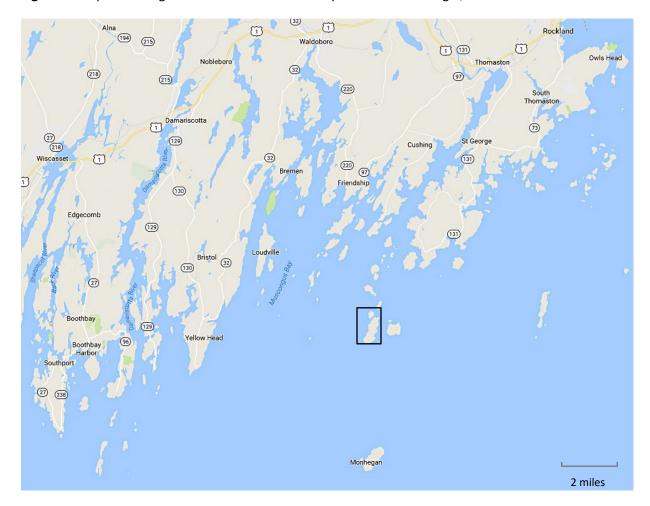
Allen Island Field Trip: Marine Debris

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth year of a marine debris survey. Allen Island is a private island located in southeast Muscongus Bay (Figure 1), previously owned by painter Betsy Wyeth.

Figure 1. Map indicating location of Allen Island. Map data ©2017 Google, United States



The purpose of this survey is to chart changes in movement and types of debris over time and space. As such, you will have access to the 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019 data sets.

The assessment for this field trip will be a group effort report in the following structure:

Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion. Note that results and discussion will be separate sections in this report.

Throughout this assessment, consider possible sources of error. Remember to include units, figure legends and labels. For maps and images, this includes scale bars and usage rights or attributions where appropriate.

In the introduction, be sure to include at least one hypothesis on the distribution of marine debris, based on what you are measuring and/or what has been measured in the past. And explain the basis for this hypothesis.

Please include the raw data, in an appendix or separate file.

METHODS

This shoreline methodology is adapted from NOAA's marine debris survey protocol: https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/noaa-marine-debris-shoreline-survey-field-guide

This document is a useful reference and provides more details of the methodology.

1. Site description

For each sample site, characterization is necessary to give context to the data collected. For annual surveys such as this, good characterization is important to allow accurate tracking of changes over time. It is worth remembering that storm events can change shoreline morphology over time.

This survey has four sample locations (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Satellite image of site locations. Imagery ©2017 Google, Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



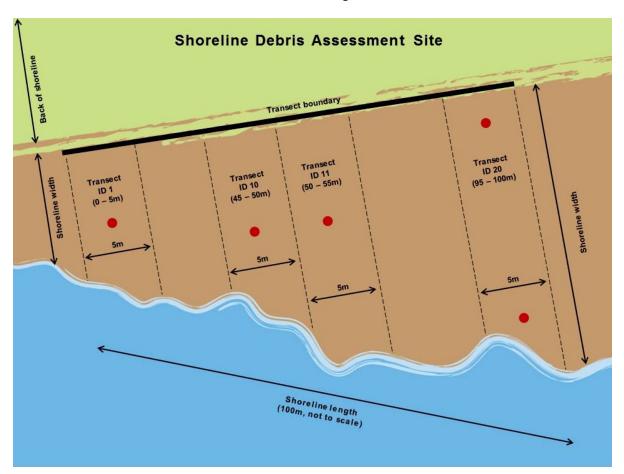
For each of these sites, include a description of land use and geographical features such as freshwater outflows, local land use and distance to settlements. Potential sources of debris and features that may affect debris distribution are particularly valuable to record. Other features to note include identification and uniformity of the primary substrate type (sand, cobble, etc.), the tidal range and distance (if applicable), a description of the first barrier at the back of the shoreline section (dunes, vegetation, etc.), and the aspect of the shoreline. Copious photographs are useful to collect for descriptive purposes.

