



# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REEF CLEANUP



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative  
Acting above to protect what's below.

## SUMMER 2023 REPORT

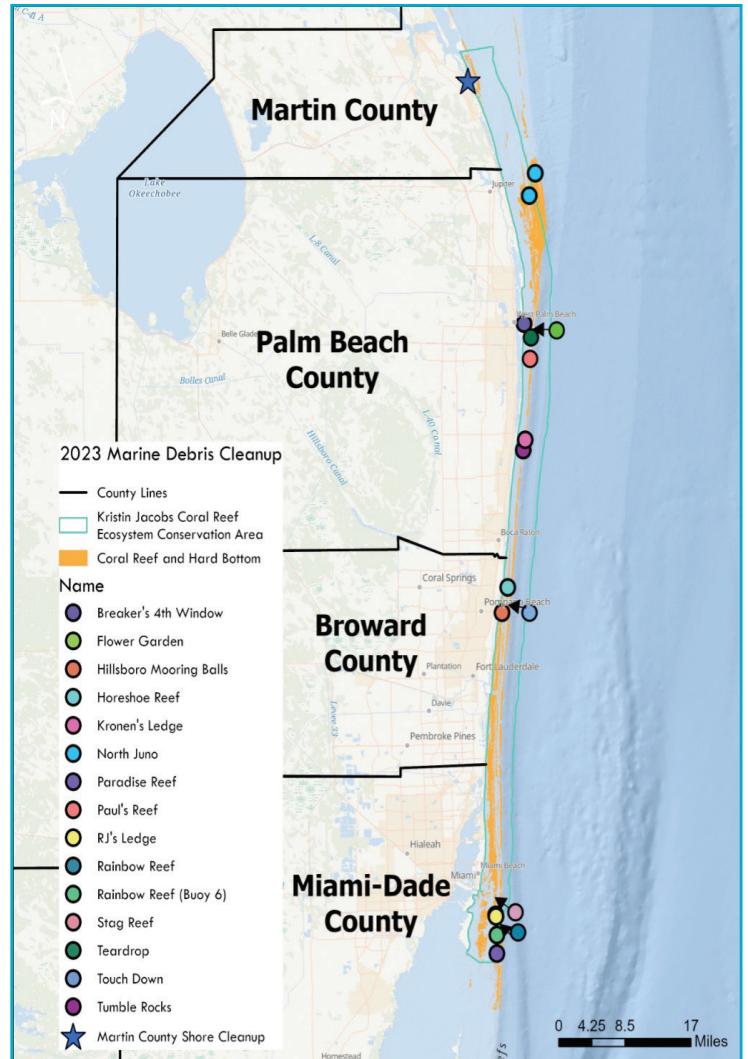
### Overview

In July 2023, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup was coordinated by the [Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative](#) (SEFCRI) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#) (CRCP). In partnership with 10 local dive shops and organizations, divers and volunteers helped remove marine debris from 16 different reef sites (see map) along Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. In Martin County, CRCP sponsored the 16th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup at Peck's Lake.

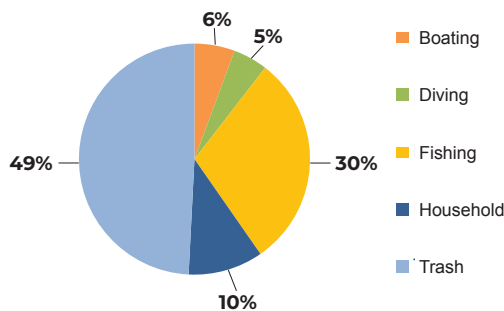
### History: Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanups

Dive shops partnering with SEFCRI and CRCP have been helping remove marine debris from Florida's Coral Reef since 2012 as part of the Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup. This event is coordinated through SEFCRI's Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program, which seeks to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of marine debris. In addition to organizing yearly reef cleanups throughout Southeast Florida, this program asks local divers to remove debris on a regular basis as well and report it to the [Southeast Florida Action Network](#) (SEAFAN).

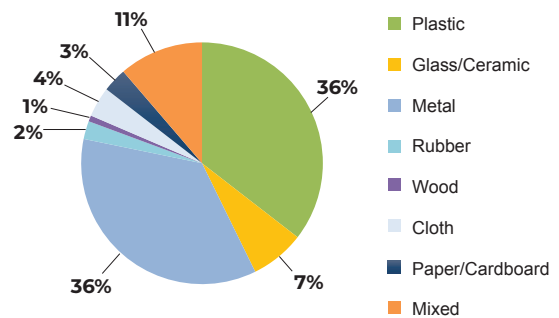
A breakdown of debris by source and material from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach is shown in the charts below.



### Debris by Source



### Debris by Material



### Report Marine Debris to SEAFAN.net

Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a community-based marine incident reporting and response program dedicated to improving the protection and management of Southeast Florida's coral reefs. You can help by reporting marine debris and other incidents online at [SEAFAN.net](#), by calling the hotline at 866-770-7335 or by using the QR code for access to the report form.



# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REEF CLEANUP



## 2023 Cleanup Highlights

### Reef Cleanups:

**16** Reef sites  
**102** Volunteers  
**484** Pounds of debris removed

### Martin County :

**25** Cleanup Sites  
**1,146** Volunteers  
**7,650** Pounds of debris removed

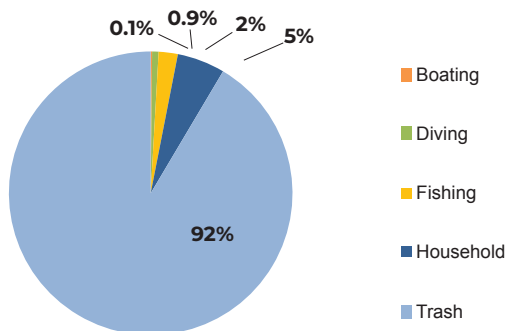
### Summary: Reef Cleanups

Participating divers collectively removed an estimated total of 307 items of trash weighing roughly 484 pounds. The debris was removed from specific reefs in areas that are known to accumulate debris or areas of high boater activity. Some of the items removed include lounge chairs, dive/snorkel masks, clothing, glass bottles, plastic bags, and fishing monofilament, hooks and weights. These items are not only hazardous to marine life but also can cause damage to corals and other reef organisms.

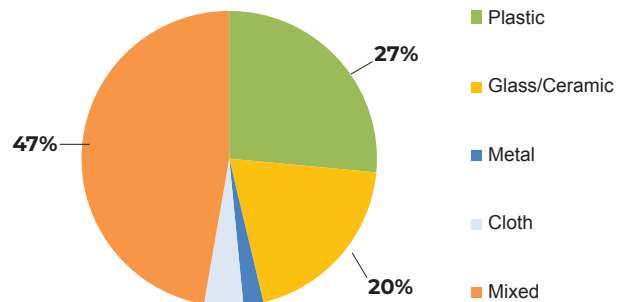
Volunteers and divers who participated in the CRCP-sponsored Martin County's Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup removed 9,381 items with a total weight of 7,650 pounds of debris from the shore and the water. Some of the items removed by participating divers included microplastics, dive gear, clothing, metal cans and bottles, toys, fishing hooks and fishing poles, cigarette butts and balloons. Below is the Martin County cleanup data by source and material.

If you are unable to attend one of our future scheduled reef cleanups with a partnering dive shop, consider conducting your own DIY cleanup and recording it with SEAFAN. Local volunteers reported DIY reef cleanups in Miami-Dade that collected 160 pounds of trash, including rope, a fishing trap, an anchor and a boat propeller!

Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup  
Debris by Source



Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup  
Debris by Material



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!