



BENTHIC MARINE LITTER IN THE HAWAIIAN ARCHIPELAGO: EVIDENCE FROM A CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE

Pierpaolo Consoli

Department of Integrative Marine Ecology, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn,
Sicily Marine Centre,
Messina, Italy

E-mail: pierpaolo.consoli@szn.it

THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



TARGET 14-1



14
LIFE BELOW
WATER

REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

DIRECT IMPACTS

INDIRECT IMPACTS



loss of ecosystem services and goods



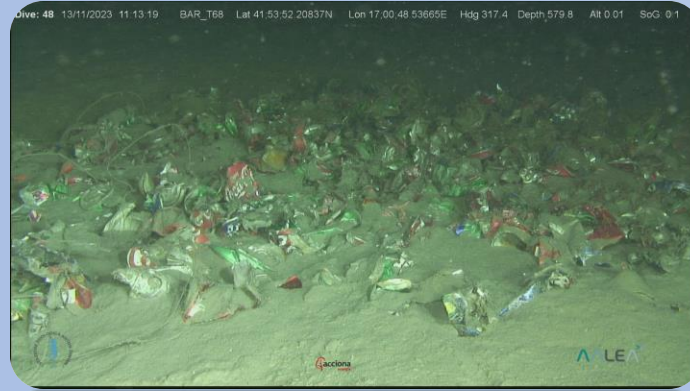
human
health



economy



The seafloor represents the ultimate site of litter accumulation



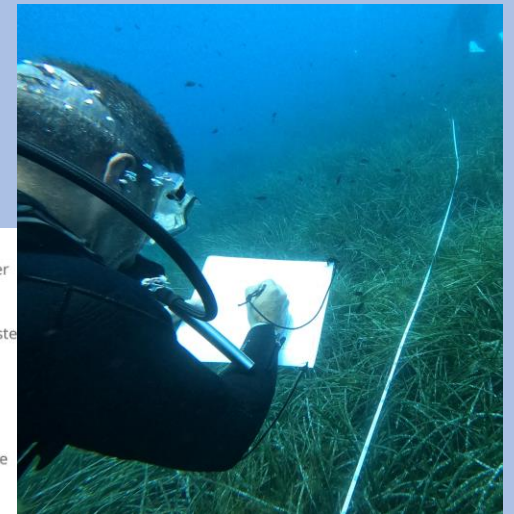
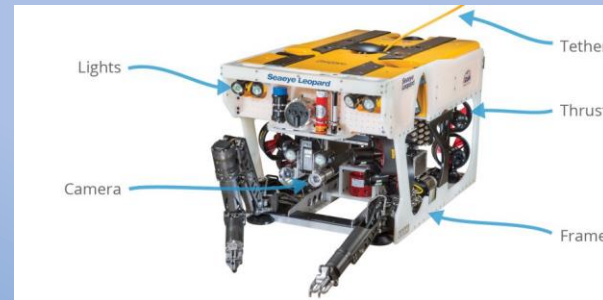
Sampling methods



Trawl net



UVC techniques



CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVES

DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS



Use your diving
to help keep our ocean free of rubbish
and stop plastics from harming marine animals.

