

**Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act**

**Agencies:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Citation:** [33 U.S.C. §§ 1951 et seq.](#)

**Enacted as:** the “Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act”, on December 22, 2006

**Summary:**

On December 22, 2006, President Bush signed into law the [Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act \(the Act\)](#), which established the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [Marine Debris Program \(MDP\)](#). The mission of the NOAA MDP is to use research, prevention, and reduction activities to investigate and solve problems that stem from marine debris, in order to protect and conserve our Nation’s marine environment and ensure navigation safety.

The Act outlines three central program components for the MDP to undertake: 1) mapping, identification, impact assessment, removal, and prevention; 2) reducing and preventing gear loss; and 3) outreach. To address these components, the MDP has developed capacity within the program and the agency to conduct projects addressing these areas as well as established two competitive grant programs that provide federal funding to non-federal applicants nationwide.

The Act re-established the Interagency [Marine Debris Coordinating Committee](#), which includes 10 federal agencies (NOAA chairs the Committee) 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 Committee also ensures the coordination of federal agency marine debris activities both nationally and internationally and works with states and NGOs to support regional activities.

**Source:** <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/about/about.html>

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