



# Plastic Pollution

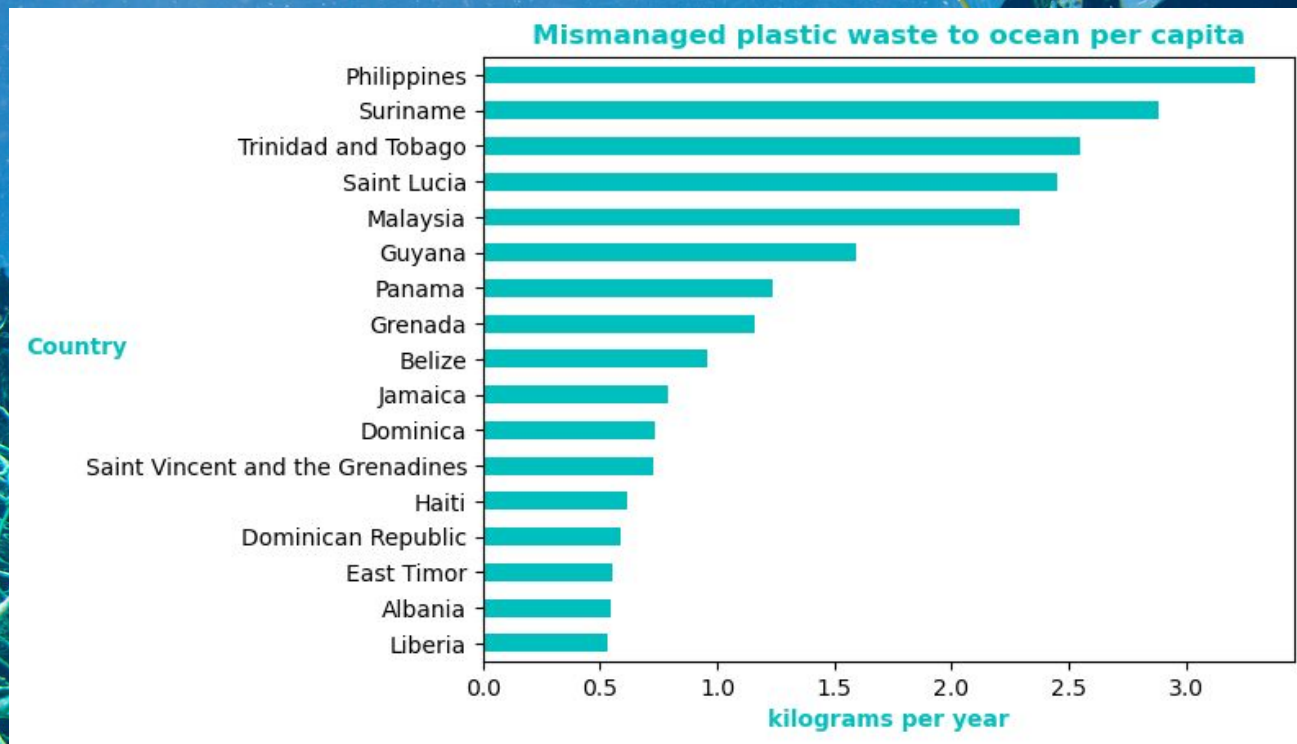
## Global Crisis

### Project 3: Data Visualization

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Great Pacific Garbage Patch  
is over 620,000 square miles.







Flask app link:  
<https://plastic-pollution-1b0465c24684.herokuapp.com/>



# Global Policies

## Laws by the Numbers...

- 1246 total laws
  - Topic:
    - Most frequent: Reduction (1156)
    - Less frequent: Waste Trade (10)

## Product type:

- Most frequent: Plastic bags (632)
- Less frequent: Hygiene products (19), other packaging (14)

Click the icons to learn more about the Database





# Global Law Database Comparison

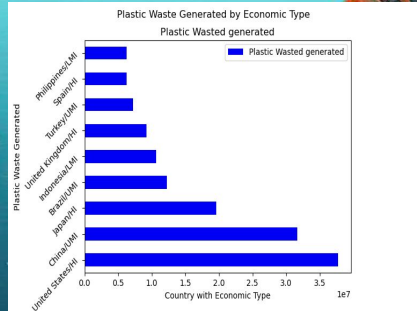
## Most Frequent Legislation Type:

