



## Marine Debris Datasheet

### **Read to students before activity:**

- **Read:** We protect ocean dwellers and ourselves by keeping the ocean clean. We produce trash as a part of everyday life. Trash can travel through storm drains, streams, and rivers and end up in your community, as well as in the ocean. When traveling trash reaches the ocean, it is called marine debris, and marine debris is everyone's problem. Marine debris affects everything from the tiniest coral polyps to giant blue whales. Remember that the land and the sea, no matter where you are, are connected.
- About 80% of marine debris starts on land.
- **Ask:** What items would you consider marine debris?
- **Ask:** What do you think the most common marine debris items are?
  - Answer: cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic bottles, straws, plastic bags, paper bags, cans, etc.

### **Activity:**

**Read:** Today you are going to explore the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, right here in our pool, through practicing citizen science. Citizen science is when normal people help scientists to collect data (or information).

*As buddy teams you will conduct a marine debris clean up and data collection. This means that you will clean up an area in the pool and record the types of marine debris that you find using the dive slate we give you. Once you have recorded the types of trash log the number of items that you find each in category. Examples of categories of trash include plastic, paper, fishing debris, cloth, etc.*

### **Read to students after activity:**

- **Ask:** How could marine debris cause problems in the ocean?
  - Possible answers:
    - Animals can become entangled
    - Animals can mistake it for food
    - Debris can damage shipping vessels
    - Debris on beaches can hurt people
    - When beaches are littered with debris, people don't want to visit them.
- **Ask:** What can you do to reduce marine debris?
  - Possible answers:
    - Make sure to dispose of trash or recycle
    - Pick up trash you see on the beach
    - Use reusable shopping bags and water bottles
    - Cut 6-pack rings before throwing them away
    - Organize or join cleanups in your community
    - Tell other people! (your parents, friends, community)

### **Facts to consider when talking to students:**

- **Watershed:** an area of land where all the water that falls in it and drains off of it goes into the same place. We are all connected to the ocean through our local watershed, no matter where we live.
  - Trash travels through watersheds. It is carried by wind or rain to storm drains
  - Storm drains carry trash to waterways like streams and rivers
  - Rivers then transport the trash to the ocean
  - Once the trash reaches the ocean, winds and currents can move the trash around
- Plastic and Styrofoam never fully break down. They just break down into smaller pieces, which can still be harmful to animals.

**DEBRIS DATA: (continued on back)**

ITEM	TALLY (e.g., IIII)			TOTAL
<b><i>PLASTIC</i></b>				
Plastic fragments	Hard	Foamed	Film	
Food wrappers				
Beverage bottles				
Other jugs or containers				
Bottle or container caps				
Cigar tips				
Cigarettes				
Disposable cigarette lighters				
6-pack rings				
Bags				
Plastic rope/small net pieces				
Buoys & floats				
Fishing lures & line				
Cups (including polystyrene/foamed plastic)				
Plastic utensils				
Straws				
Balloons - Mylar				
Personal care products				
Other:				
<b><i>METAL</i></b>				
Aluminum/tin cans				
Aerosol cans				
Metal fragments				
Other:				
<b><i>GLASS</i></b>				
Beverage bottles				
Jars				
Glass fragments				
Other:				

**DEBRIS DATA:**

ITEM	TALLY (e.g., IIII)	TOTAL
<b><i>RUBBER</i></b>		
Flip-flops		
Gloves		
Tires		
Balloons-Latex		
Rubber Fragments		
Other:		
<b><i>PROCESSED LUMBER (no natural wood)</i></b>		
Cardboard cartons		
Paper & cardboard		
Paper Bags		
Lumber/ building material		
Other:		
<b><i>CLOTH/FABRIC</i></b>		
Clothing & shoes		
Gloves (non-rubber)		
Towels/rags		
Rope/net pieces (non-nylon)		
Fabric Pieces		
Other:		
<b><i>OTHER/UNCLASSIFIED</i></b>		
Notes on debris items, description of "Other/unclassified" items, etc:		