



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Project Partners



Partner	Primary Role
Clean Ocean Access	Project Owner
11th Hour Racing	Project Funder
New England Boatworks	Operations and Maintenance
Sail Newport	Operations and Maintenance
Department of Environmental Management	Operations Oversight
Madden Electric	Electrical Installation and Support
Mac Designs	Water Signage
6SQUARE Communications	Land Signage



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Key Achievements

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- Installed 2 trash skimmers on Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island
- Researched 20 locations for additional trash skimmer installations
- Educated 218 students on marine debris removal and prevention
- Removed 7,968 pounds of litter and co-mingled marine debris
- Identified 17,929 items of material in skimmers via 95 detailed audits
- Inspired 30,000 social media viewers with sustainability messaging
- Exposed 100,000+ residents and visitors to trash skimmers
- Increased awareness of re-accumulating debris in marinas
- Advanced stewardship and sustainability in sailing and marine community

Story

The trash skimmers on Aquidneck Island combined with hands-on experiential environmental education activities have generated an enormous island-wide wave of stewardship momentum. Everyone loves the technology & purpose of the skimmers, and each visit, social media post, outreach event, and discussion brings the community together with a common recognition that the global issue of plastic and marine debris in the ocean is a solvable problem and it starts with each of us making better decisions on land.”

– Dave McLaughlin, Clean Ocean Access Executive Director



Image

Description

1

Kick-off event for 2017 activities (John Florez, Rob MacMillan, Bruce Thompson, Kim Hapgood, Brad Reed, Dave McLaughlin, Abby Smith, Harry Winthrop)



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Key Challenges

Key Challenges

- Partner operation capacity for operations and maintenance during peak summer months can be limited due to volume of other activities.
- Initial location at Sail Newport provides excellent visibility and educational opportunities, but a better location may be available for removing floating surface debris and improving water quality.

Lessons Learned

- Allocate more internal resource time for overall skimmer operations and maintenance.
- Enormous community interest to learn about skimmers and stewardship allows for future planning ahead for events at skimmers.



Image

Description

1

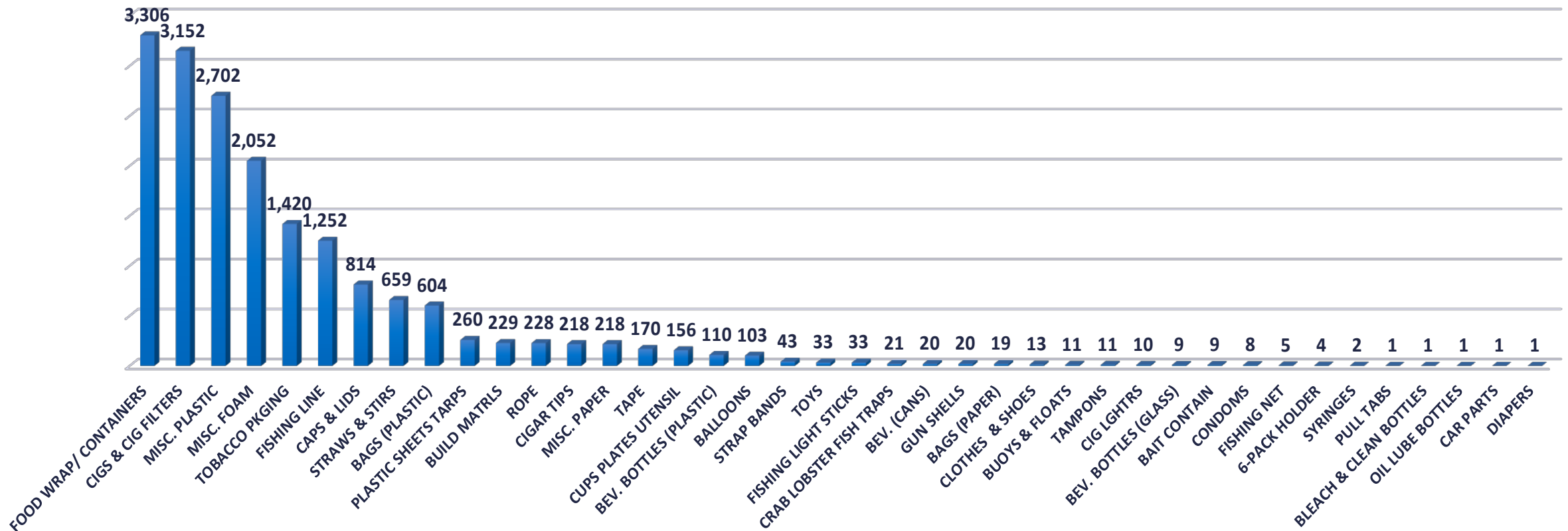
Connecting kids with the trash skimmer technology and identifying litter and marine debris inside the unit



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project Results

1

2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Results



Image

Description

1

17,929 items of litter and marine debris from 95 details audits of Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmers in 2017



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project Installation – New England Boatworks



