

# SeaKeepers Coastal Cleanups



## Marine Debris Epidemic



From plankton to whales, animals across ocean ecosystems have been contaminated by plastic. Plastic has been found in 59% of sea birds like albatross and pelicans, in 100% of sea turtle species, and more than 25% of fish sampled from seafood markets around the world. Ocean trash affects the health of wildlife, people and local economies. Trash in the water and on the shore can be mistaken as food by wildlife or entangle animals with lethal consequences. Plastic also attracts and concentrates other pollutants from surrounding seawater, posing a contamination risk to those species that then eat it. Scientists are studying the impacts of that contamination on fish and shellfish as well as the possible impact it may have on human health as well. Marine debris isn't an ocean problem—it's a people problem. That means people are the solution.

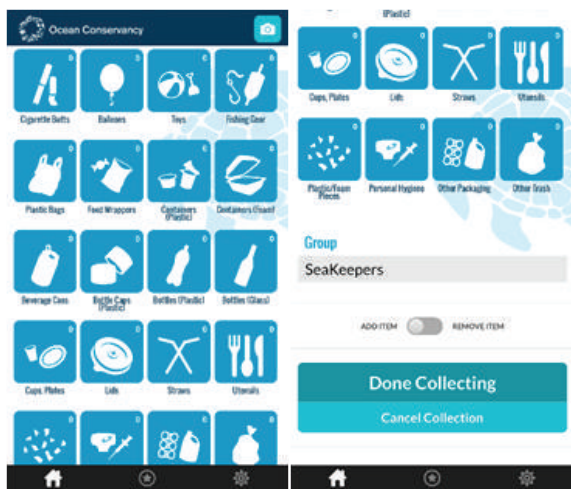
## SeaKeepers & The Ocean Conservancy

The Ocean Conservancy brings together passionate ocean lovers and helps them contribute to a vision for trash free seas. They bring useful tips to stop the flow of trash before it hits our shores. The Ocean Conservancy is leading scientific work with business and academic partners to improve our knowledge of the ocean trash issue, therefore strengthening the science and solutions. They engage everyone in solutions by bringing together leaders from industry, government, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and the scientific community through the Trash Free Seas Alliance® to bring systemic, durable solutions to the ocean trash issue. Lastly, they promote good policies. Ocean Conservancy built support for the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act and its companion bill in the Senate, the Trash Free Seas Act, to strengthen a national focus on marine debris. To help them accomplish their mission, The International SeaKeepers Society will be hosting our own marine debris cleanups, by recruiting local volunteers to help remove and document marine debris found on Southeast Florida's coasts.



## Clean Swell App

The citizen science and community engagement portion of The Ocean Conservancy's initiative, "Fighting for trash Free Seas," is the Trash Information & Data for Education & Solutions (TIDES) database. The database is a culmination of all data collected on the Clean Swell application, their mobile application that allows you to document your findings at a cleanup. SeaKeepers will be using this application at every cleanup in order to quantify and document our efforts. They use the data in research, and share key details with the public, the scientific community, and decision makers about what is polluting our oceans and coastlines. They then prevent trash from entering the waters by working with everyone from individuals to businesses to change the products, practices, and behaviors that lead to ocean pollution. They also mobilize the International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest volunteer effort on behalf of ocean health, and other year-round cleanups. This year's International Coastal Cleanup is Saturday, September 21st, 2019.



# Join Us at Our Beach Cleanups!

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## Program Itinerary

The beach cleanups will be held at Virginia Beach, Key Biscayne for the first five sessions. The last four sessions will be held at Bill Baggs State Park, Key Biscayne. Both locations are known to have a vast amount of pollution, which makes it an appropriate choice for monthly cleanups. Our beach cleanups will be implemented throughout the next eight months. Starting on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, known as "World Oceans Day." SeaKeepers will do a monthly cleanup the last Saturday of every month until Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The upcoming year's itinerary is as follows:

### Virginia Beach, Key Biscayne

Saturday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> (World Oceans Day)	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, August 31 <sup>st</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, September 21 <sup>th</sup> (Int. Coastal Day)	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM

### Bill Baggs State Park, Key Biscayne

Saturday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM
Saturday, February 29 <sup>th</sup>	9 AM- 12 PM



## Supplies To Bring

- Gardening gloves (not plastic)
- Canvas or reusable bag (for recyclables found)
- Reusable water bottle (no single-use bottles)
- Environmentally safe sunscreen

## Things To Do

- **BEFORE** the cleanup, download the Clean Swell application on your phone and register under the group name "SeaKeepers"
- **DURING** the cleanup, enter the various types of trash and amount found into the application.

\*We will provide garbage bags, a luggage scale to weigh the trash found, hand sanitizer, and a water jug.

## SeaKeepers Goal

Our members recognize the ocean's critical importance to the life of our planet. The Society is thus deeply committed to finding real-world solutions to the problems now plaguing our seas. With population growth and human use of southeast Florida reefs on the rise, establishing a program that can minimize the impacts of marine debris is a priority. SeaKeepers is dedicated to hosting monthly beach cleanups at popular Southeast Florida beaches, particularly locations that are known to have a vast amount of pollution. We will record the quantity of marine debris removed from the beach and our upload findings via the "Clean Swell" application, a user-friendly application that stores information reported on location, type, and abundance of marine debris. The information uploaded to the application will then get accrued into the Trash Information & Data for Education & Solutions (TIDES) database. Using the database, we aim to identify debris "hot spots" (e.g., where debris is concentrated), the beach areas that have been successfully cleaned, and those to be targeted in subsequent cleanups. Ultimately, we hope to raise awareness of marine debris and its assorted problems, as well as to encourage prevention.