

Table 28. Summary of marine debris cleanup projects.

	Region	Pounds Collected	Miles Cleaned	Number of Projects	Pounds per 100 Yards	
					General	Detailed
1	Southeast Alaska Outside	167,334	137.7	18	69	71
2	Southeast Alaska Inside	315,310	79.0	13	224	40
3	Yakutat	114,692	125.5	8	49	57
4	Prince William Sound	399,874	609.2	13	30	4
5	Central Gulf of Alaska	562,592	499.7	24	54	78
6	Cook Inlet	18,459	146.5	19	7	
7	Aleutians	68,720	8.0	6	163	
8	Bristol Bay	329,317	269.0	9	69	56
9	Pribilof Islands	305,040	63.7	19	213	172
10	Central Bering Coast	25,955	61.8	3	24	24
11	Norton Sound	490,486	210.0	9	116	84
12	St Lawrence Island	156,373	150.6	4	59	59
13	Northern Bering Coast	76,556	173.4	4	25	25
14	Arctic	450	15.0	1	2	
Total		3,031,158	2,549.1	150		

The greatest density of debris in both the general and detailed assessments was in the Pribilof Islands, with 172 lbs. per 100 yards for the detailed estimate (Figure 22). The detailed estimate is the best estimate.

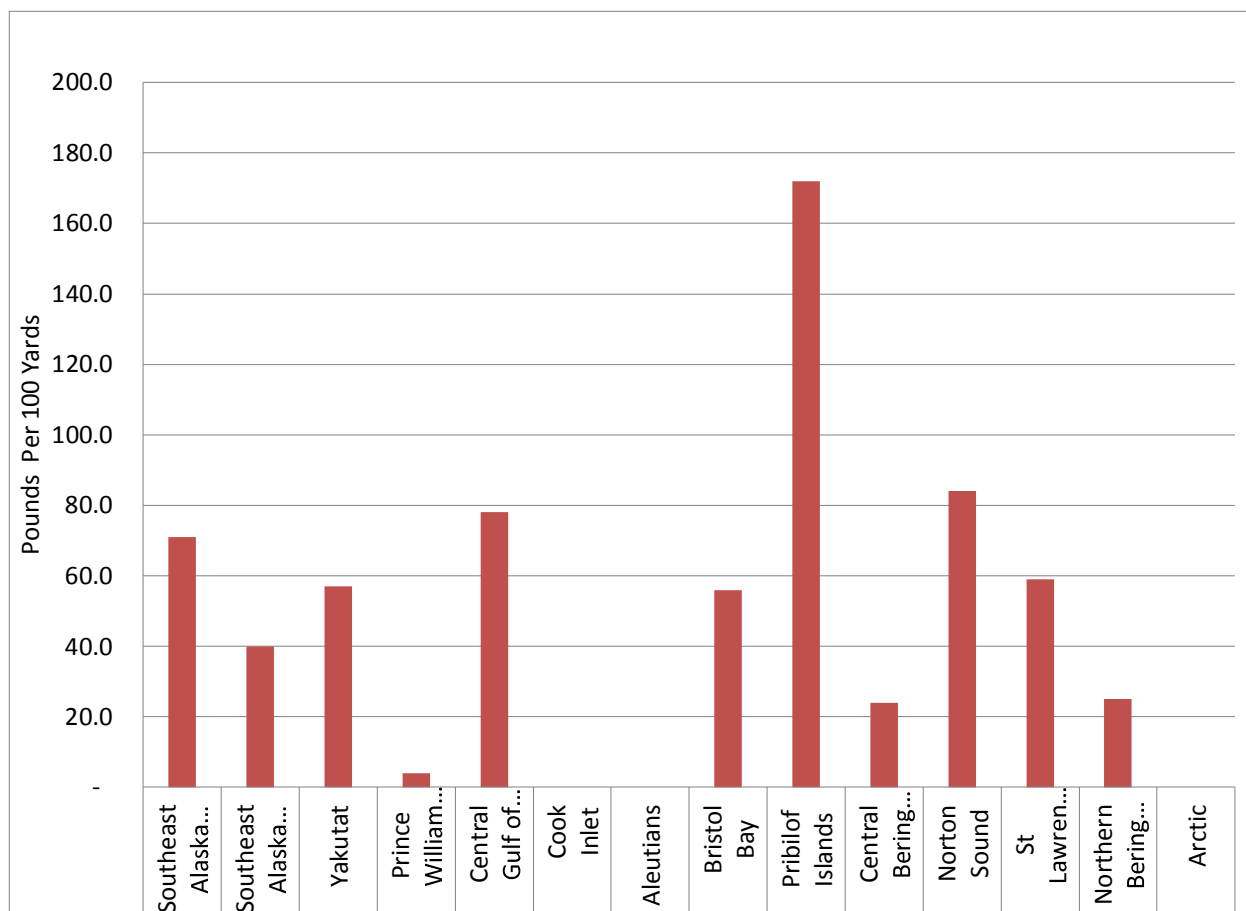


Figure 22. Rates of debris deposition (pounds per 100 yards) by region.

The type of debris does vary between the different regions Table (29). Trawl, cargo and seine net and all line or rope dominate the composition in the Gulf of Alaska regions (except for Region 2, Southeast Alaska Inside) and Regions 8 and 9 (Bristol Bay and Pribilof Islands). The other Bering Sea regions (10 through 13) are comprised of other fishing related and other non-vessel related debris.

Table 29. Debris composition by region.

Region	Trawl, Seine, Cargo Net	All Line or Rope	Domestic Gill Net	High Seas Drift Net	Floats	Other Fishing Related	Banding	Plastic Beverage Bottles	Other Plastic, Non-Beverage	Metal	Foam	Other NonVessel Related	Pounds per 100 yards
1	24%	25%	0%	1%	7%	4%	1%	5%	11%	2%	9%	11%	71
2	7%	11%	1%	5%	5%	12%	1%	4%	13%	6%	13%	22%	40
3	8%	4%	0%	1%	29%	3%	0%	8%	15%	7%	16%	7%	57
4	23%	16%	1%	1%	6%	5%	2%	4%	5%	1%	18%	18%	4
5	28%	16%	1%	3%	12%	5%	1%	7%	10%	2%	8%	8%	78
6													
7													
8	9%	29%	9%	0%	5%	4%	0%	3%	6%	17%	1%	17%	56
9	13%	40%	1%	0%	5%	17%	0%	1%	7%	3%	0%	13%	172
10	1%	0%	14%	0%	0%	38%	2%	1%	7%	1%	1%	33%	24
11	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	8%	1%	87%	84
12	10%	3%	1%	0%	2%	32%	0%	2%	17%	8%	1%	23%	59
13	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	4%	16%	3%	67%	25
14													

Discussion

Despite the small human population in Alaska, marine debris is a significant problem. The first recorded marine debris work in Alaska was conducted by NOAA on Amchitka Island in the early 1970s. NOAA documented the presence of plastic marine debris, primarily from the fishing industry and largely of non US origin. Plastics had just recently come into widespread common use and were particularly well suited to use in the harsh and wet conditions of the fishing industry.

A total of 3.043 million lbs. debris were documented to have been removed from Alaska's coastline in this report. Undoubtedly there are many undocumented cleanups that have occurred with many more pounds of debris being removed. A number of different sources of funding have been responsible for the work, but the primary source has been NOAA. The Marine Debris Reduction Act of 2006 was to provide up to \$10 million per year in funding for marine debris cleanups, however, it has not received full funding.

The Alaska coastline is perhaps the most challenging place there is to conduct marine debris cleanups. Working on remote beaches, difficulty of access, limited workforce and the weather