



10th Marine Law Symposium
Friday, November 4, 2016

Legal and Policy Approaches to Reduce Marine Debris in New England

Marine Affairs Institute
Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, Rhode Island

To reduce waste from this meeting, additional materials, including speaker biographies, are available online at <http://law.rwu.edu/event/marine-law-symposium>.

Wi-Fi Access: Select "RWU Conferences" and enter "conferences2015" when prompted.

Marine debris poses a serious threat to New England's coastline. Every year, derelict fishing gear, plastic bottles, plastic bags, cigarettes, abandoned vessels, and other debris washes ashore in New England. This debris causes negative social, environmental, and economic impacts, such as decreased aesthetic value, harm to coastal ecosystem health, and damage to vessels and gear. These challenges create complex management problems for coastal managers and attorneys, who work to mitigate the creation of new debris and remove and manage debris that washes ashore.

This Symposium will discuss the adequacy of U.S. law and policy to prevent the creation of new marine debris and to remove debris once it is created. The first session will include keynote presentations on the science, law, and policy of marine debris. Speakers will then examine case studies from coastal New England states to consider how each state identified a marine debris problem, took steps to address it, and how the approach could serve as a model elsewhere. Finally, a panel of attorneys will lead a facilitated discussion to identify effective legal and policy strategies to prevent and manage marine debris in New England and to frame questions for future research.

8:30 AM Registration and Refreshments

9:00 AM Welcome Remarks

Julia Wyman

Director, Marine Affairs Institute, Roger Williams University School of Law/Rhode Island
Sea Grant Legal Program

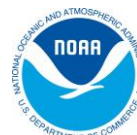
Michael Yelnosky

Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law

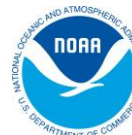
Donald Farish

President, Roger Williams University

9:30-10:00 AM Keynote Address
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



10:00-10:30 AM	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Dr. Sandra Whitehouse Senior Policy Advisor, Ocean Conservancy <i>Science Behind Marine Debris: An International and National Perspective</i></p>
10:30-11:00 AM	Morning Refreshments
11:00-11:30 AM	<p>Dr. Keith Cialino Northeast Regional Coordinator, NOAA Marine Debris Program <i>NOAA Marine Debris Program in the Northeast</i></p> <p>Dr. Cialino will provide an overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program's work in the region, providing insight to federal policies that directly respond to marine debris. He will highlight the debris issues that are prevalent in the Northeast, the impacts of storms (e.g. Superstorm Sandy), and ongoing marine debris reduction planning efforts in the Gulf of Maine. Results from NOAA-funded projects in the region will also be shared.</p>
11:30-12:00 PM	<p>Jonathan Stone Executive Director, Save The Bay <i>Focus on the State: How Marine Debris is Affecting Rhode Island and Rhode Island's Response</i></p> <p>Mr. Stone will discuss the impacts that Rhode Island is observing related to marine debris.</p>
12:00-1:00 PM	<p>Carleen Lyden-Kluss Co-Founder & Executive Director, North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA)</p> <p>Maggie Carey Regulatory and Government Affairs Director, NAMEPA</p> <p><i>Current Legal Status of Marine Debris Threats</i></p> <p>Ms. Lyden-Kluss and Ms. Carey will present the adequacy of U.S. law to handle marine debris, and the role of the private sector, including the shipping industry, in reducing the disposal of harmful debris into the marine environment. They are presenting a paper co-authored by Joan Bondareff, Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP.</p>
1:00-2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00-4:00 PM	<p>Panel: Case Studies <i>How New England States are Struggling with Marine Debris and Developing Effective Reduction/Management Strategies</i></p> <p>Moderator: Read Porter Staff Attorney, Marine Affairs Institute, Roger Williams University School of Law/Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program</p>



Panelists:

New Hampshire

Cheri Patterson

Supervisor of Marine Programs, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

New Hampshire Memorandum of Agreement to Allow Derelict Fishing Gear Removal

In New Hampshire, state law makes it unlawful for anyone other than New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) conservation officers or the lobster gear owner to touch lobster gear. To expand the authority to remove derelict fishing gear beyond NHFGD conservation officers and gear owners, the NHFGD has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (NHDRED). Ms. Patterson will discuss how this MOA was created and how its model could be used throughout New England.

Rhode Island

Gary Powers

Deputy Legal Counsel, Department of Environmental Management; Legal Counsel, Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstruction Removal Commission

Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstruction Removal Commission

Mr. Powers will discuss the Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstruction Removal Commission which was established by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2012 pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 46-6-10.1 - 46-6-10.4 in order to reimburse public authorities for the cost of the removal and disposal of derelict and abandoned vessels and marine obstructions. Mr. Powers serves as the Legal Counsel to the Commission.

Massachusetts

Brock Callen

Executive Director, Sail Martha's Vineyard

Zero Waste Event Management Model

Mr. Callen will discuss how Sail Martha's Vineyard has developed and executed a ZERO waste event management strategy both on behalf of itself and with other Island based non-profits. Furthermore, he will lay out and discuss the potential barriers to Sail Martha's Vineyard's performance-driven strategy to achieve its end goal; getting each of the six towns on the Vineyard to adopt local ordinances requiring the ZERO waste initiative for all public events with fifty or more attendees. Once adopted, these ordinances could serve as a model for other New England towns.

Rhode Island

Dave McLaughlin

Executive Director & Co-Founder, Clean Ocean Access

Marine Debris Technology Aiding Regulatory Change

When stormwater runoff enters Newport harbor, it contains pollutants and debris that impair water quality and degrade the aquatic habitat. Clean Ocean Access, with a grant from 11th Hour Racing, has installed and is now maintaining Trash Skimmers in Perrotti Park, Newport. The goal of the project is to reduce the amount of marine debris in the Newport harbor, increase the recreational value of the waterfront, bring awareness to



the types of re-accumulating debris, and promote environmental stewardship. Mr. McLaughlin will speak on the project design and implementation, how current results combined with coastal cleanups are redefining the framework of marine debris including potential regulatory changes, and how other communities can get involved with installing similar solutions.

Connecticut

Dr. Katharine Owens

Associate Professor and Director, Environmental Studies Program, University of Hartford
From Shore to State House

Dr. Owens will discuss her NOAA-funded grant project to introduce college students to the issues of marine debris, guiding them in the process of collecting and tracing the life cycle of debris, and then challenging them to use this data to contextualize policy alternatives and present them to their state legislators. This project used experiential environmental education at the University of Hartford to perform outreach, improve knowledge, inform policy, and realize change on the issue of marine debris. Dr. Owens will provide perspective on legislative change and education.

4:00-4:10 PM

Break

4:10-5:10 PM

Panel: Next Steps

What are Some Effective Strategies for Managing Marine Debris?

A panel of experts will discuss future legal and policy changes to create reduced marine debris.

Moderator:

Dennis Nixon

Director, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Professor, University of Rhode Island

Panelists:

Kevin Cute

Marine Resources Specialist, R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council

Erin J. Bryant

Assistant Professor of Ocean and Coastal Policy, Sea Education Association

James Rhodes

Program Director, UPSTREAM Policy Institute

Mike Roylos

Founder, UrbanCare, LLC

5:10-5:15 PM

Concluding Remarks