Image	Description
1	Ribbon Cutting & Clean Marina Certification (Grover Fugate, Jeremy Pochman, Dennis Nixon, Tom Rich, Charlie Enright, Dave McLaughlin, Janet Coit)
2	Installation at New England Boatworks (Crane deploying trash skimmer)
3	Installation at New England Boatworks (At southern end of marina adjacent to fuel dock)
4	Installation at New England Boatworks (Final installation of mounting brackets)
5	Trash skimmer installed with informational and educational signage



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Installation – Fort Adams State Park (Sail Newport)



Image	Description
1	Sail Newport Marine Education Center at Fort Adams State Park, Newport, Rhode Island
2	Installation at Volvo Ocean Race State Pier (Crane deploying trash skimmer)
3	Installation at Volvo Ocean Race State Pier (Crane deploying trash skimmer)
4	Installation at Volvo Ocean Race State Pier (Crane deploying trash skimmer)
5	Trash skimmer installed with panel signs (land sign to be installed Spring 2018)



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Operations – New England Boatworks



Image	Description
1	New England Boatworks – Water quality impaired due to fuel runoff from dock operations and existing oil sheen from general operations
2	New England Boatworks – Majority of marine debris in the form of foam from boat fabrication and consumer goods
3	New England Boatworks – Majority of marine debris in the form of foam from boat fabrication and consumer goods
4	New England Boatworks – Water quality improved as a result of trash skimmer oxygenating water allowing for hydrocarbons to break down



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Operations – Fort Adams State Park (Sail Newport)

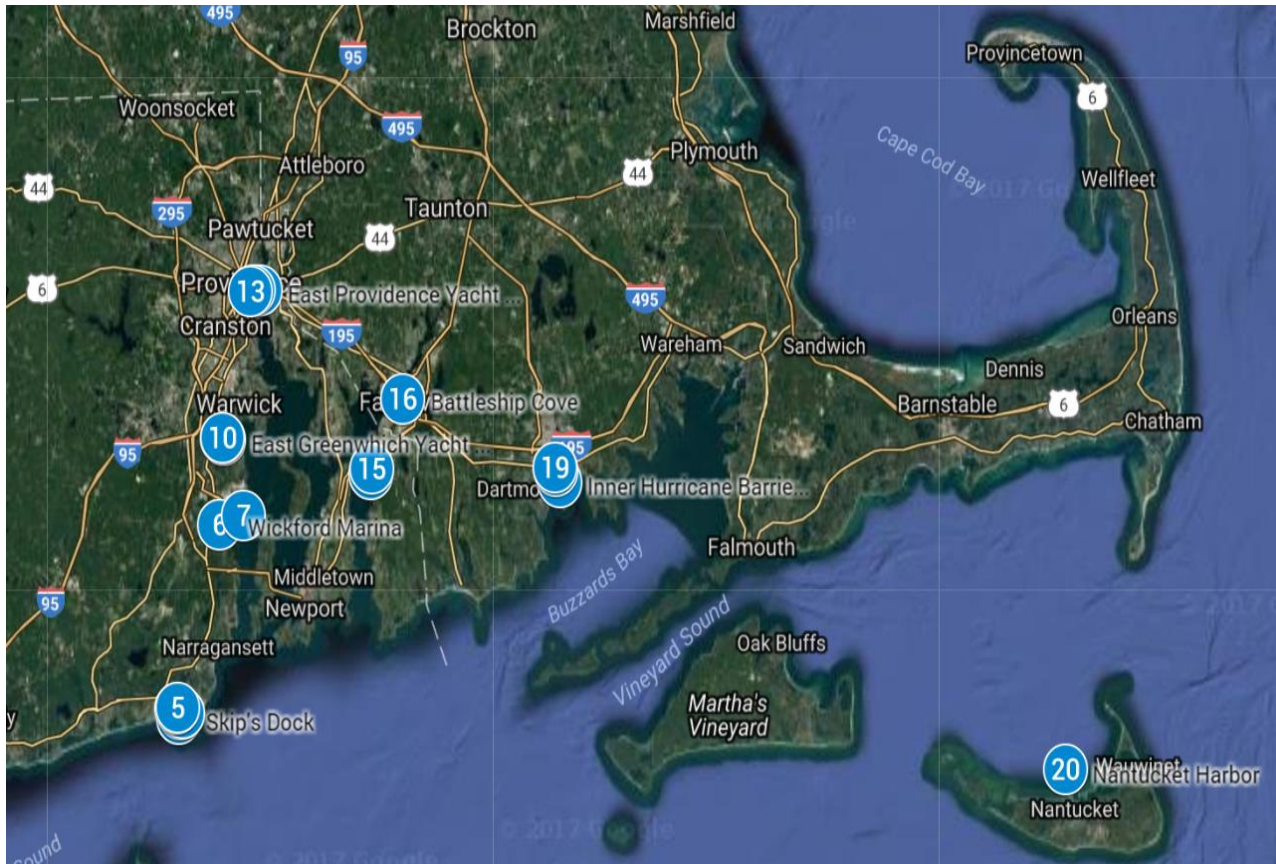


Image	Description
1	Fort Adams State Park – Location of unit does collect litter and marina debris but may be relocated after Volvo Ocean Race
2	Fort Adams State Park – Typical litter and marine debris related to fishing gear and consumer packaging
3	Fort Adams State Park – Excellent location for integration with sailing and environmental stewardship education



