



North Carolina Marine Debris Action Plan

2025 - 2030

[Second Edition]

Acknowledgements

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N.C. Marine Debris Action Plan Leadership Team

Rachel Bisesi, N.C. Coastal Federation
Hannah Bliss, LTJG, US Coast Guard
Jan Farmer, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Paula Gillikin, N.C. Coastal Reserve
Madison Haley, N.C. State University
Sara Hallas, N.C. Coastal Federation
Heather Jennings, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
Bonnie Mitchell, N.C. Coastal Federation
Caroline Morris, NOAA Marine Debris Program
Emily Mulvihill, Plastic Ocean Project
Gloria Putnam, N.C. Sea Grant
Lisa Rider, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Leslie Vegas, N.C. Aquariums
Suzanne Wheatcraft, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Ted Wilgis, N.C. Coastal Federation

A complete list of Action Plan participants is found in [Appendix A](#)

For citation purposes, please use:

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For more information, please

contact: North Carolina Coastal
Federation 3609 N.C. 24
Newport, N.C. 28570
252-393-8185

List of Acronyms

ADV	Abandoned and Derelict Vessel
APNEP	Albemarle National Estuary Partnership
CAMA	Coastal Area Management Act
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
NCDEACS	North Carolina Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
NCDCM	North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
NCDEQ	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
NCDNCR	North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
NCDOT	North Carolina Department of Transportation
NCDWM	North Carolina Division of Waste Management
NCDWQ	North Carolina Division of Water Quality
NCWRC	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UNC	University of North Carolina

Executive Summary

The *North Carolina Marine Debris Action Plan 2025–2030* provides a coordinated framework to reduce marine debris and its impacts on the State’s coastal ecosystems, communities, and economy. Building upon the first edition (2020–2024), this second edition integrates lessons learned, progress achieved, and new strategies to address emerging challenges.

Marine debris—persistent solid materials that enter the marine environment—poses a significant threat to human health, wildlife, habitats, and coastal economies. Through longstanding local and regional efforts, North Carolina continues to address issues such as consumer litter, lost fishing gear, abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs), and storm-generated debris. This plan aligns diverse stakeholders to act collectively and strategically over the next five years.

The Action Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving state and federal agencies, academic institutions, nonprofits, community organizations, and industry partners. It outlines five overarching goals:

1. **Lead and Coordinate** – Strengthen leadership, partnerships, and communication to implement the plan effectively at the state level.
2. **Prevent** – Reduce the introduction of marine debris through education, outreach, policy improvements, and business and community engagement.
3. **Remove** – Support strategic removal of debris while building community and organizational capacity for cleanups and disaster response.
4. **Prevent and Remove Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADVs)** – Establish systems for prevention, removal, and long-term management of derelict vessels while minimizing ecological damage.
5. **Research and Assessment** – **Advance research and monitoring to improve understanding of debris sources, impacts, and trends, supporting evidence-based solutions.**

The plan operates on a five-year cycle with annual reporting to measure accomplishments and guide adaptive management. Core principles—creativity, collaboration, efficiency, empowerment, and accountability—underpin implementation.

By uniting diverse partners under a shared vision, the North Carolina Marine Debris Action Plan 2025–2030 positions the State to protect its coastal and marine environments, support resilient communities, and serve as a model for coordinated marine debris management. Implementation of this plan will reduce the sources and impacts of marine debris, protect wildlife and habitats, strengthen coastal economies, and inspire future generations to steward North Carolina’s coast.

Introduction

The North Carolina Marine Debris Action Plan (“Action Plan”) provides a strategic framework for prevention and removal of marine debris along the North Carolina coast and is based upon an evaluation of past and current attempts to address the problem. Despite efforts of many to address marine debris, the problem persists. This Action Plan is meant to inspire strategic coordination, focus, and direction for the organizations and communities that address or will address marine debris over the next five years and into future generations. North Carolina can maintain and perpetuate one of the cleanest and most productive coastal and marine environments in the world with support from the Action Plan.

The Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. §1951 et seq.; P.L. 109-449) establishes the definition of marine debris as “... any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment.” It is a widespread pollution issue of local, national, and international significance that impacts human health and welfare, wildlife, habitats, and economies. Addressing marine debris can prevent negative impacts and support healthy coastal economies and ecosystems.

