

# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REEF CLEANUP



## Overview

The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI), Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) coordinated the 14th Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup on July 13, 2025.

A total of 87 divers joined five local dive shops across the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve (KJCAP), to remove marine debris from 10 reef sites (see map) along Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. In addition to this effort, CRCP sponsored the 18th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup at Peck Lake Reef in Martin County.

## History

Since 2012, SEFCRI, CRCP and FOFR have partnered with local dive shops to remove marine debris from Florida's Coral Reef through the Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup. Largely coordinated through CRCP and FOFR, and part of the Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program, this effort raises awareness of the causes and impacts of marine debris while tracking its location, type and abundance to identify debris hotspots and guide future cleanups.

In addition to annual, community-based reef cleanups across Southeast Florida, CRCP encourages divers to safely remove debris on every dive and report their findings to the Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN), fostering ongoing reef conservation.

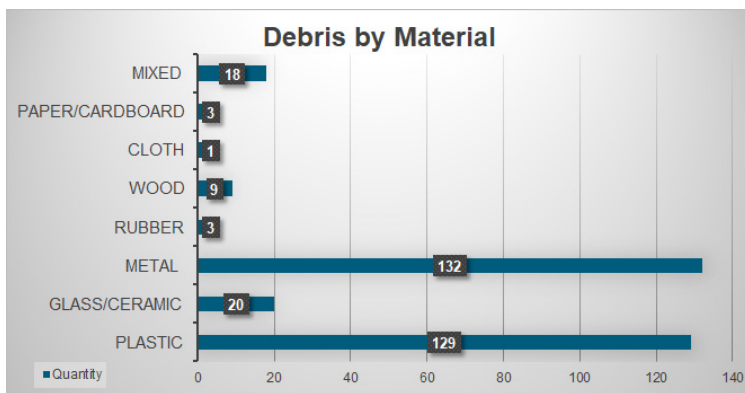
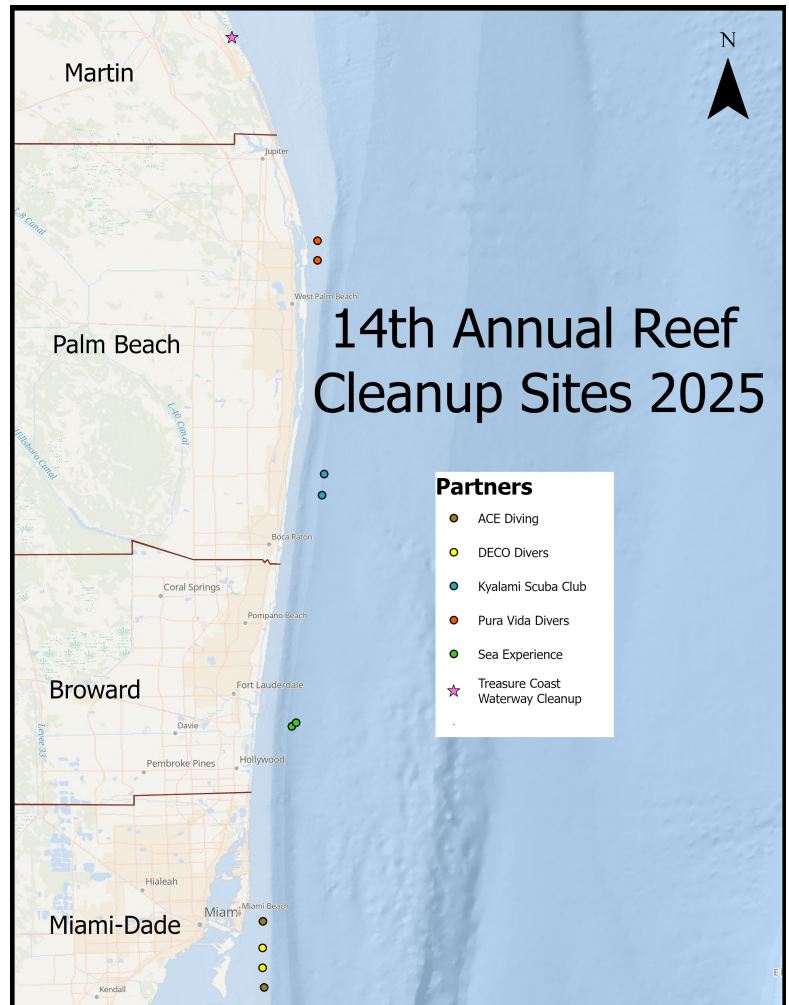


Figure 1. Total quantities of marine debris collected from Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties by material category.

