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# **Marine Debris Action Agenda: Addendum (5.1)**

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## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***



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**December 1992**

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Prepared for the Gulf of Mexico Program by:  
**AMS** American Management Systems, Inc.







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gulf of Mexico contains ecological and commercial resources matched by few other bodies of water. Yet its blue-green waters disguise the increasing environmental threats that endanger these resources. In recognition of the growing threats, Regions 4 and 6 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which share jurisdiction over the five Gulf Coast States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas), initiated the Gulf of Mexico Program in August 1988. The goal of the Gulf of Mexico Program is to protect, restore, and enhance the coastal and marine waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal natural habitats, to sustain living resources, to protect human health and the food supply, and to ensure the recreational use of Gulf shores, beaches, and waters -- in ways consistent with the economic well being of the region.

The Gulf of Mexico Program is a cooperative partnership among federal, state, and local government agencies and organizations, as well as with people and groups who use the Gulf. During the early stages of Program development, eight priority environmental problems were identified and the following Subcommittees were established to address the problems: Marine Debris, Public Health, Habitat Degradation, Coastal & Shoreline Erosion, Nutrient Enrichment, Toxic Substances & Pesticides, Freshwater Inflow, and Living Aquatic Resources.

The Marine Debris Subcommittee was charged with characterizing and proposing solutions to the dramatic and pervasive marine debris problem. This Subcommittee has been meeting for more than four years--to review information and data collected by citizens and scientists, identify problem areas, discuss actions that can resolve the problems, and evaluate methods for achieving and monitoring results. In October 1991, based on Subcommittee work, the Gulf of Mexico Program released a Marine Debris Action Plan (Agenda), which specified the primary activities needed to reduce, and eventually eliminate, marine debris in the Gulf of Mexico.

The goals of the Marine Debris Action Agenda are to:

- ☐ Eliminate the illegal disposal and careless loss of man-made solid waste in the marine and coastal environments of the Gulf of Mexico.
- ☐ Eliminate existing debris from the marine and coastal environments of the Gulf of Mexico.
- ☐ Foster pride and stewardship and increase understanding of the marine and coastal resources of the Gulf of Mexico (including the harmful effects of marine debris) among the user groups of the Gulf of Mexico region.

Fifty-five "action items" were developed to support the goals and these are grouped under four strategies and eight objectives (see Index of Marine Strategies and Objectives).

## Index of Marine Debris Strategies & Objectives

### Monitoring/Assessment

**Objective:** Monitor marine debris to assess land-based and marine-based sources and their effects on wildlife, human health and safety, and economics, as well as the effectiveness of measures designed to eliminate marine debris in the Gulf.

### Cooperation/Enforcement

**Objective:** Coordinate and secure the enactment of and compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations to prevent pollution by solid waste in the Gulf of Mexico from both land-based and offshore sources.

**Objective:** Implement MARPOL Annex V in the Gulf Subregion of the Wider Caribbean Basin (through USCG).

**Objective:** Designate and implement the provisions of a Special Area designation of the Gulf of Mexico under MARPOL Annex V for the Gulf Subregion by 1992.

### Pollution Prevention

**Objective:** Prevent pollution through education (multi-lingual) and promotion of waste reduction, recycling, and special manufacturing processes, and develop incentives where practical.

**Objective:** Encourage the use of reusable, recyclable, or non-persistent materials as a substitute for disposable materials.

### Public Outreach: Education and Involvement

**Objective:** Support and facilitate activities that encourage cleanup and appreciation of coastal waters.

**Objective:** Incorporate marine debris public awareness into environmental education programs throughout the Gulf.

The Gulf of Mexico Program recently developed nine short-term environmental challenges to restore and maintain the environmental and economic health of the Gulf. Within the next five years, through an integrated effort that complements existing local, state, and federal programs, the Program has pledged efforts to obtain the knowledge and resources to:

- Significantly reduce the rate of loss of coastal wetlands.
- Achieve an increase in Gulf Coast seagrass beds.
- Enhance the sustainability of Gulf commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Protect the human health and food supply by reducing input of nutrients, toxic substances, and pathogens to the Gulf.
- Increase Gulf shellfish beds available for safe harvesting by 10 percent.
- Ensure that all Gulf beaches are safe for swimming and recreational uses.



- Reduce by at least 10 percent the amount of trash on beaches.
- Improve and expand coastal habitats that support migratory birds, fish, and other living resources.
- Expand public education/outreach tailored for each Gulf Coast county or parish.

The Marine Debris Action Agenda supports these five year challenges.

This Addendum to the October 1991 Marine Debris Action Agenda provides a status report on the action items proposed in that document. Of the fifty-five action items, 14 are completed/ongoing (26%), 33 are in various stages of implementation (60%), 5 have not been initiated (9%), and 3 status reports have not been received from the designated lead agencies (5%) (See Marine Debris Action Item Status Index).

### MARINE DEBRIS ACTION ITEM STATUS INDEX

| <b>Completed/Ongoing 14 Action Items</b> |   | <b>26% of Total</b> |
|--|---|---------------------|
| <b><u>Action Item #</u></b>              | <b><u>Title</u></b>   |                     |
| 4  | Survey of Availability & Use of Trash Facilities in Gulf Ports                              |                     |
| 7  | Survey of Recycling Programs of Gulf Ports & Marinas  |                     |
| 8  | Survey of Plastic Pellet Manufacturing Plants & Users                                       |                     |
| 9  | Increase Distribution of Monitoring Information   |                     |
| 11                                       | Coordination & Technology Transfer  |                     |
| 13                                       | Coordination of State Boater's Pledge Programs  |                     |
| 15                                       | Marine Debris Information in Boater Safety Courses  |                     |
| 18                                       | Monitoring Disposal Facilities in Gulf Marinas  |                     |
| 27                                       | Distribution of Youth Materials on Marine Debris & MARPOL V<br>to Wider Caribbean Countries |                     |
| 36                                       | Solid Waste Management Practices for Oil & Gas Industry                                     |                     |
| 40                                       | Drum Education & Notification Program—Offshore Oil & Gas<br>Operations                      |                     |
| 41                                       | Drum Education & Notification Program—Unknown Sources                                       |                     |
| 48                                       | Shore Adoption Programs   |                     |
| 55                                       | Activity Book for Elementary Schools  |                     |

