

# Floatable Debris



Center for Marine Conservation

- Trash floating in coastal waters and bays or washed up on the beach
- Reduces the enjoyment of the Sound, can be a nuisance or hazard for boaters, and can harm wildlife
- The ultimate source of floatable debris is people who litter and improperly dispose of their waste
- Litter is carried to the Sound primarily from stormwater discharges and combined sewer overflows, New York Harbor and tributaries to the Sound, and shoreline visitors and boaters



## Floatables Management:

- Reduce the flow of litter from its major sources
- Collect and pick it up once it is in the Sound
- Change people's behavior and attitude towards litter is the most effective way to combat the problem

# International Coastal Cleanup

- International Coastal Cleanup is a global project of the Ocean Conservancy
- Ocean Conservancy Goals:
  - remove debris from the shorelines, waterways, and beaches of the world's lakes, rivers, and the ocean and collect valuable information on the amount and types of debris
  - educate the public on marine debris issues
  - encourage positive changes to reduce debris in waterways and enhance aquatic environments



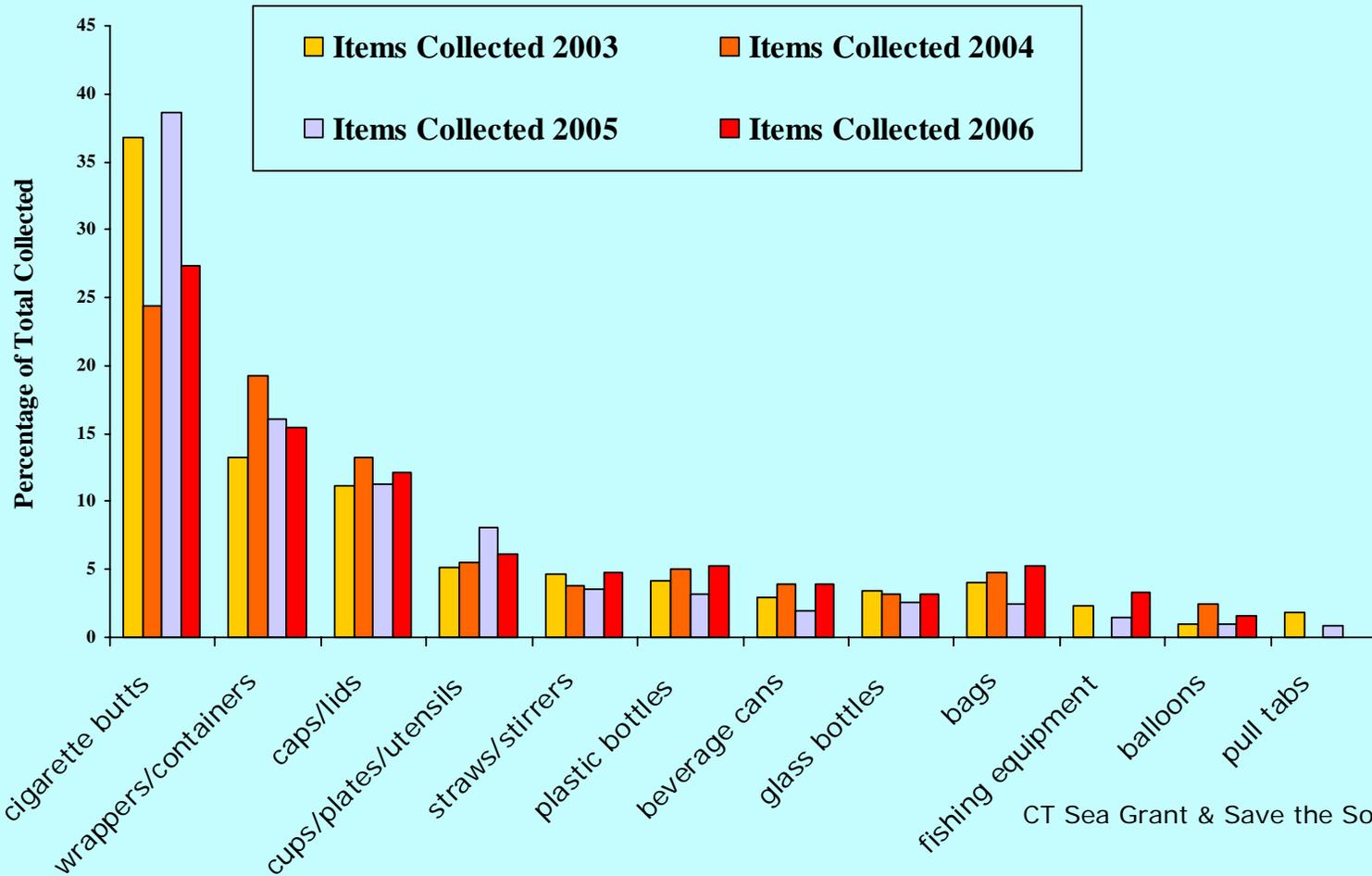
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International Coastal Cleanup takes place annually during the third weekend of September. During that weekend, volunteers from CT and NY remove and document the trash that they find on beaches and shorelines. Data compiled from beach cleanups are used to identify sources of marine debris. People are the problem, but people are also the solution.