2. Macro debris (>2.5 cm)

a) Defining sampling methodology

A transect is defined as straight line or narrow section through an object or natural feature or across the earth's surface, along which observations are made or measurements taken. Transects run perpendicular to the shoreline section from water's edge at the time of sampling to the back of the shoreline, which is defined as location of the first barrier or primary substrate change (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Shoreline section (100 m) displaying perpendicular transects from water's edge at low tide to the first barrier at the back of the shoreline section. Red circles indicate marked GPS coordinates. Shoreline width determines location and number of GPS coordinates. Figure not to scale.



Where there is an intertidal substrate zone substrate change, the chosen end barrier should be at least to the high wrack line. It is important to clearly note what definition is used. Where there is debris above the back barrier such as storm debris, this may be recorded separately.

b) Transect methodology (Ideally, surveys should be done within 3 hours of low tide.)

A minimum of four transects is required for each site. For reference, the permanent reference points for each site are: Bunkhouse beach, a granite square post marking the back left corner of the transact facing the ocean; Betsy's Beach, a spruce tree at the right edge of the site facing the ocean; Station 3, a spruce tree at the right edge of the site facing the ocean; Station 4, none.

- i) Use surveyor's measuring wheel to mark selected transects with flags. Each transect should be 5 m wide. The center point of each transect should be 10 m from the next.
- ii) Record ancillary data prior to the debris survey; length of each transect from water's edge to first barrier, time, season, and date of last survey, description of recent storm activity, current weather conditions, and the number of individuals conducting the transect survey. If these characteristics are consistent between transects on a survey event, they need only be recorded on one data sheet.
- iii) Walk each transect, tallying debris items according to material type and subcategory (see data sheets). Macro debris is defined as 2.5 cm in size (~1 inch) or larger. Large macro debris is defined as 30 cm (~ 1 ft) or larger, and should be recorded in the large items section of the sheet. Include information on debris type, status of the large item (sunken, stranded, or partially buried), the latitude and longitude of the item, and the approximate debris size.

Any item partially within a transect should be tallied. Items should not be tallied twice if transects are adjacent. If an item is blown into a transect mid- survey, it is tallied only if the surveyor has not yet surveyed the section of the transect where the item is located. Multiple fragments of what may have originally been a whole item should be tallied separately. If one fragment is recognizable as a specific item, for example a remnant of a plastic beverage bottle, it should be recorded as such provided that the remnant is at least 50% of the original item. Items that do not fall under a specific subcategory or are unclear can be entered into the "other" category at the end of each material section, with a brief description in "notes". Items that are composed of multiple material types should be recorded according to the most abundant material that makes up the surface of the item. Digital photographs should be taken of unidentifiable items, as well as other debris items or markings of interest. Place a lined ruler next to the debris item to establish a size reference. It is also a good practice to take a photo of each transect surveyed, and record photo ID numbers on the data sheet.

Include survey data sheets as an Appendix in the report.

RESULTS

- 1. Calculate debris concentrations for each individual transect surveyed (a minimum of four per survey).
- 2. Take the mean of the concentrations at each transect to calculate an overall site concentration (± standard deviation) for that date.

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Calculate macro-debris concentration (number of debris items/m²) per transect by the equation below:

C = n/(w * I)

C = concentration of debris items (number of debris items/m²)

n = of macro-debris items observed

w = width (m) of shoreline section recorded during sampling (i.e. length of transect from water's edge to back of the shoreline)

I = length (m) of shoreline sampled (i.e. transect width)

3. What patterns can be detected in your results? How do they compare to previous years?

DISCUSSION

This section is for putting results in a wider context. What explanations are there for the patterns seen in the results? Possible sources of debris? Think about the oceanography and weather of coastal Maine. How does this study link into the wider marine debris issue in the Gulf of Maine and beyond? Finally, what recommendations would you make for future surveys?

Appendix 1 - Equipment required for Marine debris survey

Surveyor's tape	Marking flags	Clipboards	Pencils
Data sheets	Digital camera	Ruler	

Appendix 2 - Learning outcomes:

- 1. Practical fieldwork skills
- 2. Data recording and analysis
- 3. Contributing to annual survey
- 4. Dataset comparison
- 5. Linking observations to a wider issue

Appendix 3 – Grading

The following tables explain how this assessment will be graded.