## MARINE DEBRIS ACTION ITEM STATUS INDEX

| <b>In Progress</b>          |   | <b>33 Action Items</b> | <b>60% of Total</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>Action Item #</u></b> | <b><u>Title</u></b>   |                        |                     |
| 1                           | Five State Marine Debris Monitoring Program   |                        |                     |
| 2                           | Effect of River Inflow on Solid Waste Study   |                        |                     |
| 5                           | Determination of Additional Sources of Marine Debris  |                        |                     |
| 6                           | Monitoring & Reporting System for Offshore Waters   |                        |                     |
| 10                          | State Implementation of Federal Laws  |                        |                     |
| 12                          | Workshop on Shipboard Solid Waste Management  |                        |                     |
| 14                          | Awards Program for Trash Facilities   |                        |                     |
| 16                          | Marine Debris Information in Boating Registration & Fishing License Mailings                            |                        |                     |
| 17                          | Use of Shrimper Placards  |                        |                     |
| 21                          | Translation of Educational Posters & MARPOL V Stickers into Foreign Languages                           |                        |                     |
| 23                          | Education of Passengers & Crew Members About Marine Debris  |                        |                     |
| 24                          | Trash Containers on Recreational Boats  |                        |                     |
| 25                          | Distribution of Technical Information to Wider Caribbean Countries                                      |                        |                     |
| 26                          | Marine Debris Survey To Include The Virgin Islands National Seashore                                    |                        |                     |
| 28                          | Translation of Existing Educational Materials into Spanish  |                        |                     |
| 29                          | Bilingual Educational Materials, Port Reception Facilities & Special Study Recommendations              |                        |                     |
| 31                          | Development of Storm Water Controls: Best Management Practices, Municipal Ordinances & Management Plans |                        |                     |
| 32                          | Expansion of Recycling Facilities for Beachusers  |                        |                     |
| 33                          | Recycling & Pollution Prevention in City Storm Water Management Plans                                   |                        |                     |
| 34                          | Pollution Prevention in Industrial Storm Water Permits  |                        |                     |
| 37                          | Storage & Transportation of Solid Waste in Closed Receptacles   |                        |                     |
| 38                          | Industry-Wide "No Polystyrene" Policy   |                        |                     |
| 39                          | Employee Education & Awareness Programs   |                        |                     |
| 43                          | Additional Trash Cans/Recycling Bins at Beaches   |                        |                     |
| 44                          | State Purchasing of Recyclable Products   |                        |                     |
| 45                          | Gulf-Wide Corporate Recycling Council   |                        |                     |
| 46                          | Gulf-Wide Coastal Cleanup & Marine Debris Survey  |                        |                     |
| 47                          | Beach Cleanup Data Results  |                        |                     |
| 49                          | National Coastal Cleanup & Appreciation Day   |                        |                     |
| 50                          | Recycling of Debris From Beach Cleanups   |                        |                     |
| 51                          | Environmental Offices in State Education Agencies   |                        |                     |
| 52                          | Distribution of MARPOL V & State Regulation Brochures   |                        |                     |
| 54                          | Educational Videos on Marine Debris   |                        |                     |



## MARINE DEBRIS ACTION ITEM STATUS INDEX

| Not Initiated        |   | 5 Action Items | 9% of Total |
|----------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
| <u>Action Item #</u> | <u>Title</u>  |                |             |
| 3                    | Pilot Projects for General Storm Water Permits                            |                |             |
| 20                   | Procedures for Reporting Dumping Violations                               |                |             |
| 31                   | Economic Impact Assessment of U.S. Port Users                             |                |             |
| 42                   | Environmentally Benign Products   |                |             |
| 53                   | Marine Debris Units in Educational Programs                               |                |             |
| No Status Received   |   | 3 Action Items | 5% of Total |
| <u>Action Item #</u> | <u>Title</u>  |                |             |
| 19                   | Citizen Pollution Patrols   |                |             |
| 21                   | Prohibition of Mass Release of Lighter-Than-Air Balloons                  |                |             |
| 35                   | Targeting Pellet Manufacturing Facilities For General Storm Water Permits |                |             |

Many agencies and organizations have contributed to the success of completed and in progress action items. These agencies and organizations include:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Alabama Dept. of Education                                | Offshore Operators Committee and Membership    |
| Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management                 | Padre Island National Seashore                 |
| Alabama Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs             | Society for the Plastics Industry              |
| Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management                 | Southern States Energy Board                   |
| Browning Ferris Industries                                | Texas Air Control Board                        |
| Center for Marine Conservation                            | Texas Boating Trades Association               |
| Children's Alliance for the Protection of the Environment | Texas Education Agency                         |
| Florida Dept. of Education                                | Texas General Land Office                      |
| Gulf Islands National Seashore                            | Texas General Services Commission              |
| Gulf of Mexico Program                                    | Texas Legislature                              |
| GMP Citizens Advisory Committee                           | Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.                   |
| GMP Marine Debris Subcommittee                            | Texas Railroad Commission                      |
| GMP Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee              | Texas SeaGrant                                 |
| International Maritime Organization                       | Texas Shrimpers Association                    |
| IOCARIBE  | Texas Water Commission                         |
| Louisiana SeaGrant  | United Nations Environmental Program           |
| Marine Mammal Commission                                  | U.S. Coast Guard                               |
| Marine Mammal Stranding Network                           | U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary                     |
| Maritime Administration                                   | U.S. Dept. of the Interior                     |
| Minerals Management Service                               | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - HQ      |
| Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources                    | U.S. EPA Regions 4 and 6                       |
| Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks          | U.S. Food & Drug Administration                |
| National Marine Fisheries Service                         | U.S. Navy                                      |
| National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration             | University of Texas Coastal Studies Laboratory |
| National Park Service                                     | World Bank                                     |

In addition, contributions have come from Gulf State beach cleanup coordinators, Alabama license agencies, state parks, county beach authorities, coastal county governments, countries of the Wider Caribbean, as well as the marine and recycling industries.

The October 1991 Marine Debris Action Agenda is a living document; therefore, the Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Subcommittee will review this Action Agenda in 1993 and will revise the document, as appropriate. Action Items not initiated will be reassessed and new action items will be generated based on progress made by the initial round of action items.



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## Completed/Ongoing

### ACTION ITEM 4

#### **Survey of Availability & Use of Trash Facilities In Gulf Ports**

All major Gulf ports should be surveyed to determine what new trash facilities have been built, or plans have been made with waste haulers, to comply with MARPOL V legislation. This study should also document the number of ships that have offloaded trash and the total tonnage of trash offloaded since Annex V has come into force. The survey should also record the amounts charged for offloading. The surveys should be conducted and reviewed in 1991 and results published by 1992.

**Lead Agency** Environmental Protection Agency

**Original  
Target Date** 1991-1992

#### **Status Report**

Two separate studies were conducted—one in Region 4 and one from Texas. The Texas General Land Office contracted with Texas and Louisiana Sea Grant Offices to conduct a survey of Gulf of Mexico Ports, Terminal Operators, Waste Management and Recreational Facility Operators on how MARPOL Annex V is working, whether recycling is a component, and what the costs are. This was completed in 1991. The Region 4 Marine Debris strategy included a study which addresses many of the issues related to the vessel waste handling situation. The results of the studies provided information for the "port" side. More information is needed to completely answer the questions concerning facility usage. Results are available from Marine Debris Subcommittee representatives—Angela Farias (Texas General Land Office) and Lloyd Wise (EPA Region 4). The Gulf of Mexico Program is funding a follow-up survey of vessel operators to obtain more information about MARPOL Annex V requirements for boaters and reception facility usage. EPA Region 6 would like to further evaluate and follow-up on this study.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Regions 4 and 6, Texas General Land Office, and Texas and Louisiana SeaGrant Offices

**Completion  
Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 7****Survey of Recycling Programs of Gulf Ports & Marinas**

Report on successful recycling programs of Gulf Coast ports and marinas, develop criteria for instituting such programs Gulf-wide, and provide suggestions for involving the recycling industry. To accomplish this, survey, as necessary, Gulf Coast ports, docks, marinas, and access areas.

