



Marine Conservation: What You Can Do!!

1. **Conserve water:** The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater will pollute our oceans.
2. **Help reduce pollution:** Walk, bike or ride the bus. Fossil fuel emissions from cars and industry raise lead to ocean warming which causes mass-bleaching of corals and can lead to widespread destruction of reefs.
3. **Be a clean boater:** follow environmental guidelines for painting, pumpout, fueling and maintenance of your boat – read about the American Boating Association's Clean Boating program on its website at www.americanboating.org/clean.asp .
4. **Use only ecological or organic fertilizers:** fertilizers and pesticides used on your lawn flow into the water system, polluting the ocean and harming all marine life.
5. **Dispose of your trash properly:** Don't leave unwanted fishing lines or nets in the water or on the beach. Any kind of litter pollutes the water and can harm the fish.
6. **Plant a tree:** Trees reduce runoff into the oceans. You will also contribute to reversing the warming of our planet and the rising temperatures of our oceans.
7. **Volunteer for a beach cleanup:** consider organizing a group of volunteers for COASTSWEEP '08, the state-wide beach cleanup sponsored by Coastal Zone Management and the Urban Harbors Institute of UMass Boston. COASTSWEEP will kick-off its 21st year on September 20, 2008. Whenever you visit a beach, leave it cleaner than you found it.
8. **Contact your government representatives:** Demand they take action to protect the ocean, stop sewage pollution of our oceans, expand marine protected areas and take steps to reverse global warming.
9. **Understand your seafood choices:** Use a guide, such as from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, to make informed choices when choosing seafood. (SEE OVER!)
10. **When visiting the beach, make your visit low-impact and safe.** Stay off fragile sand dunes, take your litter home with you, and leave plants, birds and wildlife for everyone to enjoy.
11. **Support The Nature Conservancy's work to protect and restore marine habitats here in Massachusetts and around the world!**

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