

An underwater photograph showing significant marine pollution. The water is a deep blue-green color. In the foreground, a large, crumpled white plastic bag floats prominently. To its left, there is a smaller, yellowish plastic bag. Further back, a red plastic bottle is visible. The water is filled with various pieces of debris, including small pieces of wood, leaves, and other organic matter. The overall scene depicts a polluted marine environment.

# Marine Pollution

By Cheney, Diana, Emmet and Rachel

A sea turtle is swimming in the ocean, surrounded by various pieces of plastic waste such as bottles, bags, and other debris. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the pollution in the marine environment.

# Fast Facts

- 71% of the earth's surface is ocean
- The cleanest ocean is the South Atlantic
- The dirtiest sea is the Mediterranean sea
- 70% of the ocean's garbage sinks to the bottom so we can't clean it up
- 60-80% of waste in the ocean is made up of different plastics
- A plastic bottle can last up to 450 years in the ocean
- If we don't do something now, by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans
- 8 million metric tons of garbage goes into the ocean every year
- There is approx 150 million metric tons of garbage that currently circle our marine environment
- Plastic impacts nearly 700 species in our ocean

# Our Plan:

What we decided to do for CEPNET was a project with multiple steps. We love our oceans so we focused on marine pollution. Firstly, we did quite a bit of research on it because we didn't know much about it. Secondly, we went looking for dirty beaches, so that we could clean them up. We decided to clean up Dollymount beach on Bull Island. We did two clean ups on the same beach but we covered different sides of the beach on the different days. We also cleaned up the dunes on the way up to the beach. Honestly, we probably found more trash in the dunes than on the beach itself! We took photos and recorded info on the next few slides.

“The tide of plastics entering the ocean can, indeed, be reversed.”

**Nicholas Mallos**

Director, Trash Free Seas®, Ocean Conservancy

# First Beach Clean Up:



On the first day, we cleaned one side of the beach and dunes. We got two bags of trash. They weren't completely full because they were ripping since they were quite heavy. We found plastic bottles, cans of beer, plastic bags and lots more. We even found the sole of a shoe! There was loads of trash on the beach but even more on the sand dunes. All in all, it was quite a successful day! But nothing compared to the next...





# Second Beach Clean Up:

The second day – we had more success. Our trash bags were smaller, but we filled up four of them! We cleaned up the other side of the beach and dunes and lets just say this - this side was much dirtier! As soon as we parked, we saw trash. We mostly cleaned the dunes that day, but that's important too because it's where birds and wildlife live! Also, if it's a windy day the trash would be blown onto the beach anyways! We got the usual pieces of trash. Plastic bottles, cans, plastic bags and wrappers. But there was also loads of poo bags. We hadn't found any the day before but this time we filled up a bag which was only poo bags! It's disgusting! People think that as long as they bag it, it's fine, but it's not! At least waste is biodegradable but plastic bags aren't! Anyway, the second day was definitely more successful! We even went for a dip in the sea, but it was freezing!



# The End

Thank You!