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Two separate studies were conducted—one in Region 4 and one from Texas. The results of the studies provided information for the "port" side. More information is needed to completely answer the questions concerning facility usage. Results are available from Marine Debris Subcommittee representatives—Angela Farias (Texas General Land Office) and Lloyd Wise (EPA Region 4). A draft Region 4 strategy has been completed, as well as a report titled "Waste Handling at Recreational Boating Facilities." The Gulf of Mexico Program is funding a follow-up survey of vessel operators to obtain more information about MARPOL Annex V requirements for boaters and reception facility usage. EPA Region 6 would like to expand on Region 4's existing effort and is currently looking for funding to do so.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Regions 4 and 6, Texas General Land Office, and Texas SeaGrant

**Completion  
Date** Completed

The Texas General Land Office is working with the recycling industry to develop a plan to handle debris at ports and marinas. This Action Item entails a major amount of coordination and research to provide cost effective services to everyone.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and recycling industry

**Completion  
Date** Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 8****Survey of Plastic Pellet Manufacturing Plants & Users**

Work with the Society for the Plastics Industry to survey plastic pellet manufacturing plants and pellet users around Gulf coastal areas, to determine where pellets are being lost to the marine environment, and to recommend solutions to the problem. Follow-up on report recommendations as appropriate, including site visits and enforcement of NPDES requirements.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters and Regions 4 & 6

**Original  
Target Date** 1991-1992

**Status Report**

A survey of the pellet industry was completed and a report with recommendations to industry for voluntary action was produced in September 1992. SPI is already taking action based on the report. EPA Region 6 will follow-up, as appropriate, after reviewing the report. EPA Headquarters staff have been utilized. Cooperation of industry and voluntary compliance is required for this action to be successful.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency and Society for the Plastics Industry

**Completion  
Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 9****Increase Distribution of Monitoring Information**

Assist existing Gulf State stranding networks to increase the distribution of monitoring information on stranded animals that have ingested or become entangled in marine debris.

**Lead Agency** Marine Mammal Stranding Network for the Southeast Region

**Original**

**Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

The Marine Mammal Stranding Network published, in 1990, a review titled: *Southeastern United States Marine Mammal Stranding Network: 1978 - 1987*. The Network also publishes summaries of strandings and has current data through June 1992. The Network encourages the use of their monitoring information for gathering basic data on marine mammal entanglement and ingestion of marine debris.

**Contributing  
Agencies**

Marine Mammal Stranding Network

**Completion  
Date**

Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 11****Coordination & Technology Transfer**

Coordinate activities and provide technology transfer to the Gulf of Mexico Program and Gulf States on new techniques and innovative approaches for solving the marine debris problem. Participate in the Marine Debris Roundtable, EPA Regional Marine Debris Coordinators meetings, and the completion of a national strategy.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters and Regions 4 and 6, in coordination with other national programs (such as NOAA and USCG)

**Original  
Target Date** Ongoing

**Status Report**

A draft strategy has been developed titled "The National Strategy for Controlling the Release of Debris into the Aquatic Environment." This draft was distributed for review and comments have been received. Meetings will be scheduled in the future. EPA Region 6 will continue to attend National Marine Debris Roundtable meetings, Marine Debris Subcommittee meetings, EPA Debris Coordinators meetings and coordinate with the Navy, Coast Guard, NOAA, and Gulf State agencies, as well as Wider Caribbean countries. EPA Region 6 will continue to implement the Action Items assigned to EPA in the Marine Debris Action Agenda, as feasible, and to communicate the objectives of the Action Agenda. EPA Headquarters and Regional Marine Debris Coordinators have been utilized. Continuation of this effort will result in recommended actions for all agencies involved.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Navy, Minerals Management Service, Society for the Plastics Industry, Center for Marine Conservation, Marine Mammal Commission, and U.S. Food & Drug Administration

**Completion  
Date** Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 13****Coordination of State Boater's Pledge Programs**

Facilitate coordination among the Boater's Pledge leaders in each state by: providing generic materials and program guidance, coordinating annual meetings, and providing communication through the Bulletin Board System, "Gulfline," and "Gulfwatch."

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Marine Debris Subcommittee and Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee

**Original**

**Target Date** Ongoing

**Status Report**

The Gulf of Mexico Program started Boater's Pledge pilot projects in each Gulf State in 1990, and held a Boater's Pledge Workshop in June of 1991 to facilitate the planning of a region-wide Boater's Pledge Program among the five Gulf States. Articles have been written to promote the boater's pledge. These articles have appeared in "Gulfwatch," as well as other Gulf State publications. Boater's pledge brochures are disseminated through the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee networks. Gulf of Mexico Program staff also disseminate boater's pledge information during presentations, speeches, workshops and displays. Sign-up lists for pledge packets indicate a successful promotion of the boater's pledge message; however, demand for boater's pledge brochures periodically exceeds the supply.

The mailing list of all participants should be forwarded to the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee, as well as other Subcommittees. This list can be used to invite boater's pledge participants to become more involved with environmental activities. Once there is more involvement, attitudes change. This list can be used by the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee in the implementation of action items from other Gulf of Mexico Program Action Agendas.

**Contributing Agencies** Gulf of Mexico Program and Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee

**Completion Date**

Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 15****Marine Debris Information in Boater Safety Courses**

Support the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadrons in Gulf Coast Marine Safety Offices by providing them information on marine debris to distribute during boater safety courses.

**Lead Agency** U.S. Coast Guard

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

The USCG Auxiliary has published information on marine debris and is distributing it to all Gulf Coast Squadrons. USCG is providing MARPOL Annex V and boater's pledge information in boater safety courses and the commercial fishing vessel safety training programs. Eighty video tapes on the Gulf of Mexico Program have been distributed to USCG Auxiliary and fishing vessel coordinators to include in their training programs and other presentations. USCG Auxiliary staff and fishing vessel coordinators have been utilized with funding provided by USCG. There has been a positive response from marine users. Continued success of this Action Item is dependent on ongoing efforts.

**Contributing  
Agencies** U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and state coordinators

**Completion  
Date** Completed/Ongoing

This Action Item will be part of the Texas State Boater's and Fishermen's Pledge Campaign. Notice of the availability of the program will be incorporated in renewal notices and other materials. This Action Item has required revisions to current materials.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and Texas Parks & Wildlife

**Completion  
Date** In progress/Scheduled for completion during 1993



**ACTION ITEM 18****Monitoring Disposal Facilities In Gulf Marinas**

Monitor Gulf marinas and access areas to determine whether proper disposal facilities are being provided as required under Public Law 100-220 and state regulations where they apply, and take appropriate actions.

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original**

**Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

Two separate studies were conducted—one in EPA Region 4 and one from Texas. EPA Region 4 conducted a region-wide survey of marinas and small port facilities to determine the nature and extent of successful waste handling facilities in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama. Results are available from Marine Debris Subcommittee representatives—Angela Farias (Texas General Land Office) and Lloyd Wise (EPA Region 4). EPA Region 6 is reviewing these studies to determine whether any follow-up activities are necessary. The results of the studies provided information for the "port" side. More information is needed to completely answer the questions concerning facility usage. The Gulf of Mexico Program is funding a follow-up survey of vessel operators to obtain more information about MARPOL Annex V requirements for boaters and reception facility usage. In addition, EPA Region 4 has completed a draft Regional Marine Debris Strategy.

**Contributing Agencies** EPA Regions 4 and 6, Texas General Land Office, and Texas SeaGrant

**Completion Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 27*****Distribution of Youth Materials on Marine Debris & MARPOL V to Wider Caribbean Countries***

Work with the Children's Alliance for the Protection of the Environment (CAPE) to distribute youth materials on marine debris and MARPOL Annex V to Wider Caribbean countries who are not currently parties to MARPOL Annex V.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee

**Original Target Date** Beginning 1991/Ongoing

***Status Report***

The Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee aided CAPE in the development of the CAPE Program Guide which includes information for youth regarding environmental issues. A follow-up survey (of students or educators who received the CAPE Guide) is recommended to determine measures of success for environmental training.

