

## Beach Clean Up Survey

### PROJECTS-ABROAD THAILAND

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#### 1. Introduction

The aims of the “Beach Clean Up” survey are:

- Remove rubbish from the beaches around the Krabi Province and local islands.
- Collect data by recording the type of rubbish removed from the beach.
- Record and analyze the data collected to show the impact of the rubbish on the coastal environment.
- Be a part of global networks where volunteers regularly clean up beaches in local areas.
- Generate data that is useful to local communities, global scientists and marine conservation organizations such as the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), Ocean Conservancy, Project Aware and Observatoire Versailles.
- Clean up some of the most popular beaches in the area, aside from cleaner beaches and coastal areas, we aim to inspire other local beach users to take action in helping marine debris problems.

Below is a brief description of our partners:

Project AWARE Foundation is a growing movement of scuba divers protecting the ocean planet – one dive at a time. Project AWARE supports an unprecedented global movement of divers acting in their own communities to protect oceans and implement lasting change. Marine Debris is one of many issues Project Aware is currently working on.

Ocean Conservancy is an organization created in 1972 that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.

Sea Watchers are a group of scientist and citizens who runs projects that involves the community and make observations of nature! Completing these clean ups on some of the most dived sites in the Andaman Sea, we aim to inspire other recreational divers on the same boats used by Projects Abroad and those diving in the area to adopt eco-friendly dive practices

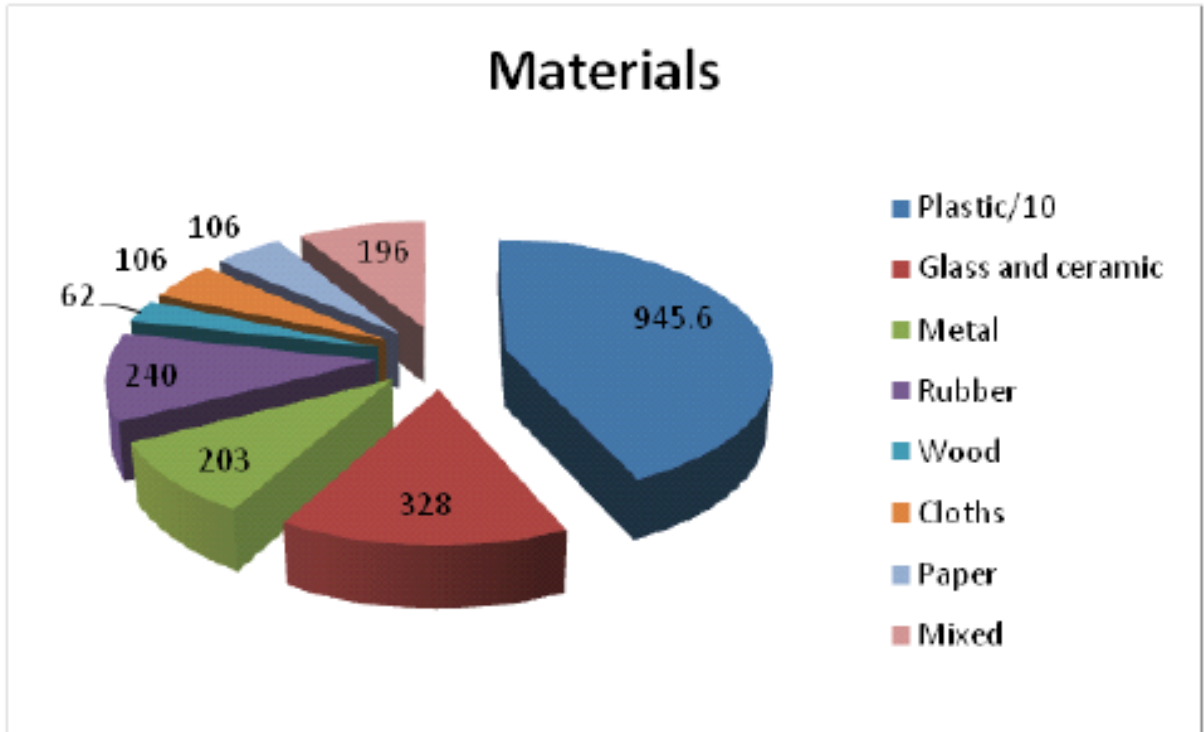
## **2. Methodology**

Beach clean up surveys are analyzed and debris collected are classified into the following categories; plastic, glass and ceramic, metal, rubber, wood, cloth, paper and cardboard, and mixed materials. Location, survey duration, area surveyed, weight of collected materials, number of participants and weather conditions from previous week were recorded.