Table A3. 1. Grading rubric

Report is in required format	
Introduction (15 %)	Purpose of experiment is included
	Information is relevant
	Hypothesis is included
Method (20%)	Method clearly stated and reproducible
	All steps and units included.
Results (20%)	All required data from all sites is present, including ancillary information.
	Identification of debris distribution patterns within and between sites
	Comparison between 2021 and previous years' data
	Sources of error identified
	i. within 2021 survey
	ii. between 2021 and previous years'
Discussion (20 %)	Explanation of debris distribution
	i. within sites
	ii. between sites
	iii. over time
	Link to marine debris as a wider issue
	Suggestions for methodology improvements included
Data presentation (20 %)	All data is included and correctly labeled
	Graphs have correctly labeled axis with units and legends, where present
	Maps and images include scales and usage rights, where
	appropriate
	Figures and tables are referred to in the text
Appendix (5 %)	All data is included and data sheets are present and legible

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Table A. 3.2 Grading system

Grade	Requirement
Α	Excellent command of knowledge
	High level of skill development
В	Good command of knowledge
	Advanced development in most skills
С	Basic command of principles
	Basic skill development
D	Lacks command of some principles
	Lacks some basic skills
F	Hasn't learned a thing

Appendix 4 – Data from 2016 survey

Table A4.1. General information of the four surveyed beaches. The surveyed area on Betsy's Beach was separated into Area 1 (A1) and Area 2 (A2), each 15m wide. The shore length was measured under the tidal level at the time of survey. The width was the distance from water's edge to back of shoreline at the time of survey.

Site	Starting Time (p.m.)	Shore Length (m)	Width (m)	Substrate Type	GPS Coordinates
Bunkhouse Beach (Station 1)	1:00	40	16.5	Cobble	43º52'36''N 69º18'43''W
Betsy's Beach (A1) (Station 2)	1:30	32	24	Cobble	43º52'19''N 69º19'1''W
Betty's Beach (A2) (Station 2)	1:24	23	30	Cobble	43º52'19''N 69º19'1''W
Station 3	2:15	80	40	Cobble	43º52'14"N 69º18'33"W
Station 4	~3:00	/	/	Rocky	43°51'22.5"N 69°19'06.6"W

Table A4.2. Marine debris concentrations (n/m^2) by transect and site with means and standard error.

Marine debris concentrations (macro-debris items/m²)									
Transect Bunkhouse Beach Betsy's Beach Station 3									
1	0.3	0.3	0.5						
2	0.6	0.4	0.5						
3	0.1	0.1	0.1						
4	0.3	0.2	0.6						
Mean ± Std. Dev. 0.33 ± 0.2 0.25 ± 0.1 0.43 ± 0.2									

Table A4.3 Marine debris distribution by material. Glass is not shown in table because none was found, but was included in initial search.

	Macro-Debris		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Total	% macro-debris category & % total
Plastic	Plastic fragments	Hard	11	10	41	0	62	14.0

		Foamed	8	11	20	0	39	8.8
		Soft	0	0	4	0	4	0.9
	Food wrapp	pers	2	1	17	0	20	4.5
	Beverage bo	ottles	7	28	54	1	90	20.4
	Other jugs or co	ontainers	3	2	7	0	12	2.7
	Bottle or contai	ner caps	11	5	7	0	23	5.2
	Cigarette	25	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
	Disposable cigare	tte lighters	2	2	0	0	4	0.9
	Bags		2	2	1	0	5	1.1
	Plastic rope/small	net pieces	31	16	60	3	110	24.9
	Buoys & flo	oats	3	16	30	1	50	11.3
	Straws		1	1	0	0	2	0.5
	Balloons	s	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
	Other		10	4	5	0	19	4.3
	Total plas	tic	92	99	246	5	442	74.2
	Aluminum/tin cans		0	4	17	0	21	53.8
	Aerosol ca	Aerosol cans		1	0	0	1	2.6
Metal	Metal fragments		0	0	8	1	9	23.1
	Other		0	2	6	0	8	20.5
	Total metal		0	7	31	1	39	6.5
	Flip-flop	S	1	0	0	0	1	25.0
Dukkas	Tires		0	0	1	0	1	25.0
Rubber	Rubber fragr	ments	1	0	1	0	2	50.0
	Total rubb	oer	2	0	2	0	4	0.7
	Paper and care	dboard	1	0	0	0	1	1.7
Processed Lumber	Lumber/building	material	2	7	48	0	57	98.3
	Total lumb	per	3	7	48	0	58	9.7
	Clothing & s	hoes	1	1	0	0	2	7.7
	Gloves		0	0	1	0	1	3.8
Cloth/fabric	Rope/net pi	eces	7	2	13	1	23	88.5
	Total cloth/f	abric	8	3	14	1	26	4.4