**Contributing Agencies** Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee and Children's Alliance for the Protection of the Environment

**Completion Date** Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 36****Solid Waste Management Practices for Oil & Gas Industry**

Facilitate the development and implementation of sound solid waste management practices for the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico. Waste management programs should incorporate waste minimization through bulk packaging, reuse, and include the sorting and recycling of recyclable materials.

**Lead Agency** Offshore Operators Committee

**Original**

**Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Offshore Operators Committee formed the Environmental Waste Handling-Recycling Ad Hoc Committee in January, 1991, to address non-hazardous solid waste issues confronting offshore operators. The Ad Hoc Committee presented a four phase plan to the OOC's Executive Committee which was approved in September 1991. Phase I (Establish Industry Marine Debris Benchmarks) and Phase II (Offshore Waste Management Practices) have been completed. OOC is currently evaluating the need to expand Phase II. Phase III will be complete in 1993. There has been positive feedback and solid support by the OOC member companies.

**Contributing Agencies** Offshore Operators Committee, U.S. Coast Guard, Minerals Management Service, and National Park Service

**Completion Date** Completed; Ongoing implementation of plan



**ACTION ITEM 40****Drum Education & Notification Program--Offshore Oil & Gas Operations**

Establish an education and notification program for coastal jurisdictions and organizations to help them identify drums washing ashore from offshore oil and gas operations. This will enable the targeting of responsible companies and facilitate the removal of such drums.

**Lead Agency** Minerals Management Service

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

Minerals Management Service, with cooperation of the US Coast Guard, contacted over 100 coastal jurisdictions in four states responsible for Gulf front beaches (state agencies, county supervisors and judges, mayors, park superintendents, wildlife conservation and management area managers). A letter describing MMS's regulatory and inspection program relating to drum marking requirements was mailed to all coastal jurisdictions shoreward of active offshore oil and gas operations in the Gulf. Addressees were also informed how to secure proper assistance in removing marked and unmarked drums which wash ashore. MMS is continuing to cooperate with government, industry, and environmental groups through active participation in committees and conferences focused on reduction and elimination of marine debris associated with offshore oil and gas operations. Existing staffing in the MMS Offices of Leasing and Environmental & Field Operations completed this Action Item under the normal operating budget. No additional activities beyond that which are currently underway are advised.

A recent EPA report resulting from a special investigation on the sources of drums washing ashore on Gulf of Mexico beaches indicates the number of drums has significantly declined in recent years, and removal of those few that can be directly associated with offshore oil and gas operations is fast and efficient.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Minerals Management Service, with cooperation of U.S. Coast Guard

**Completion  
Date** Completed in February 1992



**ACTION ITEM 41****Drum Education & Notification Program--Unknown Sources**

Establish an education and notification program for coastal jurisdictions and organizations to help them identify drums washing ashore from unknown sources.

**Lead Agency** U.S. Coast Guard

**Original**

**Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

In May 1990, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, and Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) for removal of drums on Padre Island National Seashore. As part of the MOU, EPA has agreed to take the lead in a joint effort to investigate the sources of these drums. EPA Regions 4 and 6 are working with the State of Texas for Texas to assume responsibility for response, on-scene command, and funding for drum removal on state lands. All drums that are leaking should be reported to 1-800-424-8802. All other drums that are found should be reported to the land owner or manager.

USCG, working with MMS, contacted county supervisors, mayors, refuge managers, and park superintendents in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama identifying appropriate contacts to notify regarding drums washing ashore from unknown sources.

From information gathered, EPA has reached the conclusion that a point source (or sources) cannot be readily or positively identified. This conclusion leaves open to suspicion any or all drum-using businesses and individuals operating in this region. At this time, given the improbability of identifying the source(s) of the drums, EPA does not find it cost-effective to continue its activities in this investigation.

**Contributing Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, and Padre Island National Seashore

**Completion Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 48****Shore Adoption Programs**

Work with state agencies to implement and expand shore adoption programs in all five Gulf States.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Citizens Advisory Committee

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

As of July 1991, all five Gulf States have established shore adoption programs.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Gulf States

**Completion  
Date** Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 55****Activity Book for Elementary Schools**

Print and distribute free of charge throughout the Gulf the 92-page activity book for teachers and elementary school children entitled "The Gulf of Mexico: A Special Place."

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original**

**Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

The activity book has been completed. Due to corporate and foundation grants, the Center for Marine Conservation was able to begin free distribution of the book in July 1991 to schools in Gulf States. The demand for the book far exceeded the first printing of 7,000 books. EPA has provided CMC with a grant for 10K to re-print the book for distribution at The Year of the Gulf Symposium to be held in Tarpon Springs, FL, during December 1992. In the future, additional books could be distributed Gulf-wide to teachers and students. Currently, demand for the books continues to exceed the supply.

**Contributing Agencies** Center for Marine Conservation and Environmental Protection Agency

**Completion Date** Completed/Ongoing



## In Progress

### ACTION ITEM 1

#### Five State Marine Debris Monitoring Program

Design and implement a standardized, statistically-valid, five-state Marine Debris Monitoring Program for beaches and barrier islands of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as nationwide, to establish a baseline and support measures of improvement and assessments. To accomplish this, design and test a survey methodology and monthly sampling program for monitoring the type, quantity and probable origin of marine debris. This national methodology will be refined to meet the specific needs and objectives of the Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Monitoring Program, other federal agencies, and Gulf of Mexico state agencies.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters, in coordination with Center for Marine Conservation, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and others

**Original Target Date** 1992

#### Status Report

Marine debris monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico is part of a national program. EPA HQ and CMC are working together to develop a national methodology. GMP, via contract with the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, is assisting in the effort. Pilot projects have been established in Maryland and Virginia, and are scheduled for completion during 1993. These pilot projects are utilizing volunteers and are working successfully. Statistical analysis will be complete mid-1993, with national implementation Fall/Winter 1993. EPA Headquarters staff and 60K in funding are being utilized.

**Contributing Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, and Center for Marine Conservation

**Completion Date** Anticipated design completion Summer 1993 and implementation Fall/Winter 1993



**ACTION ITEM 2****Effect of River Inflow on Solid Waste Study**

Determine the effect of river inflow on the quantity, type and location of solid waste in the Gulf of Mexico. Select representative rivers for evaluation and analysis. A consistent sampling method and scheme suitable to the information needed should be established at or near the mouths of Gulf of Mexico rivers.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters and Regions 4 and 6, in coordination with Freshwater Inflow Subcommittee and U.S. Coast Guard

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Texas General Land Office has developed a "Trash Tally" card for freshwater sources and conducts lake and river cleanups across Texas. Data is collected at all cleanups. TXGLO is working with the University of Texas Coastal Studies Laboratory to develop a river inflow monitoring station in South Padre Island. The station will monitor solid waste and other pollutants entering the Gulf from the Rio Grande River. Data collected from the monitoring station will be very helpful in analyzing what impact rivers have on the Gulf.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and University of Texas Coastal Studies Laboratory

**Completion  
Date** 1993-1994

EPA Region 6 has allocated 30K for conducting this project on the Mississippi River. This effort will essentially be a pilot project and other locations need to be selected and studied as well. Assistance from EPA Headquarters is needed to coordinate with EPA Region 4.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Headquarters and Region 6

**Completion  
Date** September 1993



**ACTION ITEM 5****Determination of Additional Sources of Marine Debris**

CMC should help determine additional sources of marine debris found in the Gulf during 1992. To accomplish this, CMC will provide data cards to volunteers during river cleanups in all Gulf States, collect this data, and analyze this data as part of the National Marine Debris Database.