### Plastic Bag Ban Dataset:

Restriction and Disposal Regulation  
(See pie chart)

### Global Plastic Law Database:

Regulation and Waste Trade Management

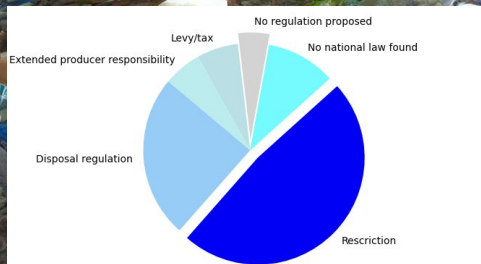


## Legislation vs. Plastic Waste Generated

### Plastic Ban DataSet(see bar graph):

No National Law Found, U.S.

**Global Plastic Laws Database:**  
Doesn't mention plastic generated but coincides that U.S doesn't have a National Law.



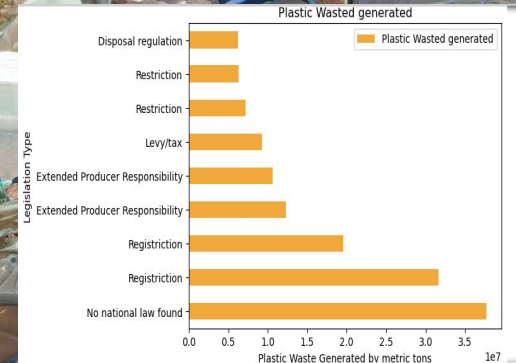
## Does economic type influence plastic waste generated?

### Plastic Bag Ban DataSet(see bar graph):

Mostly Higher Income (HI) and Upper Middle Income (UMI) countries generate more plastic waste. However, legislation type varies.

### Global Plastic Laws:

By looking at the laws each of those countries have, Spain has the most including 3 national ones and 6 on waste trade.



# Policy Spotlight:

## First Plastic Bag Ban

### Bangladesh (2002)

- Flooding had led to implement this ban. Due to infrastructure of Bangladesh, plastic bags would cause clogs to the drainage system <sup>1,2</sup>.
- However, 20 years since then, the production of polyethylene (what's used to create bags) has tripled from 3 kg to 9kg.
- Rule relates to the production and sale of polythene (what's used to create bags).<sup>3</sup>
- Unfortunately, 20 years since the production has tripled from 3 kg to 9kg<sup>3</sup>

Info retrieved from:  
<https://greenpagebd.net/bangladesh-world-leader-in-banning-the-plastic-ban/>

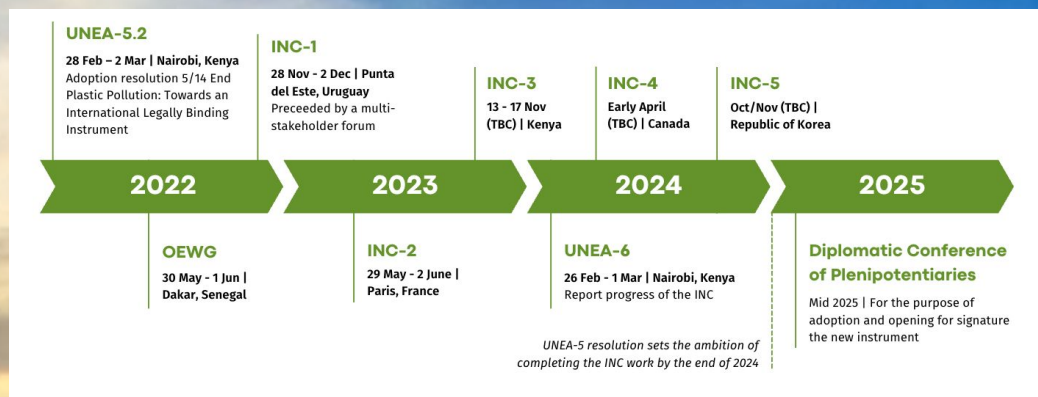
"From Birth to Ban: A History of the Plastic Shopping Bag" UNEP, UN Environment Programme, 20 Dec. 2021,  
[www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/birth-ban-history-plastic-shopping-bag#:~:text=2002%20%E2%80%93%20Bangladesh%20is%20the%20first,countries%20begin%20to%20follow%20suit.](https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/birth-ban-history-plastic-shopping-bag#:~:text=2002%20%E2%80%93%20Bangladesh%20is%20the%20first,countries%20begin%20to%20follow%20suit.)

