

# Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee

The Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee (IMDCC) is an interagency body responsible for developing and recommending comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approaches to reduce the sources and impacts of marine debris to the nation's marine environment, natural resources, public safety, and economy. The IMDCC, co-chaired by EPA and NOAA, promotes the coordination of Federal agency marine debris activities both nationally and internationally, as well as recommends research priorities, monitoring techniques, educational programs, and regulatory action.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the IMDCC is to consider and address any abandoned or uncontrolled solid material that is introduced into the ocean and coastal environment and poses a potential adverse impact to the environment, human health, safety, economic or other resources.

The IMDCC is responsible for developing and recommending comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approaches to reduce the sources and impacts of marine debris.

## Membership and Organizational Structure

The IMDCC consists of representatives from the following Federal agencies:

- Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)\*;
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)\*;
- Department of Defense/ U.S. Navy (USN);
- Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG);
- Department of Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS); Minerals Management Service (MMS);
- Department of State (DOS);
- Marine Mammal Commission (MMC);
- Department of Justice (DOJ);
- Other Federal agencies or organizations that have an interest in ocean issues and water pollution prevention and control (e.g., Coastal America).

\* NOAA as chairperson of the committee has appointed EPA as co-chair.

The organizational structure of the IMDCC is composed of an Executive Committee, a Coordinating Committee, and *ad hoc* working groups. The Executive Committee is composed of senior career or political appointees who comprise the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR); the Coordinating Committee is composed of agency managers and technical experts; and the *ad hoc* working groups are composed of members of the IMDCC and/or other designated experts. The Coordinating Committee is the main committee responsible for developing and recommending comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approaches to reduce the sources and impacts of marine debris.

## **Mandates and Reporting Requirements**

The IMDCC exists under the direction of two legislative mandates:

- Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 (MPPRCA) – Created the Marine Debris Committee.
- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, Public Law 109-449 – Amends Sec 2203 of the MPPRCA of 1987 to re-establish an Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee.

As part of the implementation process, the IMDCC has several reporting requirements put forth by the Act:

- The IMDCC reports to the Executive Committee (SIMOR) at least once a year, and more frequently as needed.
- The IMDCC is tasked with providing to Congress, a general report that identifies sources of marine debris; the ecological and economic impact of marine debris; alternatives for reducing, mitigating, preventing, and controlling the harmful affects of marine debris; the social and economic costs and benefits of such alternatives; and recommendations to reduce marine debris both domestically and internationally.
- The IMDCC is also tasked to report to Congress not later than 3 years after the enactment of Public Law 109-449, and biennially thereafter, the status of implementation of recommendations and strategies of the Interagency Committee and analysis of their effectiveness; a summary of the marine debris inventory to be maintained by the NOAA; a review of the NOAA and USCG marine debris programs as mandated by Public Law 109-449; and an estimate of Federal and non-federal funding provided for marine debris and recommendations for priority funding.