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

An announcement appeared in the CMC *Coastal Connection* encouraging states to use data cards for river cleanups. CMC has contacted Gulf State coordinators and will mail extra cards as needed. CMC will analyze river data collected. Results of this analysis will appear in the CMC 1992 *Marine Debris Report*.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Center for Marine Conservation and Gulf State beach cleanup coordinators

**Completion  
Date** May 1993



**ACTION ITEM 6****Monitoring & Reporting System for Offshore Waters**

NMFS should establish a monitoring and reporting system for offshore waters in the Gulf of Mexico to assess the extent of marine debris by 1992. Through aerial surveys and research cruises conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, a recording system should be established to assess the extent of and document floating debris in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Lead Agency** National Marine Fisheries Service

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

National Marine Fisheries Service Pascagoula Laboratory has been conducting aerial surveys since 1988 and recording the sighting and position of all floating debris. Marine mammal cruises have been conducted in April-June 1991 and 1992. Aerial surveys have been conducted throughout 1991 and will continue each year until 1994. Sightings of floating debris are recorded during each survey. NMFS staff have been utilized. Problems may be encountered in analyzing data due to staff time and funding constraints. Additional surveys may be needed after 1994 in order to extend the marine debris database.

**Contributing  
Agencies** National Marine Fisheries Service

**Completion  
Date** June 1994



**ACTION ITEM 10****State Implementation of Federal Laws**

Enact state laws or develop regulations to implement the Marine Plastics Pollution Research and Control Act, Shore Protection Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and the storm water management portion of the Clean Water Act in state waters. The Gulf of Mexico Program will work with state agencies and legislators to facilitate the transfer of model legislation among all Gulf states by 1992. The Mississippi Marine Litter Act should be used as an example of model legislation for enforcing the provisions of the Marine Plastics Pollution Research and Control Act.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States, in coordination with the Gulf of Mexico Program

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Texas General Land Office is working to have the Texas Legislature pass a law similar to the Mississippi Marine Litter Act for Texas state waters. This litter act may need fine tuning during the implementation stages to improve enforcement. Texas General Land Office staff time has been utilized.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas Legislature, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

**Completion  
Date** 1993

A bill was introduced to the Alabama legislature and will be re-introduced during the next legislative session. Communication of endorsement by Gulf of Mexico Program and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Alabama legislature and governor's office, as well as press releases and distribution of information to legislators, would aid in the successful completion of this Action Item.

**Completion  
Date** In Progress



Mississippi passed the Marine Litter Act of 1989 and amended the Act in 1991. This law currently includes provisions as set forth in MARPOL. Enforcement of the law is sporadic; this may be caused by inadequate knowledge of the law by enforcement officials. Passage of the law has been good for public relations, although enforcement has not been stringent enough.

**Contributing Agencies** Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and Bureau of Marine Resources

**Completion Date** Completed/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 12****Workshop on Shipboard Solid Waste Management**

Sponsor a workshop on Options for Shipboard Solid Waste Management to bring the naval architects, EPA's air enforcement personnel, the shipping industry, and other commercial interests together to discuss safe, environmentally sound options for handling solid waste regulated under MARPOL V.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters

**Original**

**Target Date** Winter 1991

**Status Report**

EPA Headquarters is working with the Marine Board of the National Research Council to develop a committee and hold a workshop on issues, problems, and the implementation of MARPOL V. This project is in cooperation with NOAA, USCG, the Maritime Administration, U.S. Navy, and the Marine Mammal Commission. USCG has also completed an inventory and certification of all port facilities serving ocean-going vessels and major fisheries. This will enable an analysis and comparison of efficient waste handling systems. EPA Headquarters staff and 25K in funding have been utilized. Continuation of this effort will result in recommended actions for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V.

**Contributing Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Society for the Plastics Industry, Center for Marine Conservation, Marine Mammal Commission, Maritime Administration, and U.S. Food & Drug Administration

**Completion Date** In Progress/To date, workplan has been prepared but the scheduled has not been finalized.



**ACTION ITEM 14****Awards Program for Trash Facilities**

Survey docks, marinas, and access areas in the Gulf annually and establish an Awards Program to recognize proper, easy-to-use, and cost effective trash facilities. This assessment should begin in 1991 and the first awards should be presented in 1992. This award could be coordinated with other existing awards, such as "Take Pride in America."

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original  
Target Date** 1991-1992; ongoing

**Status Report**

The Gulf of Mexico Program has allocated 2K for this project. EPA Regions and Texas and Louisiana SeaGrant staff are being utilized. This project will provide the necessary information to initiate an awards program which the Marine Debris Subcommittee will be responsible for implementing.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Regions 4 and 6, Texas and Louisiana SeaGrant Programs, and Gulf of Mexico Program

**Completion  
Date** April 1993/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 16****Marine Debris Information In Boating Registration & Fishing License Mailings**

Include information about marine debris in boating registration and fishing licenses. The Gulf of Mexico Program will provide examples and materials to state agencies as appropriate.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

This Action Item has been accomplished in Alabama through the Boater's Pledge Program at the License Commissioner's Office (Mobile County ) and the Probate Judge Office (Baldwin County). State agency staff have been utilized with funding provided by EPA. Problems encountered include a need for additional brochures and difficulty in ensuring distribution and dissemination of the information because Alabama doesn't mail license renewals.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs, and license agencies

**Completion  
Date** Completed/Ongoing

In Mississippi, marine debris information has been provided to those purchasing commercial fishing licenses and with boat registration renewal forms for coastal counties. Beginning in October 1992, boat registration statewide and possibly fishing licenses will contain information on marine debris. There has been a fairly good return of boat registration mailings.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks

**Completion  
Date** In progress/Scheduled for completion by September 30, 1994



**ACTION ITEM 17****Use of Shrimper Placards**

Transfer information to other Gulf States regarding the use of a shrimper placard developed to meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

**Lead Agency** Texas General Land Office

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

A decal with MARPOL regulations has been developed for use on shrimp boats. A brochure and slide show is being developed, to be completed by Spring 1993, which will then be issued to captains and crew. This is a very important project and is receiving full support from the Texas shrimpers.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and Texas Shrimpers Association

**Completion  
Date** In progress/Scheduled for completion Spring 1993



**ACTION ITEM 21****Translation of Educational Posters & MARPOL V Stickers Into Foreign Languages**

Develop posters and translate these and the Center for Marine Conservation's MARPOL V sticker into languages spoken by vessel masters on foreign ships (*i.e.*, Philippine, Norwegian, Greek, Japanese, Portuguese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Spanish). These materials should be distributed to all Gulf ports for use on foreign ships.

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Center for Marine Conservation has translated and printed MARPOL stickers into Spanish and Vietnamese. Funding has been limited for distribution of these stickers. In May 1992, Browning Ferris Industries Shipboard Waste Services distributed Spanish and English placards to ships at ports within the Gulf of Mexico region, around the U.S., and at foreign ports. Distribution of French (Canada) and Dutch (Holland) placards is scheduled in the future. Additional funding is needed in order to translate placards into more languages and to increase distribution.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Center for Marine Conservation and Browning Ferris Industries-Houston

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 23****Education of Passengers & Crew Members About Marine Debris**

Ensure that all cruise line companies and U.S. and foreign flag ships inform passengers and crew members about marine debris, including laws and fines. This will be accomplished by including pertinent information in safety instruction sessions given at the beginning of each trip.