Jahan, A R Tahseen. "What Happened to Bangladesh's Polythene Ban?" *The Confluence*, 8 Oct. 2023,  
[theconfluence.blog/what-happened-to-bangladeshs-polythene-ban/#:~:text=However%2C%20legal%20ban%20on%20polythene,According%20to%20the%20World%20Bank.](https://theconfluence.blog/what-happened-to-bangladeshs-polythene-ban/#:~:text=However%2C%20legal%20ban%20on%20polythene,According%20to%20the%20World%20Bank.)



# Global Treaty Talks

The key issue at hand is whether the Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) should reduce or restrict the production of primary plastic polymers. Some member states argue that capping plastic polymer production is essential to stop plastic pollution at its source, while others emphasize the economic significance of plastics and suggest focusing on pollution control. The Zero Draft highlights the need for a fair transition for affected populations, including vulnerable groups, as some developing countries express concerns about the impact of the treaty on their economies and employment in the plastics industry. The goal is to reach an agreement by the end of 2024 through negotiations and intersessional work, following UNEA Resolution 5/14's call for sustainable plastic production and circular economy principles. Key considerations include controlling virgin plastic polymer production, implementing a global monitoring and reporting framework, securing adequate and stable funding, ensuring transparency and chemical restrictions, and adopting a true circular approach to plastics. Lessons from the Paris Agreement NDC approach should inform the GPT's national action plan framework to strike a balance between national and international obligations.



Click the icon to learn more information about Global Treaty.



Retrieved from:  
Initial Considerations Inc-1 - United Nations Environment Programme, 2023  
[apps1.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/briefing\\_-\\_initial\\_considerations\\_for\\_inc-1\\_2022.pdf](https://apps1.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/briefing_-_initial_considerations_for_inc-1_2022.pdf).

Principal Technical Advisor and Global Lead on Plastics Offer, "A Global Treaty to End Plastic Pollution Is in Sight."  
UNDP, 22 Nov. 2023, [www.undp.org/blog/global-treaty-end-plastic-pollution-sight](https://www.undp.org/blog/global-treaty-end-plastic-pollution-sight).



# Clarification from Basel Action Network

“

It is true that plastic waste leads to a lot of pollution but not all waste leads to pollution. We collect data on plastic waste trade, showing how waste flows from the global north to the global south where the safeguards, (enforced) environmental standards and healthcare for workers are often not existent or at a much lower level. We produce this data to also show how the UN Basel Convention, protecting lower income countries from the influx of toxic and other controlled plastic waste is often violated. We also collect this data to show that circular economy is not a concept that works for plastics and also that recycling does not really work for health reasons (recycled plastics are often hazardous), practicalities (plastic polymers break down and cannot be recycled more than a couple of times depending on the type of plastic; host of unknown

”

additives), etc.