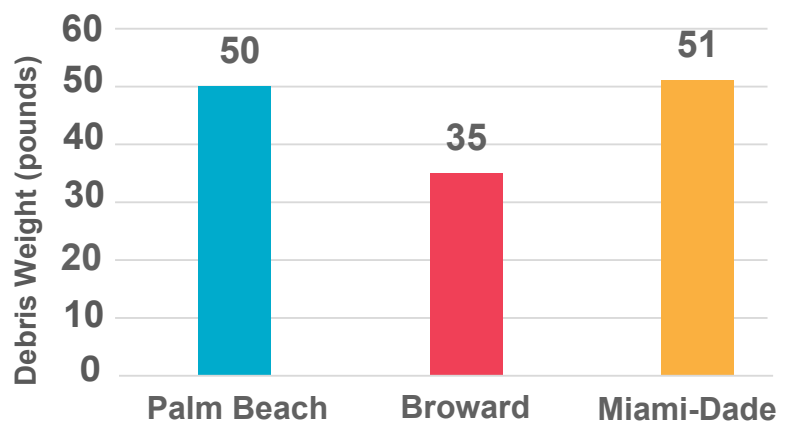


Figure 2. Weight (in pounds) of marine debris collected in each county.



### Report Marine Debris to SEAFAN.net

The Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a citizen science marine incident reporting and response program dedicated to improving the protection and management of southeast Florida's Coral Reef. With no special training needed, community members can report marine debris and other marine incidents online at SEAFAN.net, by using the QR code or calling the hotline at 866-770-7335.



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## 2025 Cleanup Highlights

10 Reefs

87 Participants

136 lbs. of marine debris removed



**Figure 3.** Participants show monofilament collected from their dives in Palm Beach County.

## Summary

Participating divers collectively removed approximately 315 items of marine debris weighing at least 136 pounds. Debris was removed from local reef sites that were chosen based on areas that are known to accumulate debris or areas of high boater activity. All types of debris were collected, including lounge chairs, snorkel masks, clothing, numerous glass bottles, plastic bags and an abundance of fishing monofilament, hooks and sinkers. Marine debris can damage sponges and corals, as well as entangle fish and other reef organisms, often resulting in injury or death.

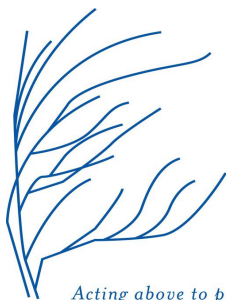
Many local dive shops and community non-profit groups organize frequent beach, mangrove and underwater cleanups. If you are unable to attend one of these organized events, we encourage conducting your own DIY cleanup and reporting it to SEAFAN. A DIY cleanup can be as simple as bringing a trash bag anytime you visit the beach, picking up a beach bucket at an access point, picking up any debris you come across when boating or inviting a group of friends and family to clean up a specific beach or reef. Once you complete your DIY cleanup, [report](#) the results to SEAFAN.net.

## 18th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup

The Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup, sponsored in part by CRCP, took place across Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. On July 26, 2025, in Martin County, participating divers and volunteers removed over 1,700 individual items of debris from the water, totaling 1,617 pounds. Items removed by participating divers included microplastics, dive gear, metal cans, fishing hooks, cigarette butts and balloons.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



Southeast Florida  
Coral Reef  
Initiative

Acting above to protect what's below.



Friends of  
**OUR FLORIDA REEFS**  
[FloridaReef.org](#)