

11TH ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REEF CLEANUP



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative

SUMMER 2022 REPORT

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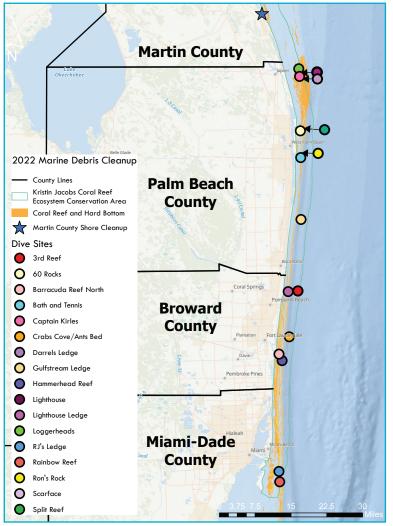
Overview

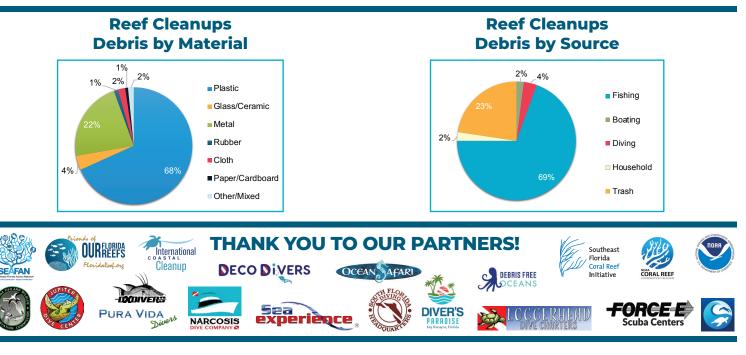
In August 2022, the 11th Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup was hosted by the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). In partnership with nine local dive shops and organizations, divers and volunteers removed more than 9.000 pounds of marine debris from reefs and shorelines in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

In Martin County, DEP sponsored the Peck's Lake reef cleanup as part of the 15th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup. This year, cleanup participants were also able to host their own do-it-yourself cleanup and report the debris they removed using the Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app.

History: Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanups

Since 2012, nearly 3,396 pounds of debris have been removed from the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as part of the Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup (excluding shorebased cleanups). By partnering with local dive shops and involving the community, this initiative helps raise awareness about the causes and consequences of marine debris. See figures below for a breakdown of debris collected.





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2022 Cleanup Highlights

Reef Cleanups

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- 182 Volunteers
- 42 Pounds of debris removed

Most obscure debris item removed: Fireworks

DIY Shore Cleanups (Clean Swell)

140 Shore sites736 Volunteers9,157 Pounds of debris removed

Summary: Reef Cleanups

Seventeen reef sites (see map on reverse side) were visited along Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Divers collectively removed an estimated total of 247 items of trash weighing more than 40 pounds. A breakdown of debris by source and material is shown in the charts below, which do not include data from the Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup.

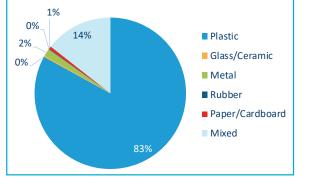
Volunteers and divers who participated in Martin County's Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup removed 17,040 items with a total weight of 2,382 pounds of debris from the shore and the water. Items removed by participating divers included fishing line, microplastics, dive gear, metal cans, bottle caps, plastic grocery bags, fishing hooks, barbed wire and balloons.

Summary: DIY Shore Cleanups

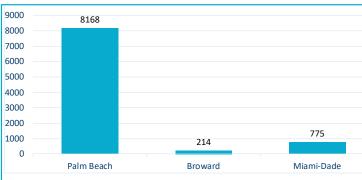
Using the Ocean Conservancy Clean Swell app, 736 participants visited 140 land-based sites in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Collectively, participants removed an estimated 307,363 items of marine debris weighing 9,157 pounds from the shoreline and waterways.

In Palm Beach County, 351 participants collected 8,168 pounds of debris. In Broward County, 97 participants gathered 213 pounds of debris, and in Miami-Dade County, 288 participants gathered 775 pounds of debris.

DIY Shore Cleanups Debris by Material



DIY Shore Cleanups Pounds of Debris Removed by County





Report Marine Debris to SEAFAN.net

Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a community-based marine incident reporting and response program dedicated to improving the protection and management of Southeast Florida's coral reefs. You can help by reporting marine debris and other incidents online at <u>SEAFAN.net</u>.

