

# Northcoast Environmental Center

# Marine Debris

# Identification Guide

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## How To Use This Guide

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Humboldt County's beaches and waterways free of debris! This guide is designed to help you identify debris related to fishing, mariculture, and recreational hunting and fishing. This guide is a companion to the NEC's official debris list, which can be accessed in the **NOAA Marine Debris Tracker App** or data card. Here are a few tips to help you get started using the guide:



To record an item that doesn't appear in the app's list, enter the name of the item in the "**Fishing, Mariculture, and Hunting Debris: Other**" category by tapping the "other" icon.



If you find an item that you are unable to identify, please send a photo to [coastalprograms@yournec.org](mailto:coastalprograms@yournec.org). The types of trash we see are always changing, so let us know if there are items we should add to our list!



You can find information on how to download and use the **NOAA Marine Debris Tracker app** on our website at [yournec.org/trashtrackers](http://yournec.org/trashtrackers) or at [debristracker.org](http://debristracker.org). Or use your phone to scan the QR code below!



Can you identify  
all the items in this  
pile of trash?



Scan this QR code to  
find out more about  
volunteer opportunities  
with the NEC!



*A big thank you to the Coastal Programs Advisory Committee for helping create this guide!*



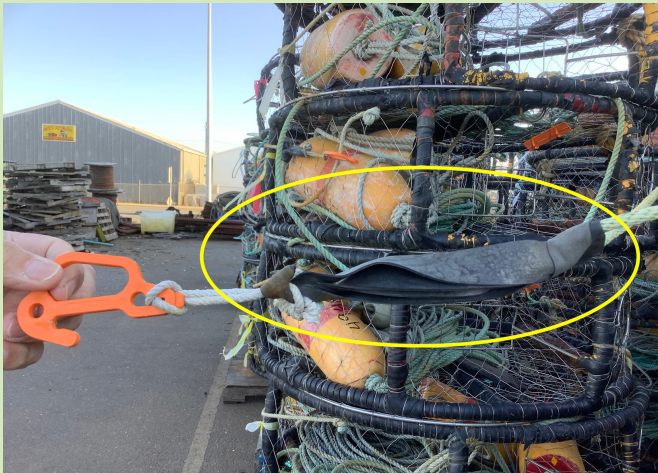
# Crab Fisheries Debris



**Crab Rope:** 5/16-1/2" diameter 3-stranded rope.



**Crab Buoy:** Lightweight cylindrical foam float. Usually yellow, orange, or white and red. Roughly 12" long.



**Strapping Bands:** Thick black rubber bands, usually 1" wide and several inches long. Sometimes a plastic hook is attached.



**Crab Bait Containers and Lids:** White or orange plastic containers with screw-on lid. Usually 4" x 4".



**Crab Pot:** Large, heavy circular trap with netting.



**Crab Pot Label:** Crab pots should be labeled with the owner's contact information. If you find an intact label on a crab pot, please send us a photo!



# Oyster Farming Debris (Mariculture)



**Vexar Bags:** Plastic fine-mesh bags, roughly 2.5-3 ft long. Usually red, blue, or yellow in color. Sometimes these have company labels on them, so keep an eye out!



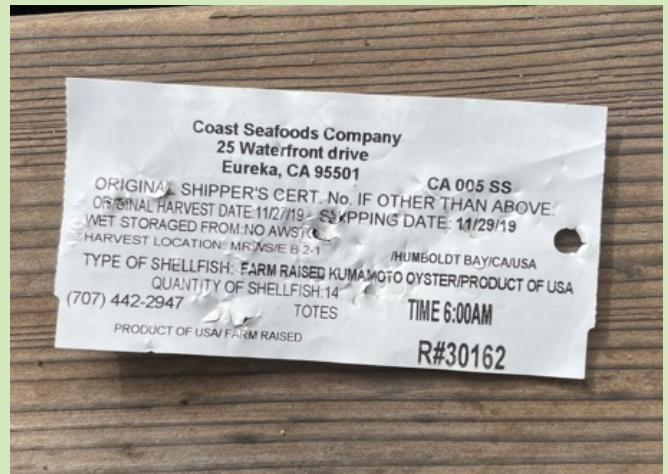
**Yellow 3-Strand Rope:** Bright yellow plastic rope made of three strands wound together. Usually 1-2 ft. segments.



**Black ABS Pipe:** Sections of cut black plastic pipe, usually in 6-8" segments.



**Zip Tie Tags:** Colorful plastic zip ties with plastic tags attached.



**Plastic Tags:** Plastic labels identifying gear owners.



# Oyster Farming Debris (Mariculture)



**Oyster Seed Trays:** Black plastic tray divided into 4 sections. Dimensions: 23" x 23" x 3"



**Oyster Basket:** Black plastic mesh cage, usually 2 ft long. Sometimes there is a buoy attached. **Mariculture Bags** look similar, but are more flexible and have an opening on one end.



**1/4 in Polypropylene Rope:** Yellow and black 3-stranded plastic rope. Diameter: 1/4 in.



**Oyster Basket Labels:** Baskets should be marked to identify the company that owns the basket. For example, "CSC" indicates that the basket belongs to Coast Seafood Co. If you see a labeled basket, please send us a photo!

## Other Marine Debris



**Domestic Pink Shrimp Web:** 1-1.25 inch mesh web. Almost always turquoise in color.

**Foreign Rope:** Small plastic 2-stranded line. Diameter: less than 1/4 inch. Color: dark green, olive, black. Foreign rope is 2-stranded, while American rope is 3-stranded. Foreign rope fibers are flat rather than round.



## Other Marine Debris



**Mooring Rope:** Very thick rope, usually 3-5 inches in diameter. Smaller diameter rope will be twisted (2 stranded). Bigger diameter is braided.



**Fishing Totes:** Large plastic insulated cooler for storing fish. Usually blue, teal, or white. Dimensions: 37" x 30" x 30"



**Hard Hat:** Plastic hard hat.



**Fishing Tote Lids:** Large flat plastic lids for fish totes. Dimensions: 30" x 37"



**Hair Net:** Fine mesh hairnet.



**Life Jacket:** Foam life jacket.

**Rubber Gloves:** Thick, shiny black rubber gloves ending at mid-forearm.



## Fishing/Hunting Debris



**Fishing Lures:** Colorful plastic lures can come in a variety of shapes and sizes.



**Fishing Bait Containers and Lids:** Lids and containers with fishing bait labels.



**Shotgun Shells:** Small colorful plastic tube, open on one end. Can come in a variety of colors.



**Shotgun Wads:** Small plastic tube with four pronged opening on one end. Usually light colored.

## Trawl Debris



**Trawl Floats:** Round floats made of cast hollow aluminum or cast hollow plastic. 6-12" diameter.



**Trawl Net:** Large, heavy net fragments with varying mesh size. Polypropylene twine, various colors: green, blue, orange. Thick, heavy.