PROJECTAWARE.ORG



100 debris items

Plastic Materials	SUP/Fishing gear	Metal Materials	SUP/Fishing gear
01. bags: grocery/retail (plastic)	SUP	52. aerosol/spray cans	
02. bags: trash (plastic)	SUP	53. appliances: household	
03. bait containers/packaging	FG	54. batteries: AA, AAA, C & D, 6V, 9V, etc	
04. balloons		55. batteries: car or boat	
05. balls		56. beverage cans (aluminium)	
06. baskets, crates		57. cans: food, juice, other (tin)	
07. beverage bottles: less than 2 litres (plastic)	SUP	58. caps & lids (metal)	
08. beverage bottles: 2 litres or more (plastic)	SUP	59. cars & car parts	
09. bottles: bleach, cleaner		60. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (metal)	
10. bottles: oil/lube		61. drums: 55 gallon	
11. buckets, drums & jerry cans: 2 litres or more		62. fishing: sinkers, lures, hooks	FG
12. buoys & floats (plastic & foamed)		63. fishing: traps & pots	FG
13. caps & lids (plastic)	SUP	64. forks, knives, spoons (cutlery)	
14. carpet (synthetic)		65. gas bottles/cylinder, drums: more than 4 litres	
15. cigarette filters	SUP	66. pipes & rebar	
16. cigarette lighters		67. pull tabs: beverages	
17. cigar tips	SUP	68. scuba weights	
18. containers: fast food, lunch boxes & similar	SUP	69. strapping bands (metal)	
19. cotton bud sticks	SUP	70. wire, wire mesh, barbed wire	
20. cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons (plastic)	SUP	71. wrappers (foil/metal)	
21. diapers/nappies	SUP	72. metal fragments	
22. fishing: line	FG	Rubber Materials	
23. fishing: lures, rods/poles	FG	73. condoms	
24. fishing: nets & pieces of nets	FG	74. gloves (rubber)	
25. fishing: traps & pots	FG	75. inner-tubes & rubber sheets	
26. foam insulation & packaging		76. rubber bands	
27. food wrappers (plastic)	SUP	77. tires/tyres	
28. furnishings (plastic)		78. rubber fragments	
29. gloves (latex)		Wood Materials	
30. light sticks/cyalumes	FG	79. fishing: traps & pots	FG
31. mesh bags: fruit, vegetable, shellfish	FG	80. furnishings (wood)	
32. pipes (plastic/PVC)		81. lumber (processed or cut/milled wood)	
33. rope (plastic/nylon)		82. pallets	
34. scuba & snorkel gear, masks, snorkels, fins		83. wood fragments	
35. sheeting: tarpaulin, plastic sheets, palette wrap		Cloth Materials	
36. six-pack rings, ring carriers	SUP	84. bags (burlap/hessian)	
37. strapping bands (plastic)		85. bags (cloth)	
38. straws, stirrers	SUP	86. gloves (cloth)	
39. syringes (plastic)	SUP	87. rope & string (cloth)	
40. tampon applicators	SUP	88. towels, rags	
41. tobacco packaging & wrappers		89. cloth fragments	
42. toothbrushes		Paper/Cardboard Materials	
43. plastic fragments		90. bags (paper)	
Glass & Ceramic Materials		91. cardboard: packaging & cartons	
44. beverage bottles (glass)		92. paper: books, newspapers, magazines, etc	
45. buoys (glass)	FG	93. paper/cardboard fragments	
46. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (glass & ceramic)		Mixed Materials	
47. fluorescent light tubes		94. bricks, cinderblocks, chunks of cement	
48. jars: food (glass)		95. clothing	
49. light globes: bulbs, etc		96. computer equipment & other electronic devices	
50. syringes (glass)		97. fireworks	
51. glass & ceramic fragments		98. shoes, flip flops, sandals, tennis, etc	
		99. tampons	
		100. toys	



1. Weigh



2. Sort



3. Record



4. Dispose



5. Report

Create Debris Data

Home

Please confirm the Dive Against Debris Surveyor Statement *

I have read the Dive Against Debris Survey Guide and the data I am reporting was collected underwater, during one dive and completed by single or multiple buddy teams. I understand I should only include data on trash collected from underwater environments here. Repeat dives should be reported through separate submissions. Marine debris collected on land can be shared with the My Ocean community and with our partner, The Ocean Conservancy.

Survey Site Name *

Enter the dive site name for where your survey took place e.g. House Reef. If you have submitted data for this survey site previously, please ensure you enter the same survey site name

YOUR SURVEY TEAM *

Team Leader Name

Enter the name of your survey team leader.

Team Leader Email *

Enter the email address of your survey team leader.

Number of Participants *

Enter the number of individual scuba divers that were underwater collecting debris only (land support should not be included here - you can acknowledge their support in the comments section).

