

# Beach Recreation Survey

## CAPE COD and THE ISLANDS

**Your opinions are  
important to us!**



### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is authorized by 33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq. to conduct this survey. The information collected will be used by NOAA to estimate economic impacts associated with marine debris on beaches.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Amy V. Uhrin, NOAA NOS, 1305 East-West Hwy, SSMC4, Room 10240, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing purposes only. Your name and address will be deleted after we receive your completed questionnaire. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control Number XXXX | Current Expiration Date: XX/XX/2018



Coastal beaches are vital to the area’s economy and quality of life. Your answers to this survey will help inform decisions about improving and protecting coastal resources. We want to hear from everyone about things people want to experience when they visit the beach. Your response is important – please complete this **voluntary** survey.

Our questions are about ocean beaches in the area shown below. In the rest of the survey, this is what we mean by “Cape Cod and the Islands.”

**1. In the list below, please circle the names of any beaches you went to between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017. If you don’t know the name of a beach you went to or it is not on the list, please circle the name of a nearby beach.**



- |                       |                        |                      |                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sagamore           | 11. Pamet Harbor       | 21. Pleasant Street  | 31. Surf Drive                |
| 2. Town Neck          | 12. Herring Cove       | 22. Grey Neck        | 32. Stoney Beach              |
| 3. Sandy Neck         | 13. Race Point         | 23. West Dennis      | 33. Chapoquoit                |
| 4. Mayflower          | 14. Head of the Meadow | 24. Kalmas Ocean     | 34. Old Silver                |
| 5. Cold Storage       | 15. Ballston           | 25. Covell’s         | 35. Cataumet                  |
| 6. Breakwater Landing | 16. Marconi            | 26. Bridge Street    | 36. Monument                  |
| 7. Skacket            | 17. Nauset Light       | 27. Poponesset       | 37. Gilder Road Beach         |
| 8. First Encounter    | 18. Nauset             | 28. South Cape Beach | 38. Martha’s Vineyard Beaches |
| 9. Mayo               | 19. Pleasant Bay       | 29. Menauhant        | 39. Nantucket Beaches         |
| 10. Duck Harbor       | 20. Hardings           | 30. Bristol          |                               |

Now we would like to ask you about the number of day trips and overnight trips you took to beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands. A **day** trip is any time you went to the beach and returned home the same day. An **overnight** trip is when you spent at least one night away from home.

2. Between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017, did you take any day trips to beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands? Please check  one box.

No                       Yes →                      How many day trips?  day trips

3. Between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017, did you take any overnight trips where the main purpose was visiting beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands? Please check  one box.

No                       Yes →                      How many overnight trips?  overnight trips

In total, how many nights did you pay for lodging during your overnight trips?  nights

The next question is about beach characteristics.

4. Please tell us how important the following characteristics are to you when you decide which beaches to visit. Please check  one box per row.

	Not Important		Somewhat Important		Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5
Scenic beauty or view	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Good water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Close to home	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Parking is convenient	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Parking is free or inexpensive	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Good surfing available	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Sandy (rather than rocky)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Not crowded	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Long enough to go for a walk/run	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Bike path available	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Fishing opportunities available	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
No garbage or manmade debris on the sand	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
No natural debris like kelp or seaweed on the sand	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

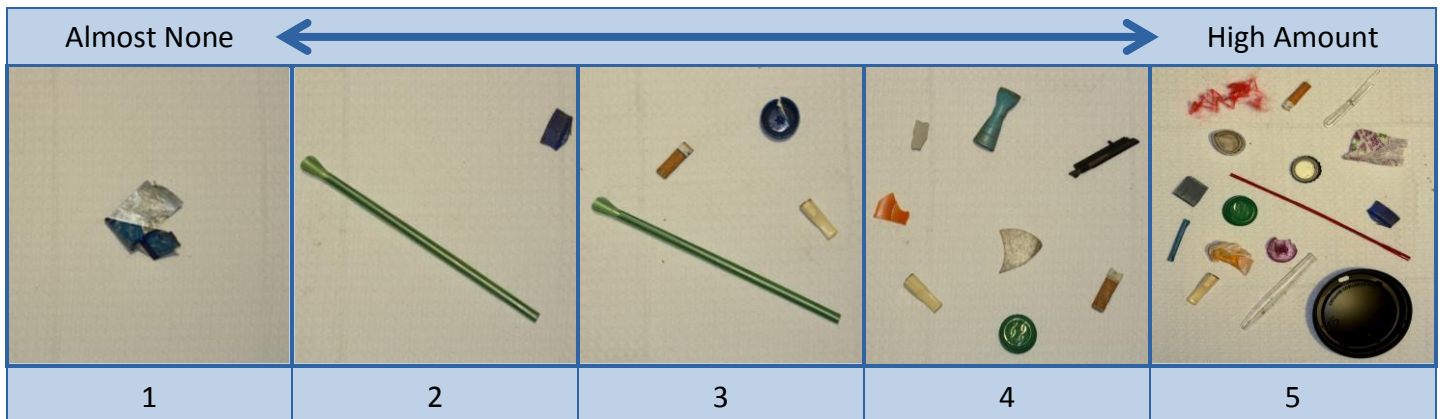
## Garbage or Marine Debris You May See on Beaches