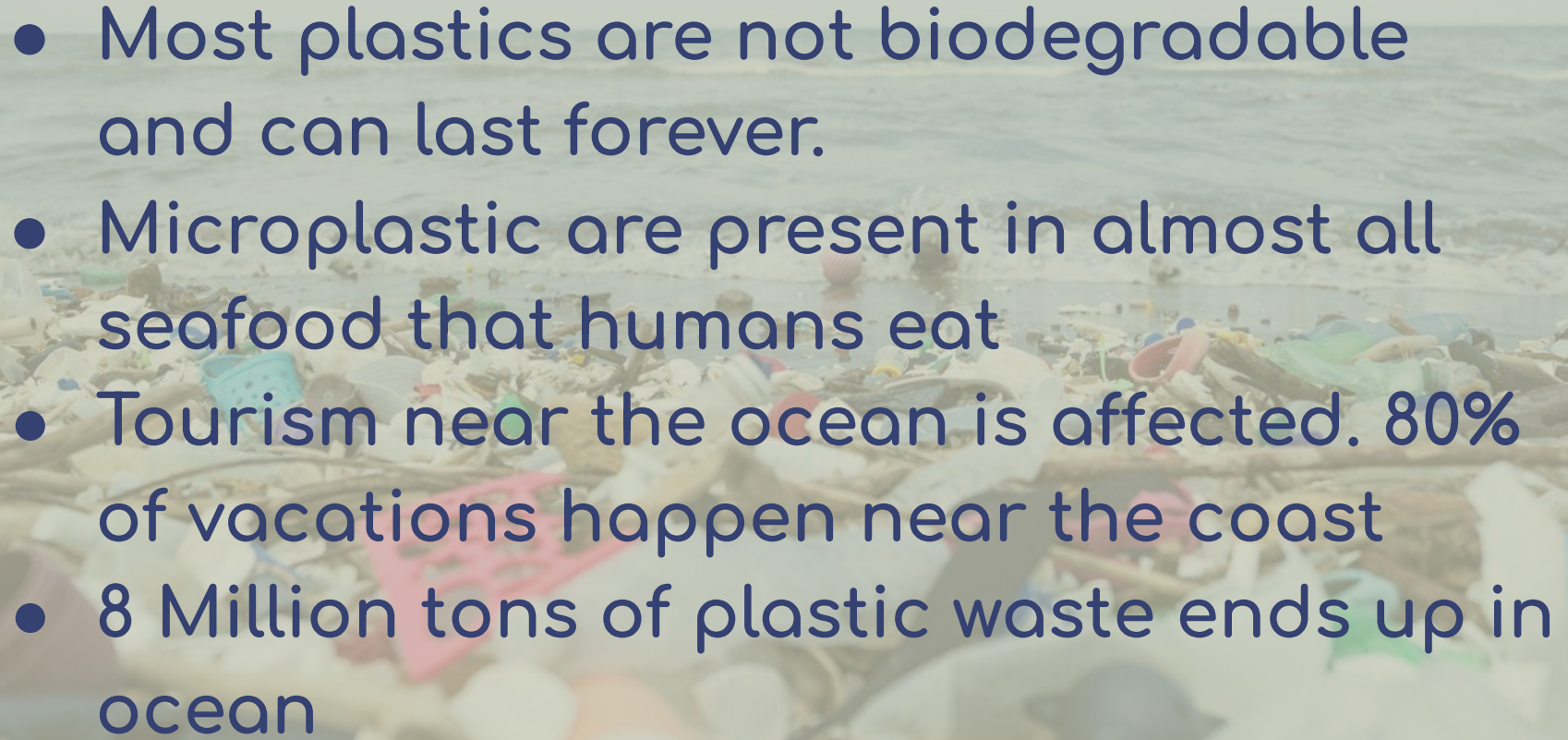
**-Salomé Stähli**  
**Plastic Waste Trade Campaigner**

Click the icon to learn more information on what you can do to help reduce plastic pollution



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- A world map with a light blue background, overlaid with numerous blue location pins. The pins are concentrated in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, with a few scattered in the Pacific and Latin America. The map includes labels for various countries and cities in both Chinese and English.
- 1,000 rivers are accountable for nearly 80% of global annual riverine plastic emissions.
  - The remaining 20% of plastic emissions are distributed over 30,000 rivers.
  - Over 40,000 run off locations around the world.



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- The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach heavily littered with plastic waste. In the foreground, there is a large pile of discarded items including plastic bottles, cups, and fragments. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear sky.
- Most plastics are not biodegradable and can last forever.
  - Microplastic are present in almost all seafood that humans eat
  - Tourism near the ocean is affected. 80% of vacations happen near the coast
  - 8 Million tons of plastic waste ends up in ocean

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- The background image shows a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, there is a large, messy pile of plastic waste, including various colored plastic bottles, bags, and debris. The waste is piled up on the left side of the frame. In the background, there is a sandy beach with several palm trees. The ocean is visible in the distance, with waves breaking on the shore. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The overall scene suggests a problem of plastic pollution in a natural environment.
- Plastic scrap exported to other countries in 2022:
    - 145,000 metric tons to Canada.
    - 85,500 tons to Mexico.
  - China was the leader in receiving exported plastics until ban in 2018.