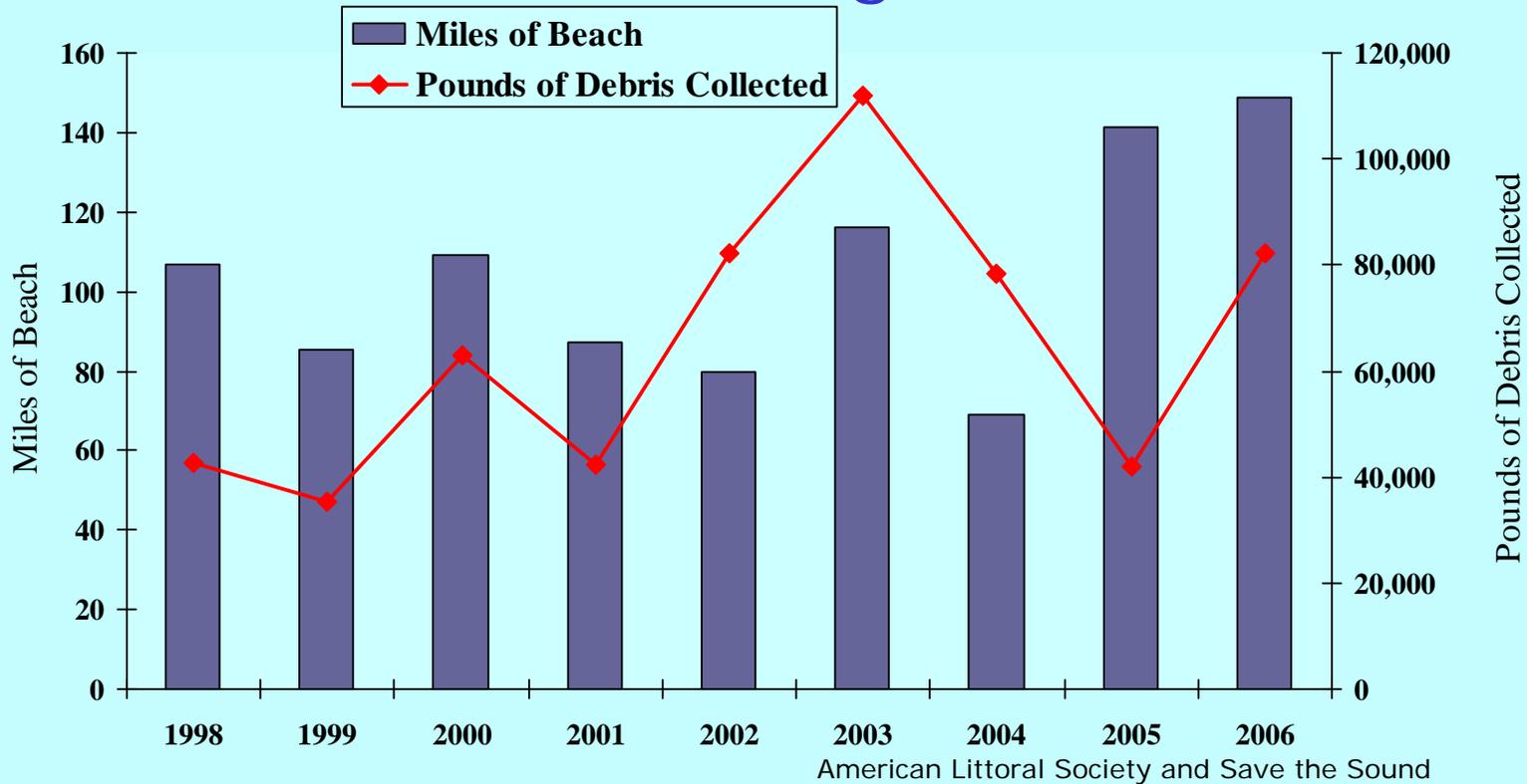
# Composition of Debris Collected in Connecticut



CT Sea Grant & Save the Sound

In 2006 nearly 10,000 cigarette butts were collected on Connecticut beaches as part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup. Cigarette butts, which are slow to degrade, are the most common form of litter in the Sound as well as on beaches worldwide. In 2006, shoreline & recreational activities and smoking-related activities accounted for 92% of the total items collected on Coastal Cleanup day in CT (the other 8% consisted of dumping activities, medical and personal hygiene products, and ocean/waterway products).

# Pounds of Debris and Miles of Beach Cleaned Around Long Island Sound



An estimated 14 billion pounds of debris were once dumped into the ocean every year. The MARPOL treaty of 1988 made much of ocean dumping illegal. During Coastal Cleanup weekend in September 2006, volunteers in CT and NY cleaned more than 149 miles of beach and collected more than 82,000 pounds of debris. But laws alone are not enough to stop pollution before it begins. Compliance, enforcement, and education are crucial components in controlling litter.