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original  
Target Date** Spring 1992

**Status Report**

USCG has been working with the shipping and cruise line industry to ensure that proper trash disposal techniques become incorporated into safety information for passengers and training materials for staff, particularly cooks and food handlers. USCG is working through organized boarding teams to inspect ships and is pursuing legislative initiatives.

This is an ongoing issue that is not addressed by regulation. The majority of the cruise lines either brief passengers at safety training or they pass out information in a passenger packet. USCG will continue working with the shipping and cruise line industry to ensure that proper trash disposal techniques are followed and that passengers are informed. Boarding and inspections indicate a marked improvement for the control of marine debris on board vessels. USCG staff and funding are being utilized for this effort.

**Contributing  
Agencies** U.S. Coast Guard and marine industry

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 24****Trash Containers on Recreational Boats**

Work with recreational boat manufacturers in all Gulf States to incorporate trash containers in the design of boats. Coordinate with EPA Headquarters, the five Gulf States, and boat manufacturing companies to enact national legislation.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Marine Debris Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

The Texas General Land Office is researching boat manufacturers and will begin communication with them. The Land Office is also researching possible receptacles to retrofit older boats. As the sale of new boats has been poor, including trash containers could be used as a marketing tool.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and Texas Boating Trades Association

**Completion  
Date** 1993



**ACTION ITEM 25*****Distribution of Technical Information to Wider Caribbean Countries***

Coordinate with the Caribbean Environment Program (CEP) to distribute technical information about marine debris to countries of the Wider Caribbean. This should include use of the CEPNEWS publication.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1991-1992

***Status Report***

A technical workshop was held in Merida, Mexico bringing together the U.S., Cuba, Mexico, and the Caribbean countries to discuss and share information on marine debris.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, World Bank, United Nations Environmental Program, International Maritime Organization, IOCARIBE, Center for Marine Conservation

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 26****Marine Debris Survey To Include The Virgin Islands National Seashore**

Include the Virgin Islands National Seashore in the National Park Service Marine Debris Survey Program, which would add debris monitoring to the existing watershed monitoring program at the park.

**Lead Agency** National Park Service

**Original**

**Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

Four sites were chosen for monitoring ranging in length from 200 to 300 meters. Three surveys were conducted (December 1991, March 1992, and June 1992). Beaches will continue to be monitored quarterly until the end of the project. An alternative site will be designated as a quarterly monitoring site. The amount of marine debris has been consistent for the three quarters surveyed. National Park Service staff, including 1 coordinator and 2 biotechnicians, are being utilized with 15K in funding (funds are also used for supporting Padre Island National Seashore and Fort Jefferson National Monument monitoring programs). The Fort Jefferson National Monument was added to the National Park Service Monitoring Program.

**Contributing  
Agencies**

National Park Service and National Marine Fisheries Service

**Completion  
Date**

September 1993



**ACTION ITEM 28****Translation of Existing Educational Materials into Spanish**

Translate existing educational materials on marine debris and MARPOL, including "A Citizen's Guide to Plastics in the Ocean," into Spanish. These documents should be printed and distributed to Mexico, Cuba, and other Spanish speaking nations in the Wider Caribbean.

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original**

**Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Center for Marine Conservation has printed the data card and MARPOL stickers into Spanish. The book, "A Citizen's Guide to Plastics in the Ocean" has recently been translated into Spanish. Printing and distribution of the translated edition is dependent on funding.

**Contributing  
Agencies**

Center for Marine Conservation

**Completion  
Date**

In Progress/Completion is dependent on funding



**ACTION ITEM 29****Bilingual Educational Materials, Port Reception Facilities & Special Study Recommendations**

Provide bilingual educational materials on marine debris and MARPOL, promote port reception facilities for solid waste handling in the Gulf of Mexico Subregion, and implement special study recommendations.

**Lead Agency** U.S. Coast Guard, in coordination with International Maritime Organization

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The International Maritime Organization selected Economic Resources Limited from England to conduct a survey of Caribbean ports. The results of the survey will be used to put together a regional plan for the implementation of reception facilities which will be funded by the Global Environmental Fund of the World Bank. The survey of U.S. ports conducted by the Coast Guard has been completed. The survey concluded that "reception facilities are available and adequate at all major ports visited. However, services are often expensive and infrequently used."

The U.S. Coast Guard, International Maritime Organization, and other Caribbean countries are working through the Global Environmental Fund of the World Bank to educate and promote port reception facilities within the countries of the Caribbean. This process is an ongoing project to which the U.S. government has a very strong commitment. A workshop to explain MARPOL and the benefits of the Special Area designation status was held in September 1992. USCG Headquarters Marine Environmental Protection Division has requested \$1 million for an enforcement study and education program for the Wider Caribbean. USCG staff and funding is being utilized for this effort.

**Contributing  
Agencies** U.S. Coast Guard, International Maritime Organization, and all countries of the Wider Caribbean

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Scheduled completion in 1994



**ACTION ITEM 31****Development of Storm Water Controls: Best Management Practices, Municipal Ordinances & Management Plans**

Coordinate with EPA Regions 4 and 6 and Gulf States to develop storm water controls which will include Best Management Practices, municipal ordinances, and municipal management plans.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Freshwater Inflow Subcommittee, Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee, and Toxic Substances and Pesticides Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

EPA is currently writing guidelines for the new Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program required by Section 6217 of the 1990 reauthorized Coastal Zone Management Act. Due to lack of resources and issues of authority, the Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee recommends that EPA Regions be designated as the lead agency. The Toxic Substances & Pesticides Subcommittee requests direction and assistance from the Gulf of Mexico Program Office before initiation of this Action Item. The Marine Debris Subcommittee needs to review and reassess this Action Item.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Environmental Protection Agency

**Completion  
Date** In Progress



**ACTION ITEM 32****Expansion of Recycling Facilities for Beachusers**

Expand recycling facilities for users of beach areas during 1992. The Texas pilot program should be used as a model.

**Lead Agency** National Park Service, in coordination with Gulf States' county park agencies

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Gulf Islands National Seashore (Fort Pickens, FL) is part of a Browning Ferris Industries pilot project to recycle aluminum cans, plastic, bottles, and glass. Davis Bayou Campground, MS, opened a recycling shed for campers in 1990. Padre Island National Seashore recycles glass, aluminum cans, and plastic containers. A telephone survey of state parks, national parks, and some local beach authorities was completed in July 1992. Florida and Texas state parks recycle some materials. Transportation of materials to be recycled on the mainland for some island parks has presented a problem in some cases. A booklet on how to recycle or how to get a recycling program started needs to be produced for local governments or state parks.

**Contributing  
Agencies** National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Padre Island National Seashore, state parks, and county beach authorities

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

The Texas General Land Office and coastal county governments provided recycling bins for beach users to separate their own trash. Because of the lack of funding to provide manned facilities, there is confusion by the users in separating the trash. This makes it difficult for recyclers to accept the materials. There has been a positive response from beach users. More recycling/sorting education and funding for facilities are needed.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and coastal county governments

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 33****Recycling & Pollution Prevention In City Storm Water Management Plans**

Include an emphasis on recycling and pollution prevention in the development of city storm water management plans, applicable to cities with populations over 100,000.

