

WEST COAST GOVERNORS ALLIANCE on OCEAN HEALTH

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West Coast Governors Alliance Launches New Tools to Help Coastal Managers and Stakeholders Understand and Plan for Impacts of Marine Debris

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The West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health is pleased to announce new data and tools available via the West Coast Ocean Data Portal to assist coastal managers and stakeholders to view and explore geospatial data about marine debris cleanup and prevention efforts in our region's coastal waterways. [You can visit maps.westcoastoceans.org](http://maps.westcoastoceans.org) to begin exploring!

"The community working to address marine debris will benefit enormously from the ability to synthesize all of the various information about the issue. This technology provides us all a much clearer picture of what the problem is, where it is, and what are the most effective ways to solve it." - *Eben Schwartz, Marine Debris Program Manager for the California Coastal Commission and Chair of the WCGA Marine Debris Action Coordination Team*

The Data Viewer was developed in consultation with marine debris experts and builds off an extensive network of partners contributing data, including the West Coast Marine Debris database and the Regional Associations of West Coast Integrated Ocean Observing System. The tool allows citizens and organizations to upload beach and derelict gear cleanup data for the West Coast and visualize them within a regional context. The Data Viewer allows users to filter this information by geography, time, and debris type while also providing contextual information on sensitive marine habitats. These tools will assist users in identifying priority cleanup locations and in assessing the potential impact of local debris prevention policies. [Read other "Debris Stories" and learn how to contribute data by visiting the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.](#)



Data Viewer screen shot displaying debris counts and population density along the West Coast.

This work was funded through the NOAA 2012 Regional Ocean Partnership grant opportunity which has greatly enhanced the ability of the three states, federal government, tribes, and the Ocean Observation Systems to collaborate on regional ocean health issues. The marine debris application is just one example of how the West Coast Ocean Data Portal is connecting people with technology and data to improve West Coast ocean health and we plan to inform additional ocean priorities in the coming year. If you would like to learn more or join our Network of data managers and users, please visit network.westcoastoceans.org or explore portal.westcoastoceans.org.

Questions? Contact WCODP Project Coordinator: Todd.r.hallenbeck@Westcoastoceans.org