

## ITN Marine Debris Cleanup Protocols

**The Inventive: A cleaner marine environment.** Unlike in years past, we are not able to reimburse participants for their efforts. If you are still interested in participating as a volunteer, thank you!

Prior to the start of a cleanup, each participant will be briefed by the organizer of the clean-up on safety policies as well as land status and wildlife issues specific to the area.

**Safety Briefing** – The organizer shall provide a site-specific safety briefing which will include the following:

- Needed protective and/or weatherproof attire (always wear gloves)
- Proper use of any cutting or hand tools;
- Safe lifting and leveraging of heavy objects;
- Motor vehicle operations (if applicable);
- Weather and topographic conditions;
- Identification of EMTs and trained first aid personnel if on site; or,
- Toxic and hazardous material identification and procedures.

**Land and Wildlife Issues** – The contractor will provide the workers with a briefing on land status and wildlife issues. The briefing will include:

- Ownership status of cleanup project lands, emphasizing:
  - Special landowner requests and cautions;
  - Conditions and authorizations of any needed permits; and
  - Appropriate conduct regarding archaeological, cultural, biological or other protected resources and sites.
- Proper conduct near wildlife, including:
  - Marine mammals, particularly near rookeries and in cases of encounters with animals entangled in marine debris;
  - Seabirds, particularly near nesting and feeding areas, and in cases of encounters with birds entangled in marine debris; and
  - Other terrestrial, marine, or aquatic wildlife known to occur in the cleanup area, particularly regarding potential for disturbance of wildlife or dangers to workers.

*If you encounter entangled marine mammals contact the NOAA Fisheries statewide 24-hour Stranding Hotline: (877) 925-7773. If you encounter an entangled whale and do not have access to a phone contact the US Coast Guard on VHF channel 16. For entangled birds or sea otters, contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*

### Cleanup

In general, follow the safety plan while working in designated teams using only hand tools and small vehicles. Be sure to follow the work plan established by the organizer.

The majority of debris will be relatively easy to pick up. However, some debris, particularly nets and lines, may be buried and difficult to remove. In some cases, the debris may have become a part of the bank. Pieces that have become a part of the fabric of the beach should not be removed though above-ground netting can be cut away

and removed.

Marine debris should be collected in yellow plastic bags donated by Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR). When a bag is nearly full, it shall be tied shut with a double overhand knot so that no debris falls out during handling. These full ALPAR bags may be placed directly into cubic yard bags (super sacks). All bags should be filled to their capacity, and bottles and buckets should be nested where possible to reduce volume. Individual items such as long pieces of PVC pipe may be handled individually and cut into small pieces to fit into a super sack. Hard and soft buoys may be securely lashed together and may be transported outside the super sack. Please do not fill a super sack to beyond 500 lbs and never leave caches of marine debris unattended.

### **Prohibited Items**

**Hazmat:** Under no circumstance is handling of hazardous material authorized—reporting findings of hazardous material to the USCG. This includes medical waste, petrochemicals such as diesel fuel and gasoline, paints, thinners, solvents, and any containers labeled “hazardous”, “explosive” or with similar warnings. We are not equipped to handle hazardous materials in our program so please consider our safety as well as your own. Do not smell, inhale or ingest any unknown substance to determine its composition. *If in doubt as to whether a container contains hazardous material, treat it as if it does.*

**Commercial fishing waste:** This program is not a mechanism for disposing of your own commercial fishing waste, including worn out net, line and corks. Please do not misrepresent these materials as marine debris—do not place them in clean-up bags.

**Household waste:** The purpose of the program is not to process household waste from setnet site facilities. Please ensure that no household waste, even in small quantities, is packaged with the marine debris.

**Other items:** Please do not send steel drums or milled lumber.

### **Data Collection and Recording**

Please fill out the 1-page form supplied with this clean-up kit, and additional forms for any additional kits you request. ITN and our funders are particularly interested in identifying and quantifying marine debris that is harmful to fish and wildlife. Nets, lines, and packing bands, generally large items are typically the type of debris that cause entanglement. Photographs of these items *in situ* or of volunteers in the act of removing these items are highly encouraged.

Upon delivery of your marine debris to your tender and submission of the reporting form, you may request additional cleanup materials through your tender or participating processor or by contacting ITN.