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project

Discovery – New site selection



Locater	Description	Community	State
1	Skip's Dock	Galilee	Rhode Island
2	RI Engine Co. / Town Dock	Galilee	Rhode Island
3	Galilee Sportfishing Charters / Frances	Galilee	Rhode Island
4	Point Judith Marina	Wakefield	Rhode Island
5	Pointview Marina	Wakefield	Rhode Island
6	Wickford Marina	North Kingstown	Rhode Island
7	Martha's Vineyard Ferry	North Kingstown	Rhode Island
8	East Greenwich Yacht Club	East Greenwich	Rhode Island
9	Carter J Buckely Sailing Center	East Greenwich	Rhode Island
10	Prime Marina	East Greenwich	Rhode Island
11	East Providence Yacht Club	East Providence	Rhode Island
12	Providence Community Boating Center	Providence	Rhode Island
13	Fox Point Hurricane Barrier	Providence	Rhode Island
14	Standish Boat Yard Inc	Tiverton	Rhode Island
15	Tiverton Yacht Club	Tiverton	Rhode Island
16	Battleship Cove	Fall River	Massachusetts
17	Inner Hurricane Barrier Boat Launch	New Bedford	Massachusetts
18	Ishmaels Wharf / Waterfront Grille	New Bedford	Massachusetts
19	New Bedford Harbor Development	New Bedford	Massachusetts
20	Nantucket Harbor	Nantucket	Massachusetts

Summary

Several key locations exist in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for additional skimmer locations with a combined purpose of eliminating floating surface debris, improving water quality, education and outreach for environmental sustainability.



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project Outreach

Clean Ocean Access
October 26 at 8:30am · 🌐

The Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmers, made possible by funding from 11th Hour Racing, have removed 543 single-use plastic bags from the ocean since June 2017. One simple way to eliminate plastic bags from the marine environment is to stop using them, and bring your own bag. You can bring your bags to the grocery store, when ordering take-out, and even those quick trips to convenience stores. Plan by storing a couple of reusable bags in your glove compartment or in the trunk of your car so you will never leave home without them!



Clean Ocean Access
October 12 at 10:36am · 🌐

The Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmers, made possible by funding from 11th Hour Racing, have removed 90 balloons from the ocean since June 2017! Of those 90 balloons, 75 were removed by the two Newport Harbor Trash Skimmers! Balloons are the evil twin of plastic bags and marine animals mistake them for food, causing serious harm and even starvation. One simple way to improve ocean health is to stop using balloons so you don't unintentionally litter with them! Consider alternatives such as paper banners, reusable flags, or pinwheels. To show your support for no more balloon releases in the City of Newport RI, you are welcome to sign this petition:



Sign the Petition
City of Newport: No More Balloon Releases
CHANGE.ORG

Clean Ocean Access
September 15 · 🌐 · 🌐

The Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmers, made possible by funding from 11th Hour Racing, have removed 3,586 food wrappers, containers, caps, and lids from the ocean since June 2017. This proves that we can all protect ocean health simply by changing our behaviors on land. Simple practices to reduce this type of waste include providing your own container for sandwiches or salads when ordering take-out. Additionally, try to avoid individually wrapped "grab and go," snacks. And finally, always carry your reusable mug to eliminate single use cups and lids from your routine (café shops will likely offer a "refill" discount if you provide your own mug)!



Clean Ocean Access
September 8 · 🌐 · 🌐

The Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmers, made possible by funding from 11th Hour Racing, have removed 561 straws and stirrers from the ocean since June 5, 2017. Straws have notoriously littered our shoreline and waterways for years. Consider skipping the straw at restaurants to begin the conversation of eliminating plastic straws. If straws are absolutely necessary, consider the simple practice of choosing biodegradable straws, or better yet, reusable straws!



Image	Description
1	Leveraging trash skimmer results to promoting environmental stewardship (eliminating single use plastic bags)
2	Leveraging trash skimmer results to promoting environmental stewardship (prohibiting balloon releases)
3	Leveraging trash skimmer results to promoting environmental stewardship (switching to reusable containers)
4	Leveraging trash skimmer results to promoting environmental stewardship (skipping the straw)



2017 - Aquidneck Island Trash Skimmer Project Education

Key Achievements:

12 hands-on education activities
218 students from 4 years old to adult
243 Student contact hours

Story:

“The children and adults love learning about the trash skimmers and leave with a better understanding of the problem of plastics in the ocean and simple ways they can help to be part of the solution.”

— Eva Touhey, Clean Ocean Access Program Manager



Image	Description
1	Newport Elementary School (Pell)
2	Newport Middle School (Thompson)
3	Newport Yacht Club
4	Newport Yacht Club
5	Aquidneck Island Girl Scouts
6	URI Coastweeks (Sea Grant Program)
7	URI Coastweeks (Sea Grant Program)