Over the years, various programs and projects have been implemented in North Carolina to help prevent and remove marine debris; however, no single agency or program coordinates coastwide marine debris management efforts. The North Carolina Beach Sweep began in 1987 and transformed into a statewide coordinated cleanup program managed by the nonprofit, North Carolina Big Sweep. Dissolved in 2015, North Carolina Big Sweep events and programs are no longer coordinated by a central nonprofit, but are executed by some counties that chose to continue the effort.

In 2017, the North Carolina Coastal Federation (Coastal Federation) initiated a process to develop a coordinated effort to strategically address marine debris in North Carolina. The Coastal Federation convened a Leadership Team originally composed of partners from North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve, North Carolina Sea Grant, and North Carolina Marine Debris Symposium. In an effort to assess the current status of marine debris occurrence and management in the state, the leadership team engaged local and state government agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and industry partners. The assessment revealed several types of debris as being problematic: consumer, derelict fishing gear, abandoned and derelict vessels, and storm-generated. It was also made clear that managing marine debris issues is complex, often falling to multiple entities and jurisdictions on the local, state, and federal levels or no agency at all. The full assessment entitled “[The State of Marine Debris in North Carolina: An Assessment of Prevention and Removal Efforts](#)” is a companion document to the [first edition of the Action Plan](#), published in January 2020. Both of these documents support efforts that led to the revisions in this publication, the second edition of the Action Plan. Annual accomplishments were published from 2020-2024 to report the progress of the first edition of the Action Plan. A cumulative report was published in 2024, [N.C Marine Debris Action Plan: 5 Years of Accomplishments](#). For additional resources, visit the Coastal Federation’s website [here](#).

Purpose of Action Plan

The overall purpose of the Action Plan is to guide work over the next five years that will ***strategically reduce the amount of marine debris and its impacts in coastal North Carolina*** through tangible and measurable actions.

The Action Plan is a product of stakeholder input provided during workshops, professional meetings, and online surveys. Stakeholder affiliations are included in [Appendix A](#). The planning and revision process was initiated by the Coastal Federation and was supported by the leadership team.

Action Plan Provisions

Overall Action Plan Duration: The overall Action Plan duration is five years. After five years, the Action Plan will be evaluated and updated by partners.

Action Plan Operational Cycle: The Action Plan operational cycle is one year. At the end of an operational cycle, partners will collate Action Plan accomplishments.

Leadership Team: Coordination of an Action Plan leadership team was led by the North Carolina Coastal Federation with collaborative process support provided by a trained facilitator from the North Carolina Coastal Reserve. Other team members included partners from North Carolina Sea Grant, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch, Litter Free Land and Sea, Carteret County, U.S. Coast Guard, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, NOAA Marine Debris Program, Plastic Ocean Project, and the N.C. Aquariums. Together, team members established and executed a collaborative process that resulted in a published Action Plan. The leadership team consists of many of its initial members, although there are opportunities for others to join or leave as needed. This team, or parts thereof, is responsible for ensuring that the Action Plan is executed according to its provisions and for tracking progress.

Foundations: The Action Plan will be executed with consideration to the following:

- **Creativity and Credibility:** diverse experts working together are a trusted source of information and solutions.
- **Collaboration:** working together will ensure that realistic and effective strategies are developed and implemented.
- **Efficiency:** wise use of available knowledge and resources will maximize productivity.
- **Empowerment and Accountability:** collaborations enable and empower organizations to do what is necessary to reduce marine debris.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Actions

Goals, objectives, strategies, and actions of the Action Plan are presented in the following two formats for maximum utility across stakeholders:

“Roadmap” of Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Actions ([Appendix B](#)). An extensive list of potential marine debris reduction strategies and actions were generated by stakeholders through facilitated activities and online surveys during development of the Action Plan. The list of ideas was synthesized and organized into a detailed roadmap of five goals and associated detailed objectives, strategies, and actions with implementing organizations identified. The primary purpose of this format is to serve as a detailed reference for stakeholders who helped develop the Action Plan and/or are implementing strategies and actions.

Strategic Plan with Goals and Priority Objectives. To ensure maximum utility of the Action Plan for a diverse array of stakeholders, the detailed Action Plan roadmap was consolidated into a strategic plan with priority objectives found below. The strategic plan can be used when there is a need for a short, easily digestible version of the Action Plan.

Community Engagement. In an effort to share resources, information on marine debris events and educational materials, workgroups developed the #DebrisFreeNC hashtag, logo, and social media channels. This serves as a tool to educate community members and keep partner organizations connected.



Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Lead and Coordinate

Lead, coordinate, and communicate in a way that effectively engages partners and other stakeholders to carry out the plan actions and strategies to advance the issue of marine debris at the state-level.

Objectives

- Publish, distribute, and implement the Action Plan.
- Engage the core leadership team to support the Action Plan by maintaining schedules, adhering to committee guidelines, and expanding membership.
- Coordinate and lead the Action Plan in a way that is complementary to NOAA's Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan.
- Encourage Federal, State and Local-level planning, coordination, and assistance for marine debris issues.
- Explore opportunities to establish a statewide marine debris coordinator i.e. N.C. DEQ
- Establish a method for engaging diverse perspectives, including establishing a committee to guide and oversee DEI efforts within the Action Plan.

Goal 2: Prevent

Prevent the introduction of marine debris with programs that increase awareness, improve policy, and inspire behavior change.

Objectives

- Collaborate with businesses to implement marine debris reduction strategies.
- Use public events as educational platforms to reduce debris, i.e. boat shows, Duke Open House, Take A Kid Fishing.
- Include priority messaging and techniques in marine debris education and outreach efforts.
- Elevate youth-led prevention projects, campaigns and ventures addressing plastic pollution and add EarthEcho International as the lead on it.

Goal 3: Remove

Remove chronic and storm debris in a strategic and efficient way, inspiring and assisting citizens and other stakeholders to participate as appropriate.

Objectives

- Expand use of existing technologies and mapping resources to identify and prioritize debris removal efforts.
- Leverage centralized media campaigns to more effectively market cleanups.
- Target select volunteer groups to assist with marine debris cleanups, while maximizing participant and public awareness of the issue.
- Establish annual paid clean-ups of marine debris.
- Increase readiness and capacity for engaging in state-level storm response and recovery.
- Devise and implement a micro-plastic wastewater reduction strategy.

Goal 4: Prevent and Remove Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV)

Implement strategies that support removal of existing derelict vessels, increased capacity for prevention, and careful environmental response.

Objectives

- Maintain a comprehensive georeferenced database of derelict vessels in coastal N.C.
- Remove existing abandoned and derelict vessels and prepare for post-disaster removals.
- Actively encourage county government ordinances that prevent and remove abandoned and derelict vessels.
- Establish and adequately fund a formal state program to prevent and remove abandoned and derelict vessels.
- Educate boat owners on proper vessel disposal practices and policies.
- Minimize damage to sensitive habitats caused by displaced vessels.

Goal 5: Research and Assessment

Identify, support and conduct research to understand the extent and impacts of marine debris and monitor trends to progressively improve strategies.

Objectives

- Create list of research priorities related to marine debris.
- Investigate the extent and type of marine debris in North Carolina's coastal near and offshore environments.
- Encourage commitment to data collection on debris removed that would contribute to quantitatively assembling and analyzing the status and trends.

N.C. Marine Debris Action Plan

Appendix A.

Action Plan Stakeholder List: Organizations and agencies that have been involved in the creation of the Action Plan through participation in Action Plan workshops and/or surveys.

Association of Plastics Recyclers (APR)
Atlantic Coast Marine Group, Inc.
Bald Head Island Conservancy
Beaufort County, South Carolina
Blockade Runner Beach Resort
BlueTube, Inc.
Brunswick County Government
By the Brook Productions LLC
Carolina Ocean Studies
Carteret County Sheriff Office
Carteret County Crossroads
Carteret County Emergency Services
Carteret County Public Schools - East Carteret High School
City of New Bern
City of Southport
City of Wilmington
Clements Marine Construction Inc.
Coastal Carolina Community College
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch (CCRW)
Coastal Environmental Partnership
Coastal Review Online
Crystal Coast Ocean Friendly Establishments
Crystal Coast Waterkeeper
Dare County
Department of Environmental Management
Down East Council

Duke University Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
Duke University Marine Lab
EarthEcho International
Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Patrol
Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Protection Program - permit
Fort Caswell: Environmental Stewardship Program
Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron
Friends of Pleasure Island State Park
Friends of the Reserve
Halyburton Park
Jennette's Pier (N.C. Aquariums)
Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
Keep Onslow Beautiful
Litter Free Land and Sea, Carteret County
League of Women Voters - Dare County
More Recycling
National Park Service - Outer Banks Group
National Park Service - Cape Hatteras National Seashore
National Park Service - Cape Lookout National Seashore
NOAA Fisheries - Habitat Conservation
NOAA Marine Debris Program
NOAA - Office of Response and Restoration
N.C. Coastal Federation
NCDEQ - Division of Water Resources
NCDEQ - Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
NCDEQ - N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve
NCDEQ - N.C. Division of Coastal Management
NCDEQ - N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
NCDEQ - N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
NCDEQ - N.C. Division of Waste Management

