



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



August 21, 2008

International Stewards of the Environment

"Taking care of the coastlines is both a service to the environment and a source of pride for our Sailors and civilians. It can also help families teach their young children to appreciate and respect our nation's waterways."

– Rear Admiral Larry Rice, Director of Environmental Readiness, Chief of Naval Operations

Because the Navy is a seagoing force, many of our environmental initiatives focus on ocean stewardship, and we seek opportunities to control our ecological footprint in relation to marine life, coastal impacts, and water quality.

Demonstrating Navy's commitment to ocean stewardship

- With our primary mission to defend the United States and our allies at sea, the U.S. Navy also has a responsibility to serve as a good steward of the environment, especially the oceans.
- We have installed technology aboard our ships to keep plastics out of the ocean and safely manage our biodegradable waste stream.
- Navy installations and ship crews frequently partner with local communities on [volunteer shoreline cleanup projects](#). And we look for opportunities to work with non-governmental organizations on stewardship projects, especially those that restore and preserve the health of the oceans.

Working with others to cleanup our coasts

- Trash in the oceans kills more than a million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles through entanglement and ingestion each year. (Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Report 2007)
- Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is a year-round endeavor to keep oceans free from trash and safer for people and animals. Its mission is to engage people to remove debris from the world's beaches and waterways, identify the sources of debris, and change behaviors that cause pollution. The flagship event, held yearly in September, is the largest single-day volunteer event to protect oceans and waterways.
- During the flagship event, volunteers record each piece of trash picked up at sites around the world. The conservancy publishes a [report](#) about the findings. The report reveals the hazards of marine debris and why everyone should take responsibility for protecting beaches and waterways year-round.
- Navy personnel are encouraged to participate for the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup, to be held on September 20. To register, log onto www.coastalcleanup.org.

Key Messages

- The U.S. Navy is committed to good stewardship of the environment, especially the oceans.
- The U.S. Navy encourages commands to join efforts with local communities to provide education on domestic and international environmental initiatives and to encourage the preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of the environment. ([OPNAVINST 5350.6C of 26 Mar 07](#))
- Navy personnel are encouraged to participate in the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup set for Saturday, September 20. To register, log onto www.coastalcleanup.org.

Facts & Figures

- 70% of the world is water, 80% of the world lives within a few hundred miles of the oceans, and 90% of our commerce sails across it.

According to the [Ocean Conservancy](#), in 2007:

- 378,000 ICC volunteers from 76 countries cleared six million pounds of trash from oceans and waterways
- Top 10 debris items collected: cigarettes and filters, food wrappers/containers, caps/lids, bags, plastic bottles, cups/plates/forks/knives/spoons, glass bottles, cigar tips, straws/stirrers, and beverage cans.
- Top 10 dangerous debris items collected: bags, balloons, crab/lobster/fish traps, fishing line, fishing nets, plastic sheeting/tarps, rope, six-pack holders, strapping bands, and syringes.