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

EPA Region 4 storm water management program is working with the Gulf of Mexico Program on the development of pollution prevention requirements in city storm water management plans.

EPA Region 6 is ensuring that coastal cities are including pollution prevention (for debris) in their storm water management plans. Region 6 is including the General Permit Pollution Prevention Plan in all industrial permits. Region 6 has emphasized recycling and pollution prevention activities in all of the approximately 50 storm water seminars and workshops conducted by regional personnel. Successful completion of this Action Item constitutes a tremendous effort and will require extensive compliance monitoring.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Region 4 and 6

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Scheduled completion in December 1992



**ACTION ITEM 34****Pollution Prevention In Industrial Storm Water Permits**

Include pollution prevention requirements in industrial storm water permits beginning in 1992.

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

EPA Region 4 is investigating pollution prevention requirements for industrial permits.

EPA Region 6 requirements in the baseline storm water general permit will prohibit the discharge of solid materials. Success completion/implementation will require compliance monitoring.

**Contributing  
Agencies** EPA Region 4 and 6

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Scheduled completion early 1993



**ACTION ITEM 37****Storage & Transportation of Solid Waste in Closed Receptacles**

In accordance with the Shore Protection Act, provide operators with recommended waste management practices such as the storage and transportation of solid waste in closed receptacles.

**Lead Agency** Offshore Operators Committee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Offshore Operators Committee's Waste-Recycling Committee has met with individual companies to discuss existing waste management practices. Information from these meetings was utilized to build a list of recommended practices. The preliminary report detailing solid waste management practices was completed in July 1992. OOC is currently evaluating the need for a more detailed study. The preliminary report was sent to all OOC members, USCG, MMS, and NPS. OOC will survey OOC members annually on their progress in implementing advanced solid waste management practices.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Offshore Operators Committee, U.S. Coast Guard, Minerals Management Service, and National Park Service

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Preliminary report completed July 14, 1992  
Ongoing activities as needed



**ACTION ITEM 38****Action Item 38 - Industry-Wide "No Polystyrene" Policy**

Encourage OOC members not to use polystyrene products offshore in order to facilitate an industry-wide "no polystyrene" policy.

**Lead Agency** Offshore Operators Committee

**Original**

**Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Fifty percent of the oil and gas industry now have this policy. The Preliminary Phase II report of the OOC's four phase plan included the request to eliminate polystyrene food packaging and packing peanuts (see Action Item 37). Overall support for this recommendation has been positive. OOC will survey OOC members annually on their progress in implementing advanced solid waste management practices.

**Contributing  
Agencies**

Offshore Operators Committee and membership

**Completion  
Date**

In Progress/Recommended practices completed July 1992  
Anticipated implementation in 1993



**ACTION ITEM 39****Employee Education & Awareness Programs**

Continue and enhance employee education and awareness programs, such as the "All washed up video." These programs should be targeted to offshore personnel.

**Lead Agency** Offshore Operators Committee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Following the review of the OOC's Preliminary Phase II report (Solid Waste Management Practices), a training video will be developed based on that report. This project has been reviewed and endorsed by the OOC's Executive Committee.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Offshore Operators Committee

**Completion  
Date** In Progress / Scheduled completion in July 1993



**ACTION ITEM 43****Additional Trash Cans/Recycling Bins at Beaches**

State Adopt-A-Beach programs should require more trash cans/recycling bins at Gulf beaches. These programs should inform appropriate localities where trash cans/recycling bins are needed, using, where applicable, information from the Texas survey of trash cans. Consideration should also be given to securing state legislation.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

Six of Alabama's 30 miles of coastline have been adopted. Signs and Public Service Announcements will be completed as adequate funding becomes available. There is a need for additional funding and staff time in order to continue with this Action Item.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Alabama Department of Environmental Management and  
Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

Texas General Land Office maintains a state beach cleaning fund and gives matching grants to coastal counties. Proper trash receptacles on the beaches are made possible by these grants.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and coastal county governments

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 44****State Purchasing of Recyclable Products**

Enact legislation to implement state purchasing of recyclable products, including plastic.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

All Alabama state agencies are working towards the use of recyclable products.

**Contributing  
Agencies** All Alabama state agencies

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

The Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources and most state agencies utilize recyclable xerox paper and other recycled printed products. As prices of recycled products become more competitive, use of these products will increase. Most agencies and individuals are aware of the need to use recycled products and, when possible, do so.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and Bureau of Marine Resources

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

The Texas State Recycling Bill mandates recycling in state agencies and gives preference to purchasing of recycled products. This includes state, county, and city governments, as well as school districts. The Bill also lowered the tax on trucking recycled/material recyclable. Progress has been good but more technical and educational programs are necessary. There is a need for more recyclers and more companies to make recycled products.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office, Texas Water Commission, Texas General Services Commission, and Texas Railroad Commission

**Completion  
Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 45****Gulf-Wide Corporate Recycling Council**

Promote the establishment of a Gulf-wide corporate recycling council, modeled after the Texas Recycling Council. To accomplish this, the Texas General Land Office will provide information on the process and model used by Texas. The positive features of the Florida Business and Industry Recycling Program should also be examined.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Marine Debris Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

The Texas General Land Office is working through the Energy Board to promote the development of councils in the South, including the Gulf States. Materials are available for interested parties on how to develop the councils. Currently 15 councils have been developed in Texas. They have been effective in promoting workplace recycling, increasing the recycling market, and developing infrastructure for the industry.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office and Southern States Energy Board

**Completion  
Date** 1993



**ACTION ITEM 46****Gulf-Wide Coastal Cleanup & Marine Debris Survey**

Facilitate the planning, organization, promotion and coordination of a volunteer Gulf-Wide Coastal Cleanup and Marine Debris Survey each fall during National COASTWEEKS and National Public Lands Cleanup Month. The data from these activities will be combined in a comprehensive national database.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee, Marine Debris Subcommittee, and Citizens Advisory Committee

**Original Target Date** 1991/Ongoing

**Status Report**

Brochures and bumper stickers have been printed for beach clean-up activities and promotions. Gulf of Mexico Program staff have been utilized, however, budget restrictions prevent further advancement of this Action Item.

**Contributing Agencies** Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee, Marine Debris Subcommittee, and Citizens Advisory Committee

**Completion Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 47****Beach Cleanup Data Results**

State coordinators in each Gulf State should fund the printing and distribution of data results on Gulf-wide state beach cleanups to provide feedback to beach cleanup volunteers about their efforts and provide results to their citizens, beach adoption groups, media, and state agencies. One method would be to print and distribute the data results from the Center for Marine Conservation national report.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** Ongoing

**Status Report**

Action Item has not been initiated in Alabama due to lack of resources and staff time.

Mississippi beach cleanups continue to utilize Center for Marine Conservation data cards and provide beach clean-up results to CMC. The program has been a success, because the data provides measurable results.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and  
Bureau of Marine Resources

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

All data cards have been returned to the Center for Marine Conservation, and Texas is waiting for the release of the CMC report. Additional activities in Texas are scheduled for June 1993.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Appropriate state agencies/organizations in Texas

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 49****National Coastal Cleanup & Appreciation Day**

Designate a National Coastal Cleanup and Appreciation Day on the next-to-last Saturday in September. Formulate a Proclamation and secure signatures from the five Gulf State governors and the President of the United States.