ABOUT YOUR SURVEY *

Survey Date *



Dive Against Debris® Survey Guide



**A Survey of Underwater Marine Debris
For Scuba Divers**



Dive Against Debris® Marine Debris Identification Guide

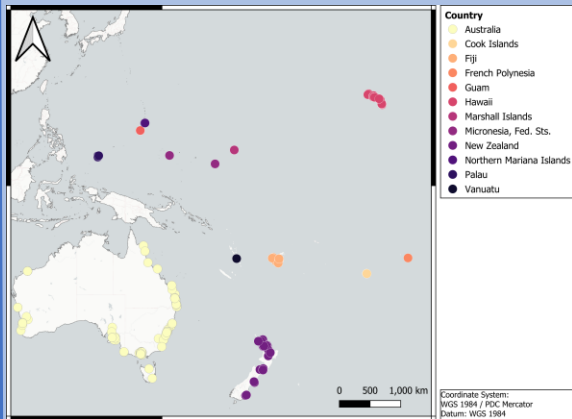


**A Resource for Scuba Divers Completing
Dive Against Debris® Surveys**



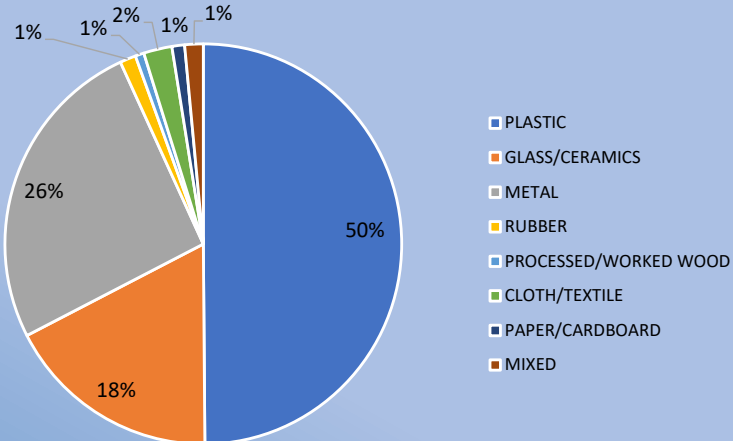
Citizen science through a recreational underwater diving project supports the collection of large-scale marine litter data: The Oceania case study

V. Scutтери^{a,*,1}, V. Costa^b, D. Malara^b, F. Figurella^c, I. Campbell^d, E. Deery^d, T. Romeo^a, F. Andaloro^e, P. Consoli^{a,*,1}



DATASET

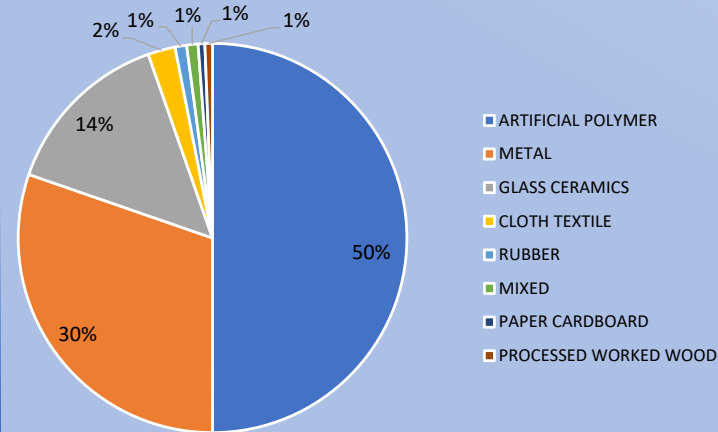
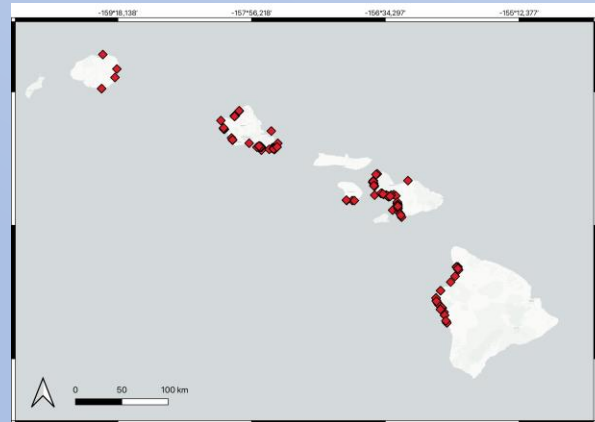
- Oceania
- 862 dives
- 2011 - 2021