Different beaches can have different amounts of garbage or manmade debris. Manmade debris refers to items like bottles, wrappers, straws, plastic fragments or cigarettes. It does not include twigs or seaweed.

The pictures below illustrate the amount of debris commonly found on United States beaches. Imagine you are picking up debris over an area of 500 square feet or approximately the area of three parking spaces, outlined in red below.



If you walked back and forth in this area and picked up all the debris, you might find different amounts ranging from “almost none” to a “high amount”. As the pictures below show, different levels of debris on the beach can be given a score from 1 to 5. Higher scores mean more debris.



On the next page, we will ask you to use the above scale to estimate the amount of garbage or manmade debris you saw on beaches you have been to in Cape Cod and the Islands.



Federal, state, and local agencies are considering programs that would reduce the amount of garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands. These programs could involve removing garbage or manmade debris from beaches, or could involve reducing the amount of garbage or manmade debris that ends up on beaches.

6. If there had been almost no garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands, would you have changed the beaches you visited between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017? Please check  one box.

No

Yes

7. If there had been almost no garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands, would the total number of trips you took to Cape Cod and the Islands between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017 have increased, decreased, or stayed the same? Please check  one box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Increased →	How many more trips if there had been almost no garbage or manmade debris?	Day Trips	Overnight Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased →	How many fewer trips if there had been almost no garbage or manmade debris?	Day Trips	Overnight Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed the same			

Some marine debris programs currently underway could be discontinued, leading to more garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands.

8. If there had been twice as much garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands, would you have changed the beaches you visited between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017? Please check  one box.

No

Yes

9. If there had been twice as much garbage or manmade debris at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands, would the total number of trips you took to Cape Cod and the Islands between October 1, 2016 and September 31, 2017 increased, decreased, or stayed the same? Please check  one box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Increased →	How many more trips if there had been twice as much garbage or manmade debris?	Day Trips	Overnight Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased →	How many fewer trips if there had been twice as much garbage or manmade debris?	Day Trips	Overnight Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed the same			

The next few questions ask about your experiences with debris on beaches.

**10. How concerned would you be to see the following types of garbage or manmade debris on the sand or in the surf while visiting a beach? Please check  one box per row.**

	Not At All Concerned		Somewhat Concerned		Very Concerned
	1	2	3	4	5
Plastic items or bottles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Styrofoam	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Paper products	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Wooden items	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Metal items or cans	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Rubber items	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cloth or clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cigarette butts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Fishing gear	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Medical wastes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Animal wastes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

**11. Please look at the list below and mark the box next to the types of garbage or manmade debris that you have actually seen on the sand or in the surf at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands.**

Plastic items or bottles

Cloth or clothing

Styrofoam

Cigarette butts

Paper products

Fishing gear

Wooden items

Medical wastes

Metal items or cans

Animal wastes

Glass

Other (please specify)

Rubber items



**12. To the best of your knowledge, what do you think is the largest source of garbage and manmade debris found on the sand or in the surf at beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands?**

Please check  one box.

Left by beach visitors

Blown to the beach from nearby areas on land

Washed ashore from the ocean

Washed ashore from nearby rivers or storm drains

Other (please specify)

Finally, we have just a few questions about you and your household. These questions are a way to make sure that we understand the values and opinions of all types of people visting beaches in Cape Cod and the Islands.