Other		0	0	1	0	1	100
	Total other	0	0	1	0	1	0.2
Large debris		5	4	17	0	26	100
items (> 1 ft)	Total large debris	5	4	17	0	26	4.4
Total debris			120	359	7	596	

Appendix 5 – Data from 2017 survey

Table A5.1 Marine debris concentrations by transect and site on Allen Island

	Marine debris concentration (macro-debris item/m²)												
	Bunkhouse Beach	Betsy's Beach	Station 4	Dungulate Beach	Mean concentration of debris of four stations								
Concentration													
at Transect 1	0.036	0.087	0.243	0.141									
Concentration													
at Transect 2	0.090	0.200	0.198	0.341									
Concentration													
at Transect 3	0.059	0.463	0.100	0.455									
Concentration													
at Transect 4	0.060	0.130	0.297	0.352									
Mean \pm Std.													
Dev.	$0.06\ 2\pm0.0$	0.220 ± 0.2	0.210 ± 0.1	0.322 ± 0.1	0.203 ± 0.1								

Table A5.2 Debris totals and percentages

					Dungulate	Category	% macro- debris category &
	Beach	Bunkhouse	Betsv's	Station 4	Beach	Total	% total
	Beach Width	40	30	82	44		
	Start Time	9:40	11:10	10:30	15:45		
	Hard Plastic						
	Fragments	3	3	12	2	20	7.5%
	Foamed Plastic						
	Fragments	0	0	2	0	2	0.1%
	Film Plastic						
	Fragments	0	1	0	0	1	0.1%>
	Food Wrappers	1	0	0	2	3	0.1%
	Beverage						
	Bottles	3	22	31	33	89	33.3%
	Other jugs of containers					20	7.50/
		0	6	8	6	20	7.5%
	Bottle or	-					0.40/
	Container tops	5	2	1	4	12	0.4%
	Cigar tips	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Plastic	Cigarettes	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Disposable cigarette						
	lighters	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	6 pack rings	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Bags	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Plastic Rope/						
	small net pieces	8	3	7	12	30	11.2%
	Buoys and						
	Floats	4	20	10	38	72	27.0%
	Fishing Lures						
	and Line	0	6	0	1	7	2.6%
	Cups	1	0	3	1	5	1.9%
	Plastic Utensils	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Straws	0	0	0	0	0	0%

	Balloons	0	1	0	0	0	0%
	Personal care						
	products	0	2	0	0	2	0.01%
	Foam	0	3	0	0	3	1.1%
	Total Plastic	25	69	74	99	267	70.3%
	Aluminum/ tin						
	Cans	0	2	6	2	10	40.0%
	Aerosol cans	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Metal						
	Fragments	1	2	2	8	13	52.0%
	Trap and ropes	0	2	0	0	2	8.0%
Meta1	Total Metal	1	6	8	10	25	6.6%
	Beverage						
	Bottles (glass)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Jars	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Glass						
	fragments	2	0	0	0	2	100%
Glass	Total Glass	2	0	0	0	2	0.5%
	Flip Flops	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Gloves	1	1	0	0	2	40.0%
	Tires	0	0	1	0	1	20.0%
	Rubber						
	fragments	1	0	1	0	2	20.0%
	Total Rubber						
Rubber	Fragments	2	1	2	0	5	1.3%
	Cardboard						
	cartons	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Paper and		_				004
	Cardboard	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Paper bags	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Lumber/ Building						
	Material	1	10	16	5	32	100%
Drocessed	Total Processed	1	10	10	3	32	100%
Lumber	Lumber	1	10	16	5	32	8.4%
Cloth/Fab	Clothing and	1	10	10	3	32	0.770
ric	Shoes	0	1	1	0	2	7.4%
III.	Shoes	U	1	1	U		7.7/0