Mean litter density (n. items/100m²) = 58.22 ± 7.55
 SUP = 15.77%
 FG = 35.66%

DATASET

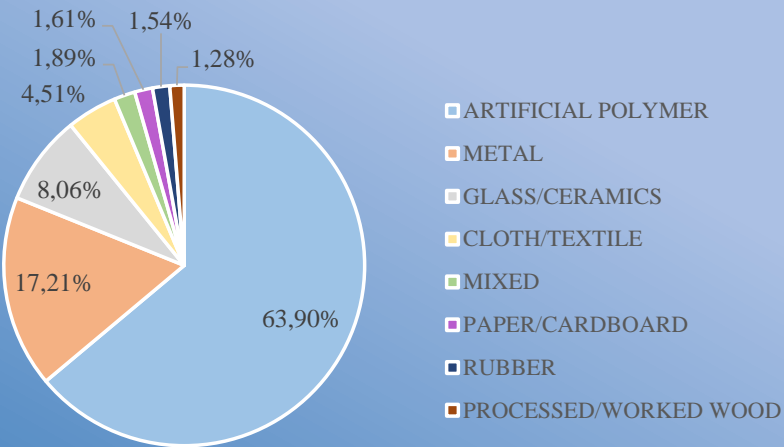
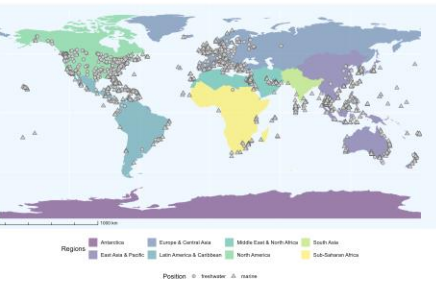
- Hawaii
- 453 dives
- 2011 - 2024