NCDEQ - N.C. Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section
NCDNCR - N.C. Aquariums - Fort Fisher
NCDNCR - N.C. Aquariums - Jennette's Pier
NCDNCR - N.C. Aquariums - Pine Knoll Shores
NCDNCR - N.C. Aquariums - Roanoke Island
NCDNCR - N.C. Historic Sites - Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site
NCDNCR - N.C. Maritime Museum - Beaufort
NCDNCR - N.C. State Parks - Fort Fisher State Recreation Area
NCDNCR - N.C. State Parks - Fort Macon
NCDNCR - N.C. State Parks - Hammocks Beach
NCDNCR - N.C. State Parks - Jockey's Ridge
N.C. Department of Public Safety - N.C. Emergency Management
NCDOT - State Maintenance Operations
N.C. Sea Grant
N.C. Sentinel Site Cooperative/N.C. Sea Grant
N.C. State University
N.C. State University - N.C. Cooperative Extension – N.C. Big Sweep
N.C. State University, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology
N.C. State University, CMAST Youth Programs
N.C. State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Center for Marine Science and Technology
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission - Law Enforcement Division
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission - Wildlife Diversity Program
Oak Island Beach Preservation Society
Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Friendly Establishments- Crystal Coast
Office of U.S. Senator Thom Tillis
Onslow County Schools - Dixon Middle School AVID 8th
Onslow Solid Waste Department
Parrot Heads of N.C.

Peltier Creek Marina Inc.
Plastic Waste Coalition
Plastic Ocean Project, Inc.
Science by the Sea
Sierra Club - Croatan Group
Sonoco Recycling - Jacksonville
Sound Rivers
Sturgeon City
Surfrider Foundation - Cape Fear Chapter
Surfrider Foundation - Outer Banks Chapter
TowBoatUS
Town of Atlantic Beach
Town of Beaufort
Town of Cedar Point
Town of Leland
Town of Manteo
Town of Morehead City
Town of Oriental
Town of Swansboro
Town Of Wrightsville Beach
Tyrrell County Emergency Management
UNC Institute of Marine Sciences
UNCW Marine Quest
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Navigation Section
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary- Flotilla 09-11
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Power Squadrons, National Environmental Committee
Wrightsville Beach Keep It Clean

Appendix B.

Roadmap of Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Actions

GOAL 1: LEAD AND COORDINATE	
<i>Lead, coordinate, and communicate in a way that effectively engages partners and other stakeholders to carry out the plan actions and strategies to advance the issue of marine debris at the state-level.</i>	
Objective 1.1: Publish, distribute, and implement the Action Plan, incorporating the communication strategy.	Partner(s)
	USCG
Objective 1.2: Engage the core leadership team to support the Action Plan by maintaining schedules, adhering to committee guidelines, and expanding membership.	North Carolina Aquariums
	N.C. Coastal Federation
Objective 1.3: Coordinate and lead the Action Plan in a way that is complementary to NOAA's Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan.	NOAA Marine Debris Program
Objective 1.4: Encourage Federal, State and Local-level planning, coordination, and assistance for marine debris issues.	Coastal Carolina River Watch (CCRW)
	N.C. Sea Grant
Objective 1.5: Explore opportunities to establish a statewide marine debris coordinator i.e. N.C. DEQ	APNEP
	N.C. Coastal Reserve
Objective 1.6: Establish a method for engaging diverse perspectives, including establishing a committee to guide and oversee DEI efforts within the Action Plan.	Litter Free Land and Sea, Carteret County
GOAL 2: PREVENT	
<i>Prevent the introduction of marine debris with programs that increase awareness, improve policy and inspire behavior change.</i>	
Objective 2.1: Collaborate with businesses to implement marine debris reduction strategies.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
2.1.1: Encourage participation in voluntary certification programs that generate less waste (e.g. Ocean Friendly Establishments, NCDCM Clean Marina Program, N.C. Green Travel).	Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
	Plastic Ocean Project
	Jennette's Pier
	NCDCM Clean Marina Program and Clean Boater (Pat Durrett)
2.1.2: Encourage alternatives to single use plastics through programs such as Ocean Friendly Establishments, N.C. Stream Watch, Turtle Trash Collectors, and others.	N.C. Coastal Federation
	Plastic Ocean Project
	N.C. Aquariums
	UNC-Wilmington MarineQuest (Turtle Trash Collectors)
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