Gloves (non						
rubber)	1	0	0	0	1	3.7%
Towels/rags	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Rope /Net						
pieces (non-						
nylon)	7	0	17	0	24	88.9%
Fabric pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total						
Cloth/Fabric	8	1	18	0	27	7.1%
Lobster Traps	2	0	6	5	13	59.1%
Lobster Trap						
fragments	0	0	7	2	9	40.9%
Lobster Trap						
total	2	0	13	7	22	5.8%
Overall Total	41	87	131	121	380	

Appendix 6 – Data from 2018 survey

Table A6.1. Information about each sampling site. Sites sampled on September 25, 2018.

Site	Starting Time	Average Shore Length (m)	Substrate	GPS Coordinates
1	9:50	23.5	cobble	43°52'36''N 69°18'43''W
2	10:30	22.3	cobble	43°52'19''N 69°19'1''W
3	11:30	20.7	cobble	43°52'14''N 69°18'33''W
4	12:50	21.3	rocky	43°51'22"N 69°19'06"W

Table A6.2. Debris items per m². Sites sampled on September 25, 2018.

Transect	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
1	0.37	1.17	1.05	0.02
2	0.61	1.39	0.97	0.00

3	0.62	1.12	0.24	0.00
4	0.34	1.89	0.82	0.00
Mean ± std. dev.	0.49 ± 0.15	1.39 ± 0.35	0.77 ± 0.37	0.01 ± 0.01

Table A6.3. Total debris items for each sampling site. Sites sampled on September 25, 2018.

M	Macro debris		Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Category total	% category % total
Plastic	Plastic Fragments	Hard	18	64	12	0	94	14.2%
	Trugments	Foamed	8	10	19	0	37	5.6%
		Film	5	0	7	0	12	1.8%
	Food wra	appers	4	3	1	0	8	1.2%
	Beverage	bottles	5	54	25	0	84	12.7%
	Other ju		2	14	7	0	23	3.5%
	Bottle or container caps		3	1	2	0	6	0.9%
	Cigar tips		0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Cigare	ettes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Disposable cigarette lighters	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
6-pack rings	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Bags	1	2	0	0	3	0.5%
Plastic rope/small net pieces	19	68	17	0	104	15.7%
Buoys and floats	19	37	34	0	90	13.6%
Lures	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Plastic cups (including Styrofoam)	1	1	0	0	2	0.3%
Plastic utensils	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Straws	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Balloons	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Personal care products	0	1	0	0	1	0.2%
Other	41	7	3	0	51	7.7%
Total plastic	161	336	165	0	662	81.5%
Glass bottles	0	1	0	0	1	50.0%

Glass

	Glass jars	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Glass fragments	1	0	0	0	1	50.0%
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Total glass	1	1	0	0	2	0.2%
Metal	Aluminum or tin cans	2	17	1	0	20	40.0%
	Aerosol cans	0	1	0	0	1	2.0%
	Metal fragments	13	7	2	1	23	46.0%
	Other	0	6	0	0	6	12.0%
	Total metal	15	31	3	1	50	6.2%
Rubber	Flip-flops	0	0	1	0	1	12.5%
	Rubber gloves	0	2	0	0	2	25.0%
	Tires	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Rubber fragments	2	0	0	0	2	25.0%
	Other	0	3	0	0	3	37.5%
	Total rubber	2	5	1	0	8	1.0%
	Cardboard	1	0	0	0	1	1.9%

Processed	Paper bags	1	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Lumber	Lumber or building material	0	41	10	0	51	96.2%
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Total lumber	2	41	10	0	53	6.5%
Cloth/fabric	Clothing	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
•	Fabric gloves	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Rags	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Fabric rope	11	7	2	0	20	95.2%
	Fabric fragments	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Other	0	1	0	0	1	4.8%
	Total fabric	11	8	2	0	21	2.6%
Other	Total other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Large debris items (>1 ft)	Total large debris	5	9	2	0	16	2.0%
Total debris items		197	431	138	1	812	100%