Mean litter density (n. items/100m²) = 236.98 ± 48.30
 SUP = 6.06%
 FG = 58.55%

DATASET

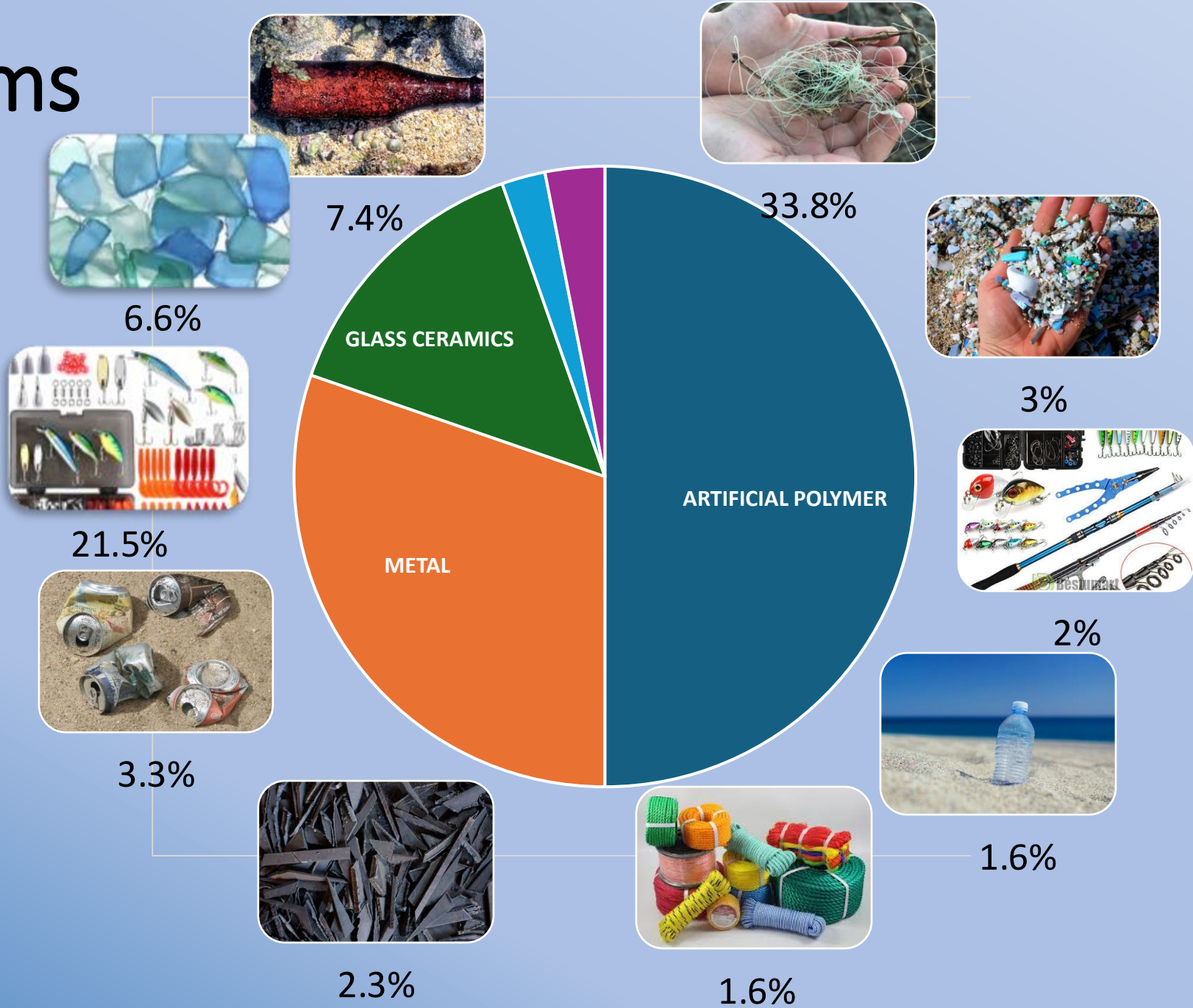
- World
- 12,373 dives
- 2011-2021



Mean litter density (n. items/100m²) = 53.23 ± 1.94
 SUP = 30.70%
 FG = 20.89%

TOP-10 litter items

83% of the overall litter



CONCLUSIONS

- In the Hawaiian Archipelago, ALDFG represent the main source of seafloor litter.
- Most of these FG are likely lost by recreational fishermen since dives are carried out at shallow depths in popular tourist locations.
- This lost FG has adverse and direct effects on benthic ecosystems. Moreover, they represent a source of secondary microplastics and may leach hazardous monomers, additives, and chemical by-products into the marine environment.



HOW TO REDUCE ADLFG?

According to FAO, the specific actions to reduce ALDFG can be classified into three categories:

- measures to cure (removing ALDFG from the environment).
- measures to prevent (gear marking, on-board technology to locate gear, reception and/or payment for old/retrieved gear, spatial management, reducing fishing effort);
- measures to mitigate (use of biodegradable fishing gear);

Albeit the cost of removing lost FG may be prohibitive, clean-up initiatives by scuba divers may be cheap and useful for reducing the problem

education programs for fishermen, gear restrictions (limitations to the number of allowed fishing poles, fishing permits for a fee for recreational fishermen), and the identification of specific recreational fishing grounds.

There is still no solid evidence of the beneficial effects of bioplastics on the environment.

To reduce lost fishing gear, it is crucial to implement environmental awareness and education projects specifically aimed at fishermen.

**THE POWER OF CITIZEN SCIENCE:
SUPPORTING SCIENCE WHILE
IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS**



**THANKS
FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

pierpaolo.consoli@szn.it