**Lead Agency** EPA Regions 4 and 6

**Original**

**Target Date** September 1992

**Status Report**

EPA did not pursue obtaining the Presidential Proclamation due to Desert Storm. Pursuant to direction by the Marine Debris Subcommittee, EPA sought to obtain yearly support from Gulf State governors. Governors of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas signed proclamations for 1991. Progress on this Action Item should continue and assistance from the Gulf of Mexico Program is needed for coordination among Gulf States. (NOTE: The Texas General Land Office suggests that this be done on an annual basis and should be removed from the list of Action Items.)

**Contributing  
Agencies**

EPA Regions 4 and 6 and Gulf States

**Completion  
Date**

In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 50****Recycling of Debris From Beach Cleanups**

Encourage recycling of debris from beach cleanups. Information on successful programs to convert plastic to park benches and tables (Texas is one example) and recycling of monofilament line should be shared with other states.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** 1991

**Status Report**

In Alabama, marine debris (aluminum, glass, and plastic bottles) collected during the 1991 Beach Clean-up was recycled.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Alabama Department of Environmental Management and  
Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

In Mississippi, recycling of beach debris has been encouraged by participants. As funding becomes available, separated recycling containers will be provided in the future. Problems encountered include the fact that materials from past recycling efforts have ended up in landfills, which has created bad press for the current effort.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and  
Bureau of Marine Resources

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

During the two statewide beach cleanups in Texas, coastal counties encouraged volunteers to recycle and provided receptacles. Problems encountered include a lack of recycling facilities near the coast, however, volunteers are anxious to recycle the debris.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office, coastal counties, and recycling  
industry

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing



**ACTION ITEM 51****Environmental Offices In State Education Agencies**

Establish an environmental office in each Gulf State education agency.

**Lead Agency** Gulf States

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management, through an EPA grant, is working with the Alabama Department of Education to develop environmental education curricula.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Alabama Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Alabama Department of Education

**Completion  
Date** In Progress/Ongoing

The Florida Department of Education has an Office of Environmental Education, an Environmental Education and Recycling Awareness curriculum, and an Environmental Education Advisory Council.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Florida Department of Education

**Completion  
Date** Completed/Ongoing

Due to issues of prioritization, this Action Item has not been pursued in Mississippi.

This Action Item has met with tremendous success in Texas. A line of communication between the state environmental agencies and the schools has been built and is working very effectively to distribute information. Each Texas agency involved has provided staff time and funding.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Texas General Land Office, Texas Education Agency, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Water Commission, Air Control Board

**Completion  
Date** Completed



**ACTION ITEM 52*****Distribution of MARPOL V & State Regulation Brochures***

Print and distribute MARPOL V and state regulation brochures widely throughout the Gulf region.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Education and Outreach Subcommittee

**Original Target Date** 1992

***Status Report***

Due to budget restrictions, the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee has no available funding to print MARPOL Annex V marine debris regulations. However, CAPE Program Guides, funded by the Subcommittee, contain MARPOL Annex V information.

**Contributing Agencies** Gulf of Mexico Program, Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee, and Gulf State environmental agencies

**Completion Date** In Progress/Completion dependent on funding



**ACTION ITEM 54****Educational Videos on Marine Debris**

Review and purchase educational videos on marine debris and make them available on loan for programs and resource rooms throughout the Gulf. EPA Headquarters, Center for Marine Conservation, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Oregon are sources of this information.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Education and Outreach Subcommittee

**Original Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Funds previously allocated for this project have been diverted. However, the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee has been able to purchase, promote, and distribute videos on marine debris.

**Contributing Agencies** Gulf of Mexico Program Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee

**Completion Date** In Progress/Completion dependent on funding



## **Not Initiated**

### **ACTION ITEM 3**

#### **Pilot Projects for General Storm Water Permits**

Coordinate with Gulf States to develop proposals and seek funding for pilot projects for general storm water permits to test cost effective methodologies.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Freshwater Inflow Subcommittee and Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee

**Original**

**Target Date** 1992

#### **Status Report**

Due to lack of resources and authority/prioritization issues, the Nutrient Enrichment Subcommittee recommends that the Marine Debris Subcommittee re-evaluate the lead agency designation of this Action Item.



**ACTION ITEM 20****Procedures for Reporting Dumping Violations**

Distribute information throughout the Gulf region on existing complaint procedures for reporting dumping violations to appropriate enforcement entities. To accomplish this, the Center for Marine Conservation should expand their program on reporting MARPOL violations, started in New Jersey and Maryland, to include the Gulf of Mexico region. CMC forms and educational information developed for the east coast pilot should be adapted for use in the Gulf.

**Lead Agency** Center for Marine Conservation

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Groundwork has been completed in the form of a pilot study conducted by the Center for Marine Conservation and forms have been developed for reporting violations. However, lack of funding prevents any further progress of this Action Item.

**Contributing  
Agencies** Center for Marine Conservation

**Completion  
Date** Dependent on funding



**ACTION ITEM 30**

***Economic Impact Assessment of U.S. Port Users***

Conduct an economic impact assessment of all users of U.S. ports and recommend a reasonable fee structure and incentives for implementation of MARPOL V within the Gulf region.

**Lead Agency**     Office of Technology Assessment

**Original  
Target Date**     1992

***Status Report***

The Office of Technology Assessment has indicated that this Action Item is not within their authority and that their duties are directed by Congress. The Marine Debris Subcommittee needs to follow-up and reassess this Action Item.

**ACTION ITEM 42**

***Environmentally Benign Products***

Change the federal government procurement process to make it feasible for all agencies to purchase products that are environmentally benign.

**Lead Agency**     General Services Administration

**Original  
Target Date**     1992

***Status Report***

This Action Item has not been aggressively pursued due to prioritization. However, the General Services Administration has recently improved its policy regarding recycling.



**ACTION ITEM 53****Marine Debris Units in Educational Programs**

Encourage the inclusion of marine debris units in public and private educational programs throughout the Gulf. This will be accomplished by gathering information on available curricula and distributing a complete bibliography to appropriate educators.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Education and Outreach Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

**Status Report**

Due to staff and funding restrictions, as well as issues of authority, the Public Education & Outreach Subcommittee has not been able to pursue this Action Item.



## No Status Received

### ACTION ITEM 19

#### **Citizen Pollution Patrols**

Encourage and promote the establishment of a volunteer corps of "citizen pollution patrols" in the five Gulf States. To accomplish this, the Subcommittee should showcase successful prototype programs, emphasizing training and support requirements, powers and authorities granted, and accomplishments at the 1992 Year of the Gulf Symposium.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Marine Debris Subcommittee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992

### ACTION ITEM 21

#### **Prohibition of Mass Release of Lighter-Than-Air Balloons**

Work with state legislators to secure legislation to prohibit the mass release of lighter-than-air balloons. To accomplish this, the Citizens Advisory Committee will present legislators in Gulf States with information about the Florida, Tennessee, and Delaware legislation, and will support or conduct outreach activities, including the use of the Center for Marine Conservation's brochure, to inform the public about the dangers to wildlife from the release of balloons.

**Lead Agency** Gulf of Mexico Program Citizens Advisory Committee

**Original  
Target Date** 1992



**ACTION ITEM 35****Targeting Pellet Manufacturing Facilities For General Storm Water Permits**

Target pellet manufacturing facilities for storm water general permit regulatory requirements. This issue should be addressed in the 1992 Report to Congress and incorporated in amendments to appropriate regulations.

**Lead Agency** EPA Headquarters

**Original  
Target Date** 1992