	Surfrider Foundation
2.1.3. Recognize businesses that take action to reduce debris through recognition on Debris Free N.C. social media.	Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
	Jennette's Pier
	N.C. Coastal Federation
2.1.4: Assess and add additional materials, programs, and/or activities to the strategy where needed.	N.C. Sea Grant
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	Coastal Environmental Partnership
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest
	Jennette's Pier
2.1.5: As part of education efforts, include exercises where students identify waste and propose reduction measures (ie. Disposables used in lunch rooms, foam trays).	Duke University Marine Lab
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	Jennette's Pier
2.1.6: Share appropriate educational resources with teachers (teacher workshops, teacher programs in schools).	Duke University Marine Lab
	Coastal Environmental Partnership
	N.C. Coastal Reserve
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	Jennette's Pier
2.1.7: Continue the current K-12 classroom and field programs and improve them based on the Action Plan strategies.	N.C. Coastal Federation
	Coastal Environmental Partnership
	Duke University Marine Lab
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	Jennette's Pier
Objective 2.2: Use public events as educational platforms to reduce debris, i.e. boat shows, Duke Open House, Take A Kid Fishing.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
2.2.1: Develop and/or use existing displays to engage the public, and share messaging and materials among partner groups.	Bald Head Island Conservancy
	NPS-Cape Lookout National Seashore
	N.C. Coastal Federation
	Duke University Marine Lab
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest

	Plastic Ocean Project
	Surfrider Foundation
	N.C. Sea Grant
	N.C. Coastal Reserve
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	N.C. Aquariums
	Jennette's Pier
Objective 2.3: Include priority messaging and techniques in marine debris education and outreach efforts.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
2.3.1: Explore opportunities to engage with fishers and boaters to reduce related debris.	N.C. Sea Grant
	Plastic Ocean Project
	Clean Marina Program
	NCDWQ
	Jennette's Pier
2.3.2: Improve and expand litter prevention messaging and techniques (e.g. NCDOT's Swat-A-Litterbug, receptacle monitoring and maintenance)	N.C. Coastal Federation
	NCDCM
	NPS-Cape Lookout NS
	Clean Marina Program
	N.C. Sea Grant
	Jennette's Pier
2.3.3: Incorporate marine debris research into public outreach and education efforts.	N.C. Coastal Federation
	Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
	Plastic Ocean Project
	N.C. Aquariums
	Surfrider Foundation
	Jennette's Pier
	N.C. Sea Grant
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	UNC-Wilmington MarineQuest
2.3.4: Recruit and/or reinvigorate volunteer groups to install and manage monofilament bins.	N.C. Maritime Museum
	NCDWQ
	Plastic Ocean Project
	Clean Marina Program (Pat Durrett)
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle

	Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	Jennette's Pier
2.3.5 Elevate youth-led prevention projects, campaigns and ventures addressing plastic pollution and add EarthEcho International as the lead on it.	EarthEcho International
2.3.6 Develop and promote model ordinances with local governments that will reduce marine debris, including mass balloon releases.	N.C. Coastal Federation
	Surfrider Foundation
2.3.7 Promote Homeowners Guide to Resilient Dock and Pier Construction	N.C. Coastal Federation
GOAL 3: REMOVE	
<i>Remove chronic and storm debris in a strategic and efficient way, inspiring and assisting citizens and other stakeholders to participate as appropriate.</i>	
Objective 3.1: Expand use of existing technologies and mapping resources to identify and prioritize debris removal efforts.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.1.1: Request NOAA and others to expand post-storm damage assessment flights.	NCDEQ
	Clean Marina Program
	NCDCM
Objective 3.2: Leverage centralized media campaigns to more effectively market cleanups.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.2.1: Maintain "Debris-Free N.C." social media site(s) to advertise cleanups and increase awareness.	NPS-Cape Lookout NS
	N.C. Coastal Federation
Objective 3.3: Target select volunteer groups to assist with marine debris cleanups, while maximizing participant and public awareness of the issue.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.3.1: Recruit school classes to conduct cleanups and collect data as an academic endeavor.	Duke University Marine Lab
	UNC-Wilmington Marine Quest
	Coastal Environmental Partnership
3.3.2: Capitalize on the popularity of college spring break, fall breaks, and service project requests for cleanups.	N.C. Coastal Federation
	N.C. Coastal Reserve
	Plastic Ocean Project
	NPS-Cape Lookout National Seashore
	Litter Free Land & Sea
3.3.3: Engage county and state employees and elected officials to promote cleanups and marine debris awareness.	NCDCM
	N.C. Coastal Federation
	N.C. Coastal Reserve
	Clean Marina Program

