



Mahalo for helping us

# BEAT DEBRIS

In partnership with:



## Want to have fun, contribute to science and save precious marine animals while diving?

Entanglement and hookings tied to fishing debris in the ocean is a leading cause of injury and death for sea turtles, seabirds and Hawaiian monk seals. Our BEAT DEBRIS project helps reduce these threats by giving divers a fun way to collect this debris and report your activity for science. Plus, your dive activity gives you the opportunity to win prizes while saving our marine wildlife.



Win prizes worth up to \$500 while diving with your buddies & helping our marine animals!

### When you BEAT DEBRIS, you help us:

- **Remove** targeted in-water debris, including abandoned fishing gear to help save marine animals
- **Reduce** entanglement hazards on the reef that threaten marine animals
- **Revive** coral reefs that are damaged by debris in the environment

### How to get started:

1. Pick up your Debris Kit from our partner dive shops, listed below
2. Read through our BEAT DEBRIS guidelines below to learn how to properly & safely remove debris
3. Plan a dive with your dive buddies & collect debris
4. Tell us what you found and submit your report to [h-mar.org/DebrisReport](http://h-mar.org/DebrisReport) to be eligible for PRIZES
5. For more info, contact: Lauren Chamberlain, at: [lauren.chamberlain@h-mar.org](mailto:lauren.chamberlain@h-mar.org)

**DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** HMAR's BEAT DEBRIS is a citizen science project in which members of the public provide marine debris related information to HMAR for research purposes. Participation in BEAT DEBRIS does not constitute an affiliation with HMAR and project participants are not volunteers or agents of HMAR. HMAR does not control, organize, manage or monitor the dive activities conducted by individuals not affiliated with HMAR. HMAR does not specify the methods, locations, dates, times or any other aspect of the activities conducted by project participants. Individuals providing BEAT DEBRIS information to HMAR are doing so entirely on an individual basis and bear the responsibility for their own safety and actions. **PARTICIPATE IN THE BEAT DEBRIS PROJECT AT YOUR OWN RISK.**



# BEAT DEBRIS

## Guidelines:

Mahalo for your interest in Hawaii Marine Animal Response **BEAT DEBRIS** project. Before you begin to collect debris on your dives, please read through these guidelines so you are prepared to safely and properly remove debris from Oahu's reefs.

### ✓ Safety is always the number one priority!

- Follow normal safe diving protocols (snorkel and/or SCUBA)
- Never dive alone, use the buddy system and consider having a safety diver with you
- Always stay within your limits
- Remember to consider weather patterns, such as tides, wind, current, and wave swells before planning a dive — **when in doubt, don't go out**

### ✓ Debris kit

- Pick up your kit at one of our partner local dive shops — coming soon!
- Standard dive gear: (mask, fins, booties, snorkel, SCUBA gear if applicable)
- Gloves
- Dive shears or dive knife
- Mesh bag
- Dive flag



### ✓ Recommended buddy protocol

- Dive in buddy pairs
- Diver 1: use diving shears or dive knife to cut debris
- Diver 2: hold mesh bag to collect all debris
- Buddies can switch roles throughout the dive



# BEAT DEBRIS

## Guidelines:



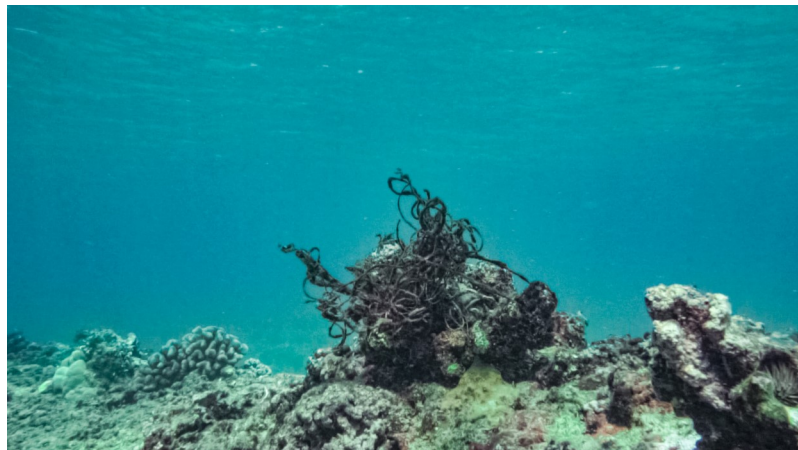
### Targeted debris items

- Fishing line
- Hooks
- Lead weights
- Netting
- Plastic
- Aluminum
- Glass



### Before removing debris

- Beware of sharp items - consider using a container with a lid to put all sharp items collected, and always wear gloves before handling anything sharp
  - This includes hooks, broken glass, rusted metal, and medical waste
- Do not remove debris if it is embedded in coral
  - If debris items, such as fishing line, are embedded in coral, only cut off parts that are accessible and not overgrown
  - Sharp diving shears (scissors) are recommended for cutting line as they are less likely to cause damage to the coral and yourself
- Certain debris items, such as glass and steel, pose little threat to the environment so do not remove if removal will disturb or damage marine life
- Removing line, rope, and nets can be dangerous so always make sure you have someone watching so you don't get entangled, and use extreme care when removing these items
- **When in doubt, leave in place**
  - Your safety is always the first priority
  - If you're not sure whether or not removing a debris item could cause harm to you or marine life, leave it where it is





# BEAT DEBRIS

## Guidelines:



### After your dive

- Once you have completed your dive, debrief the location with your buddy
  - Did you follow your buddy plan and communicate well?
  - Is this a site you want to dive again?
- Make sure all debris is contained within a mesh bag and all sharp items are stored in a closed container
- Rinse all gear with fresh water



### Processing your debris

- Use the [Debris Report](#) as a guideline to process your debris
- If possible, let the debris dry outside and weigh it
- Sort all debris by type
  - Fishing line, hooks, weights, rope, plastic items, aluminum, glass, etc.
- Take a photo of your debris with the ruler of your **BEAT DEBRIS** info card in frame
- Fill out all data on our **BEAT DEBRIS** [Report](#), including all pictures you took
  - Your report makes you eligible for prizes!
- Tag us on social media & use the hashtag #BEATDEBRISHawaii to be featured on our page



Thank you so much for sharing your debris information with us that you collected while diving. Your contribution helps us to eliminate threats to marine wildlife and understand where and what type of debris are on our reefs.

**Mahalo for helping us BEAT DEBRIS!**