



MARINE DEBRIS

(ma-rin da-bré) noun. 1. Any man-made object discarded, disposed of, or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment. 2. An unacceptable but preventable problem for South Carolina's coast.

The Preventable Problem

Every day, marine debris threatens the safety and health of our waterways. Abandoned boats, old fishing gear, discarded equipment and building materials can destroy the marsh, damage shellfish beds and obstruct navigation. In some cases, marine debris can also release oils, gas and other hazardous and toxic chemicals into the marine environment.

Since 2004, over 80 abandoned vessels and large debris items have been removed from our coastal waterways. However, marine debris continues to pose a threat. Recreational boaters, anglers and watermen can significantly help reduce this problem by becoming coastal stewards.

To learn more about marine debris, including reduction and prevention efforts, please visit us online:
www.scdhec.gov/cleanmarine



Become a Coastal Steward

South Carolina's coast and waterways belong to all of us. Do your part to protect our coastal heritage.

- ▶ **Prevent and reduce** what enters our coastal waters through proper disposal of boats, recreational equipment and appliances.
- ▶ **Participate** in conservation and clean up events.
- ▶ **Report** abandoned vessels and large marine debris items by contacting DHEC Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (DHEC-OCRM) online or by phone.
- ▶ **Stay informed** about coastal laws and other marine debris prevention efforts.