You can be a Plastic Boy!







# Thanks for your time!

Supplemental information follows if you're interested in ways your community can keep the oceans clean.



# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Curb Inlet Covers



Trash screens are designed to keep trash on the street and stop trash from entering the storm drain system. This way trash is kept on the street, so it can be swept up by street sweepers before it reaches the catch basin. The styles and sizes of openings differ, so these devices differ in their effectiveness.

Automatic retractable screens, as shown in the photo, open up once a certain force or pressure is created. This prevents flooding in case the screen gets clogged with trash.

# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Catch Basin Outlet Screens

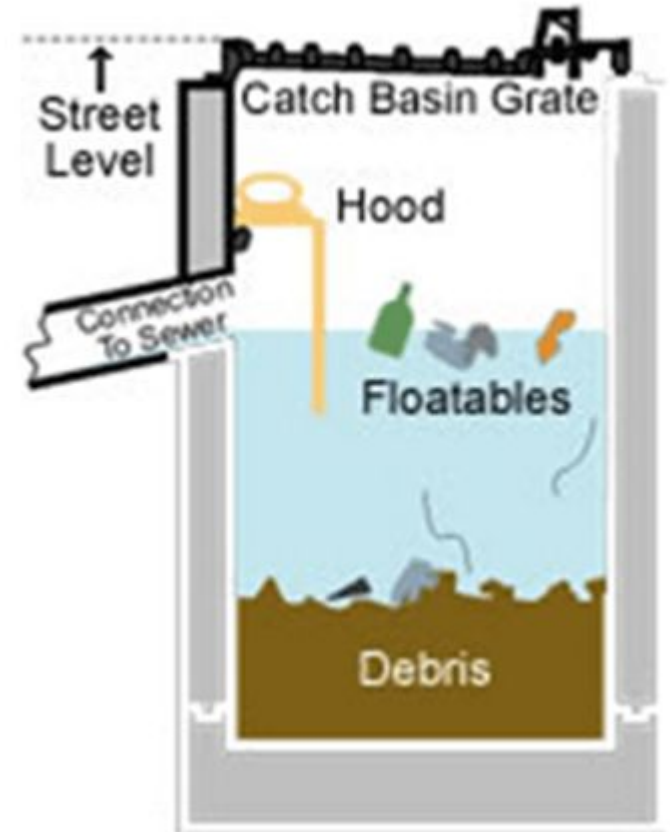


Catch basin outlet screens are installed inside storm drains. These are screens or filters that block trash from entering stormwater intake pipes. Those with mesh size  $>5\text{mm}$  can be certified as 'full capture devices' in California. Often, screen systems will release trash if overflows occur. Reinforced models have evolved through experience with local hydraulics in the Los Angeles County MS4 system. Curb inlet covers may be used in combination with catch basin inlet devices in areas with very high trash to act as a first line of defense and to prevent the need for more frequent clean-outs of internal catch basin devices.

# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Catch Basin Hoods

Catch basin hoods are installed within a catch basin in front of the outlet pipe, with the hood bolted to the manhole. Hoods form a baffle against floatable litter, preventing large floatables like aluminum cans and bottles from getting into the sewers or stormwater pipes. Hoods are not full-capture devices, and therefore, must be used in-series with other trash capture methods to ensure full capture. Catch basin hoods should be equipped with anti-siphon devices, and coupled with deep-sump catch basins, in order to maximize the capture of both floatable and settleable trash.





# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

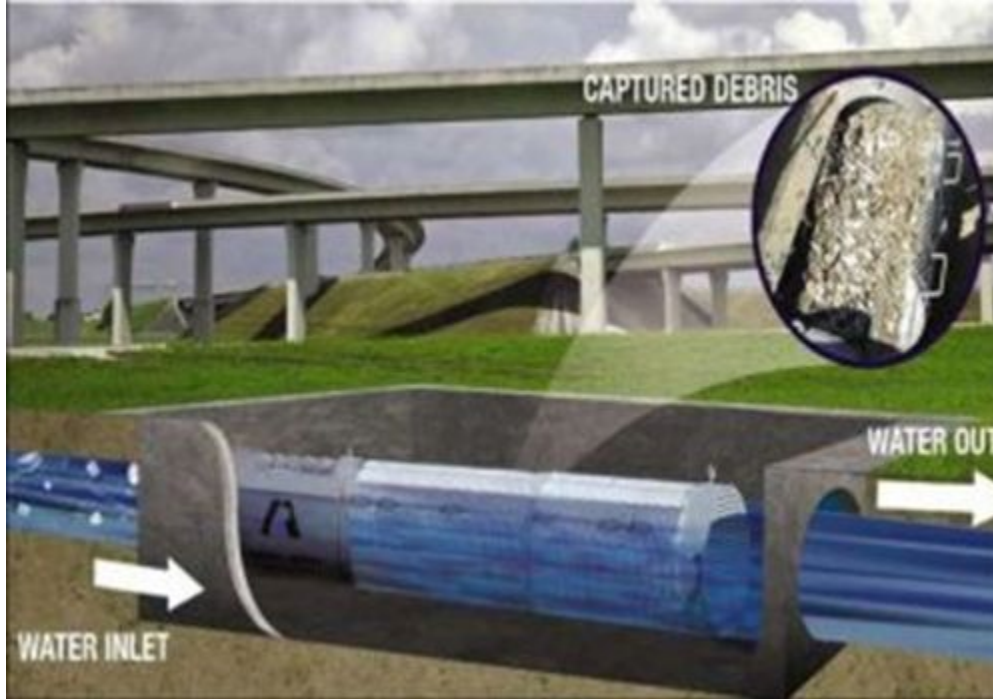
## Catch Basin Fabric Inserts

Catch basin inserts are widely used as stormwater best management practices for trash capture. They are a relatively easy and inexpensive retrofit, particularly for older, existing drainage systems where end-of-pipe treatment technologies may be impractical or prohibitively expensive. Permanent inserts usually require steel frames, high-flow bypass, and durable fabric filter material that can hold up to storms, debris loading, and cleanings. These drop-in inserts can allow inspection and cleaning without catch basin grate removal, and may achieve full capture.



# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

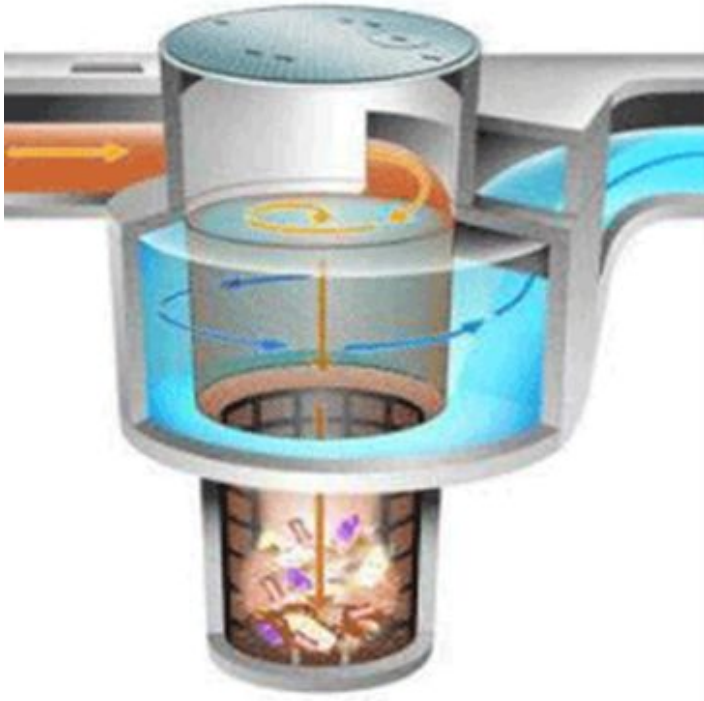
## Linear Radial Devices



A Linear Radial Device is a rigid louvered linear screen cage constructed in a cement vault. Stormwater and trash enter the cage and the water flows through the cement box while trash is retained within the screen cage. Vacuum trucks and other trash removal equipment are required to clean the units. Installations require adequate space for maintenance. Installations can be shallow, open to the air and screen openings can be custom sized.

# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Hydrodynamic Separators



Hydrodynamic separators are widely used in stormwater treatment. They are flow-through structures with a settling or separation unit to remove sediments, floatables, and other pollutants.

Hydrodynamic separators come in a wide size range and some are small enough to fit in conventional manholes. Depending on the type of unit, this separation may be by means of swirl action or indirect filtration.



# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Hydrodynamic Separators continued



These inline systems are cleaned using vacuum trucks to pump out trash, sediment, and water that has collected at the bottom. These are generally high flow capacity devices, and can be from 10 to 30 feet deep.

Engineering and installation costs can be quite high, but the devices are long lasting and can capture trash from a considerable area. They can be installed as inline/online or offline units; and can be pre-cast or cast-in-place. The cast-in-place models are meant to handle greater flows. This also means that construction costs will rise, since these are deep installations and require consideration of other nearby infrastructure.

# Supplemental- Storm Drain Inlet Trash Capture Technologies

## Netting Systems



Netting systems may be designed with different size netting for various uses and may be in-line or end-of-pipe systems. In-line netting is installed underground in concrete vaults and functions similarly to the linear removal devices. Netting systems have one or more mesh bags and a metal frame guide system to support the nets. When full, nets are removed and replaced with new nets.

End-of-pipe systems like the one in the photo to the right may be at an actual discharge point to a receiving water, or just a collection point such as this flood channel. Because end-of pipe nets are above ground, they must be inspected at regular intervals to find and repair any damage from vandalism or other factors.



# Supplemental- Open Water Trash Capture Technologies

## Litter Booms



Booms have been widely used to capture floatable trash in waterways. Booms use floatation structures with suspended curtains designed to capture buoyant materials and can also be designed to absorb oils and grease. They are typically anchored to a shoreline and the bottom downstream of one or more outfalls.

Booms are custom-sized based upon the expected volume of floatables that can be released during a storm event. After a storm, material captured in the boom can be removed manually, with an excavator, or by a skimmer vessel.

# Supplemental- Open Water Trash Capture Technologies

Skimmer vessels are specially-designed boats used to collect floating debris. They almost always require companion equipment, including a shore conveyor for offloading, a truck for disposal, and a trailer for land transport.

Floatables are brought on board the vessel with moving screens on a conveyor belt system, or by lowering large nets into the water. Skimmers are used primarily in lakes, harbors, and bays and are usually custom made to meet site-specific challenges. Skimmers are used around the nation. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection's largest skimmer vessel, 'MV Cormorant,' is shown here.

Trash Skimmer  
Vessel



# Supplemental- Open Water Trash Capture Technologies

## Bandalong Litter Trap

Boom and skimmer concepts have been combined in the Bandalong Litter Trap which is designed to float in waterways, capturing litter by using the current to guide debris into the trap. Anchors hold the floating litter trap in place in waterways, and fish and wildlife can move freely under the trap.

Bandalongs have been installed in a few locations, including along the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. and in the Proctor Creek Watershed in Atlanta, Georgia (shown here after a rain event).





# Supplemental- Open Water Trash Capture Technologies

## Trash Trap



The [Nash Run Trash Trap](#) was custom designed and constructed for the Nash Run tributary of Washington, D.C.'s Anacostia River. It was designed to mimic Japanese fishing traps and was built with metal rods and posts.

This inexpensive trap is designed to capture trash throughout the water column. The stream flow pushes trash, leaves, and branches along the screen, keeping the screen free from clogging. Routine maintenance is needed to remove the accumulated trash.

# Supplemental- Open Water Trash Capture Technologies

## Baltimore Harbor Trash Wheel



Here, the boom concept has been ingeniously adapted into the [Baltimore Trash Wheel](#). The solar-powered wheel is equipped with a conveyor belt. Powered by the sun and the river current, the trash wheel turns and garbage and other debris travel up the belt and are deposited into a dumpster for disposal on land. The conveyor belt is able to move pieces of debris as large as tires and mattresses from the waterway to the dumpster.