

Marine and Aquatic Debris



Targeted areas, Inland waterways and lakes
Georgetown SC vicinity, Photo courtesy of Nikon, Pictoretown

Empirical observations indicate that a large amount of trash exists near human pathways. Similar to the banks of a highway, aquatic debris exists along bodies of water near human populations.

Some of this debris is stationary. Some of it is swept by wind and currents. Much debris is relatively close to shore and in relatively shallow waters.

A significant debris source is abandoned boats, rivershacks, houseboats, and other types of recreational platforms.

A challenge waiting to be solved are cost-effective solutions to recovering this debris.

This debris can be harmful to wildlife and to humans.

Most technologies for working underwater are for high value application, such as petroleum exploration and development, research, and construction. These vessels are optimized for harsh and extreme environments and not suited for debris recovery.

Some technologies are limited to surface skimming of visible debris.



R/V Hercules shown with PantherXT ROV for archeological studies
Photo courtesy of Saab Underwater Systems AB



Current Technologies



LWT Dredge



Alpha Boats Marina Cleaner

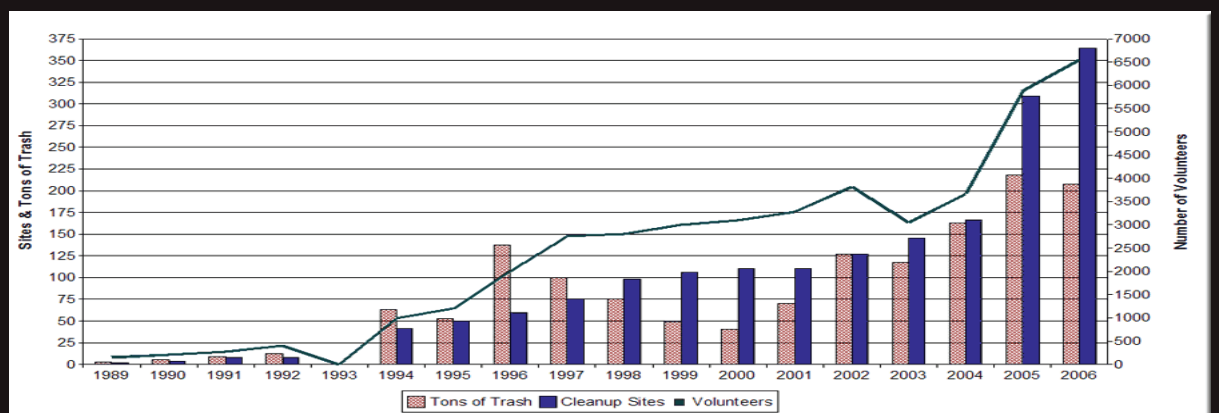


Liverpool Water Witch



Old Fashioned Canoe

The most widely used methods incorporate people, usually volunteers, working in debris recovery efforts.



Alice Ferguson Foundation - Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Included in the 207.7 tons of trash were
2134 tires
13,208 plastic shopping bags
14 MATTRESSES AND FRAMES!