

NEW YORK STATE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

New York State has a multifaceted approach to prevention of marine debris. Regarding the sources of infectious waste-related debris, the state issued jointly with New Jersey a series of similar regulations which provided for a manifest tracking system. The state also recently passed additional legislation which increases the penalties for illegal disposal and removes the small quantities generator exemption; an additional US\$2 million was earmarked for enforcement.

The program to prevent the major portion of debris continues. The Department of Environmental Conservation works with Federal and local agencies to minimize contribution from such sources as combined sewer overflows and solid waste handling. The department also works with local environmental groups, education institutions, and the marine trades association in a public awareness campaign. The conclusions drawn from documented cleanups at eight beaches during Beach Cleanup Day, 8 October 1988, are discussed.