**13. Have you participated in any beach cleanups within the last three years? Please check  one box.**

No

Yes

**14. How many adults and children live in your household?**

Adults (18 and older)

Children (under 18)

**15. What is your gender? Please check  one box.**

Male

Female

**16. What year were you born?**

(YYYY)

**17. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? Please check  one box.**

No

Yes

**18. What is your race? Select all that apply.**

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please specify)

**19. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? Please check  one box.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school graduate      | <input type="checkbox"/> Some college or Associate's degree                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate (includes GED) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate or professional degree, beyond a bachelor's degree |

**20. Which of the following income categories best describes your household income last year, before taxes? Please check  one box.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$15,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 to \$74,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 to \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 to \$99,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 to \$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 to \$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$150,000 |

**Thank you for participating!**

Please return your survey in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**APPENDIX C: COVER LETTER**



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Office of Response and Restoration  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

<date>

<given name> <surname>

<address>

<city>, <state> <zip code>-<zip+4>

Dear <title> <surname>:

Recently you agreed to take a short survey regarding beach visitation and your recreational experience. Thank you! A survey booklet is enclosed with this letter. By filling out this survey, you will be participating in an important study that will help government officials understand your priorities for the coastal environment.

Once we have received your survey, we will delete your name, street address, and email address from all lists so that your responses cannot be traced back to you. Of course, your participation is voluntary and you can refuse to answer any or all of the questions. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437.

We hope that you find this survey important and interesting, and we thank you for your assistance in this important project. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. We would greatly appreciate it if you could return the survey by <date>. Please return your completed survey using the provided postage-paid, return envelope.

Sincerely,

Amy V. Uhrin  
Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Enc.

**APPENDIX D: POSTCARD REMINDER**



Last week the survey, *Beach Recreation Survey: <location>*, was mailed to you regarding beach visitation and your recreational experience. If you have already returned your completed survey, please accept our sincere thanks.

**If you have not yet completed your survey, we ask that you please do so today.** Your answers will help government officials understand your priorities for the coastal environment.

If you did not receive the survey or it was misplaced, please contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437 and we will send a replacement survey to you.



Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Last week the survey, *Beach Recreation Survey: <location>*, was mailed to you regarding beach visitation and your recreational experience. If you have already returned your completed survey, please accept our sincere thanks.

**If you have not yet completed your survey, we ask that you please do so today.** Your answers will help government officials understand your priorities for the coastal environment.

If you did not receive the survey or it was misplaced, please contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437 and we will send a replacement survey to you.



Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Last week the survey, *Beach Recreation Survey: <location>*, was mailed to you regarding beach visitation and your recreational experience. If you have already returned your completed survey, please accept our sincere thanks.

**If you have not yet completed your survey, we ask that you please do so today.** Your answers will help government officials understand your priorities for the coastal environment.

If you did not receive the survey or it was misplaced, please contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437 and we will send a replacement survey to you.



Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Last week the survey, *Beach Recreation Survey: <location>*, was mailed to you regarding beach visitation and your recreational experience. If you have already returned your completed survey, please accept our sincere thanks.

**If you have not yet completed your survey, we ask that you please do so today.** Your answers will help government officials understand your priorities for the coastal environment.

If you did not receive the survey or it was misplaced, please contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437 and we will send a replacement survey to you.



Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



**APPENDIX E: COVER LETTER/REMINDER FOR THE SECOND SURVEY MAILING**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Office of Response and Restoration  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

<date>

<given name> <surname>

<address>

<city>, <state> <zip code>-<zip+4>

Dear <title> <surname>:

Three weeks ago the survey, *Beach Recreation Survey: <location>*, was mailed to you concerning possible programs affecting marine debris levels and recreation at local beaches. If you have not yet completed your survey, we ask that you do so today. Your opinions are important and are needed to ensure that the survey results are complete and accurate.

The purpose of this survey is to collect information about your priorities for the coastal environment. It should take up to 10 minutes of your time. This survey:

- Asks about your experiences at local beaches within the past year and characteristics that influence your beach visitation decisions
- Presents a scale for measuring marine debris and asks about debris encountered during beach visits
- Asks how changes in marine debris levels would influence your beach visitation.

**We need your opinions.** Your responses to this survey will help inform resource management decisions. Please carefully read the information in this survey and answer the questions.

**All answers to this survey will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.** Once we have received your survey, we will delete your name, street address, and email address from all lists so that your responses cannot be traced back to you. Of course, your participation is voluntary and you can refuse to answer any or all of the questions.

We thank you for your assistance in this important project. We would greatly appreciate it if you could return the completed survey using the prepaid envelope by <date>. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Balukas (Abt Associates) at [jessica\\_balukas@abtassoc.com](mailto:jessica_balukas@abtassoc.com) or 617.520.2437.

Sincerely,

Amy V. Uhrin, Chief Scientist, Marine Debris Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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