the ocean.

NO



New Yorker's use 5.2 billion carryout bags per year and most are not recycled. NYC spends about 10 million dollars a year to transport 100,000 lbs. of plastic bags to landfills. Bringing your own bag can help the environment and save NYC money.

YES



The EPA regulates tap water more strictly than the FDA regulates bottled water. Almost 50% of bottled water is really filtered tap water. Once a plastic bottle is opened, bacteria can grow quickly unless the bottle is refrigerated. Utilizing reusable aluminum or stainless steel bottles or glass bottles with silicone sleeves is healthier for you and the environment.



Don't Release Balloons



Marine animals and birds mistake balloons for food and often become entangled in the strings and ribbons. Don't let go of balloons! Instead, celebrate by flying a kite, blowing bubbles or planting native flowers!



With generous support from the NOAA Restoration Center and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the Littoral Society is currently spearheading a Marine Debris Removal and Data-driven Prevention Pilot Project at various sites in New York including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. This project seeks to reduce the amount of marine debris through both removal and source reduction efforts.

For more than 25 years, with the help of its partners and volunteers, the Littoral Society has removed hundreds of thousands of pounds of large and small debris from the shorelines of New York.



The American Littoral Society is engaged in numerous habitat restoration projects in New York and New Jersey including marsh, oyster reef, and dune restoration.

Please visit www.littoralsociety.org for information on volunteer opportunities, shoreline cleanups, restoration projects, educational programs, whale watching and birding trips and other events. We are in the process of overhauling our website so please stay tuned for exciting changes!

If your school or organization is interested in hosting a free marine debris prevention presentation or volunteering for a beach cleanup, please contact Lisa (lisa@littoralsociety.org).