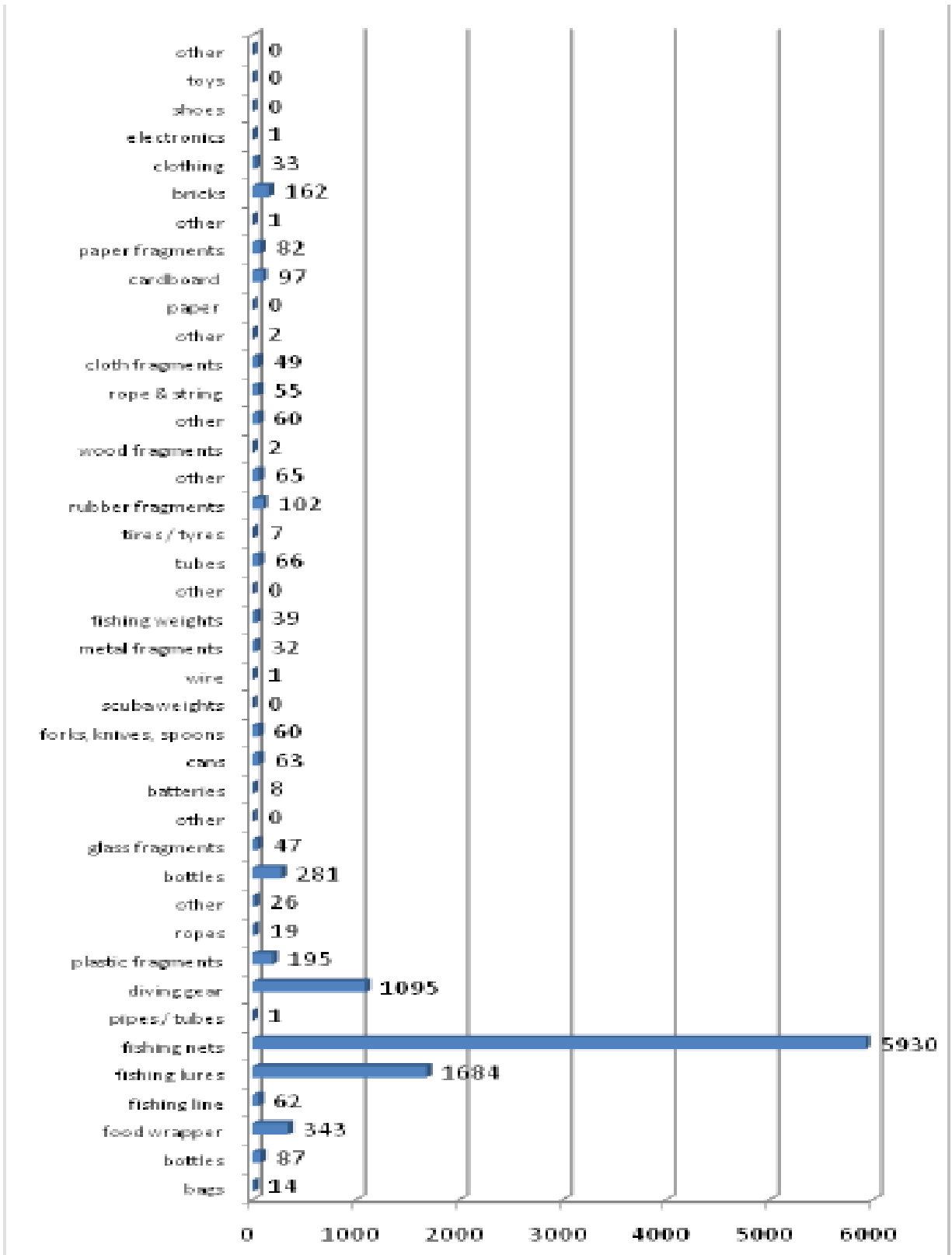
## **4. Results**

Between September 2013 and September 2014, a total area of 251400 meter squared were surveyed by 342 volunteers and/or local school children and communities. Within the duration of 2280 minutes, 3120.1 kg. of garbage were collected.

**Figure 1:** The pie chart below illustrate the number of items collected, which were categorized by the type of materials; plastic, glass and ceramic, metal, rubber, wood, cloth, paper, and mixed.



**Figure 2:** The chart below shows the number of each material found during beach clean ups, which are categorized into 41 different types.



## **5. Conclusions**

Out of all the materials found during our beach clean ups, plastic is the most prominent. Fishing gear made from plastic filaments are the most common. Compared data of debris collected, found that 80 percent of the garbage were land based pollution, therefore more education and a trash collecting system needs to be implemented among local communities and schools. Trash bins around Ao Nang area needs to be increased and managed.