Appendix 7 – Data from 2019 survey

Table A7.1 Information about each sampling site

Site	Start Time	Transect Length (m)	Average Beach Width (m)	Substrate	GPS Coordinates
Bunkhouse Beach	11:05	5	18.24	Pebbles, Cobbles	43°52'36"N 69°18'43"W
Station 3	1:05	5	26.71	Cobbles, Rocky	43°52'19"N 69°19'01"W
Betsy's Beach	2:21	5	18.65	Cobbles, Rocky	43°52'14''N 69°18'33''W
4	3:23	-	-	Rocky	43°51'22"N 69°19'06"W

Table A7.2 Concentration of debris in number of debris items per m² of each transect for sites sampled

Transect	Bunkhouse Beach	Station 3	Betsy's Beach	Site 4
1	0.000	0.577	0.064	-
2	0.044	0.427	0.375	-
3	0.318	0.846	1.019	-
4	0.044	0.285	0.279	-
5	-	0.681	0.933	-
6	-	1.056	0.654	-
$Mean \pm SD$	0.101 ± 0.146	0.645 ± 0.240	0.554 ± 0.379	-

Table A7.3 Description of the types of debris observed on Allen Island at different sites with total debris in yellow.

1	Macro-Debris		Bunkhouse Beach	Betsy's Beach	Station 3	Total	% of Category % of Total
Plastic	Plastic	Hard	0	30	9	39	8.37%
	Fragments	Foam	0	22	8	30	6.44%
		Film	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Food Wra	ppers	1	1	5	7	1.50%
	Beverage l	Bottles	0	65	92	157	33.69%
	Jugs & Cor	ntainers	1	4	28	33	7.08%
	Bottle or Co		0	14	4	18	3.86%
	Cigar T	ìps	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Cigaret	ttes	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Disposable (0	1	1	2	0.43%
	6-Pack R	lings	0	0	1	1	0.21%
	Bags	S	0	1	0	1	0.21%
	Plastic F	Rope	4	16	40	60	12.88%
	Buoys & I	Floats	2	40	59	101	21.67%
	Fishing Lure	s & Line	0	4	0	4	0.86%
	Cups	S	0	3	3	6	1.29%
	Plastic Ut	ensils	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Straw	/S	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Balloo	ns	0	0	0	0	0.00%

	Personal Care	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Other	0	0	7	7	1.50%
	TOTAL	8	201	257	466	53.94%
Metal	Aluminum/Tin Cans	0	5	17	22	32.84%
	Aerosol Cans	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Metal Fragments	0	1	39	40	59.70%
	Traps & Ropes	0	0	5	5	7.46%
	TOTAL	0	6	61	67	7.75%
Glass	Glass Bottles	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Jars	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Glass Fragments	22	0	3	25	100.00%
	TOTAL	22	0	3	25	2.89%
Rubber	Flip Flops	0	2	0	2	22.22%
	Gloves	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Tires	0	0	2	2	22.22%
	Rubber Fragments	0	1	3	4	44.44%
	Other	0	0	1	1	11.11%
	TOTAL	0	3	6	9	1.04%
Processed Lumber	Cardboard Cartons	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Lumber	Paper & Cardboard	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Paper Bags	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Bricks	1	2	2	5	3.40%
	Lumber	1	79	62	142	96.60%
	TOTAL	2	81	64	147	17.01%

		1				
Fabric	Clothing & Shoes	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Gloves	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Towels/Rags	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Rope	5	11	53	69	100.00%
	Fabric Pieces	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	TOTAL	5	11	53	69	7.99%
Large	Lobster Traps	0	4	7	11	13.58%
Debris (>1 ft)	Metal Bins	0	4	1	5	6.17%
	Other	0	0	65	65	80.25%
	TOTAL	0	8	73	81	9.38%
To	tal Debris Items	37	310	517	864	100%