	Jennette's Pier
3.3.4 Develop and/or use existing programs to support clean up efforts resulting in the planting of native tree and understory plant species for carbon sequestration research.	Plastic Ocean Project
Objective 3.4: Establish annual paid clean-ups of marine debris.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.4.1: Recruit commercial watermen to locate and recover lost crab pots annually.	N.C. Coastal Federation
3.4.2: Use public and/or awarded funds to conduct large scale paid clean-ups.	N.C. Coastal Federation
Objective 3.5: Increase readiness and capacity for engaging in state-level storm response and recovery.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.5.1: Finalize and promote the publication, "Homeowner's Guide to Resilient Docks and Piers"	N.C. Coastal Federation
3.5.2: Increase awareness and coordinated use of (particularly for solid waste and emergency managers) of the NOAA Marine Debris Program's N.C. Emergency Response Guide prior to and during disasters.	NCDEQ
	NOAA Marine Debris Program
Objective 3.6: Devise and implement a micro-plastic wastewater reduction strategy.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
3.6.1 Propose new standards for state wastewater permits to remove microplastics.	Members of the Plastic Waste Coalition
GOAL 4: PREVENT AND REMOVE ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS (ADV's)	
<i>Implement strategies that support removal of existing derelict vessels, increased capacity for prevention, and careful environmental response.</i>	
Objective 4.1: Maintain a comprehensive georeferenced database of derelict vessels in coastal N.C.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
4.1.1: Work with WRC enforcement and partner organizations to maintain and update the database.	NCWRC
4.1.2: Develop a way for partners to access the database.	NCWRC
Objective 4.2: Remove existing abandoned and derelict vessels and prepare for post-disaster removals.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
4.2.1: Obtain legislative authority from the General Assembly for vessel removals.	NCWRC
	N.C. Coastal Federation
4.2.2: Coordinate vessel removal with other organizations to increase efficient use of funding.	NCDEQ
	NCWRC
	Carteret County Sheriff's Office (Joseph Marlette)

	Coastal Federation
	USCG
Objective 4.3: Actively encourage county government ordinances that prevent and remove abandoned and derelict vessels.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
4.3.1: Hold workshop for CAMA counties and local governments to learn about their ability to pass ordinances that provide the authority to remove and dispose of ADVs.	NCDEQ
	N.C. Coastal Federation
Objective 4.4: Establish and adequately fund a formal state program to prevent and remove abandoned and derelict vessels.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
4.4.1: Coordinate a Task Force to examine the issue of ADVs and craft solutions.	NCWRC
Objective 4.5: Educate boat owners on proper vessel disposal practices and policies	
Objective 4.6: Minimize damage to sensitive habitats caused by displaced vessels.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
4.6.1: Inform and notify owners or removal contractors that displaced vessels in sensitive habitats require special removal practices.	Clean Marina Program
	NCDCM
4.6.2: Suspected or known pollution threats on ADVs, such as fuel or oil, are immediately reported to the National Response Center or Incident Command if there is an active ESF-10 mission.	NCDEQ
	NCWRC
	N.C. Coastal Federation
GOAL 5: CONDUCT RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT	
<i>Identify, support and conduct research to understand the extent and impacts of marine debris and monitor trends to progressively improve strategies.</i>	
Objective 5.1: Create list of research priorities related to marine debris	
Objective 5.2: Investigate the extent and type of marine debris in North Carolina's coastal near and offshore environments.	
Strategies and Actions	Partner(s)
5.2.1: Improve understanding of the volume of plastic debris entering coastal waters.	N.C. Sea Grant
	N.C. State University
5.2.2: Monitor ingestion of plastics through analysis of gut contents of necropsied marine mammals and other aquatic species, such as sea turtles.	Plastic Ocean Project
	The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
	N.C. State University - CMAST
Objective 5.3: Encourage commitment to data collection on debris removed that would contribute to quantitatively assembling and analyzing the status and trends.	

