



# Marine Trash & Debris Awareness

Safety and Environmental Management System

SEMS 9-5

## **Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination**

**30 CFR 250.103 This Notice is effective February 15, 2003 on this subject and applies to all existing and future oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico.**

Marine trash and debris pose a threat to fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and other marine animals; cause costly delays and repairs for commercial and recreational boating interests; detract from the aesthetic quality of recreational shore fronts; and increase the cost of beach and park maintenance. As oil and gas industry activities expand into deeper waters, the number of species of protected marine animals exposed to marine debris is increasing and now includes the sperm whale, an endangered species, as well as other marine mammals and five species of sea turtles.

This government ruling prohibits anyone from deliberately discharging containers and other similar materials (i.e., trash and debris) into the marine environment, and it requires all companies to make durable identification markings on equipment, tools and containers (especially drums), and other material. *For SONOCO, it means marking all water containers and grease containers.*

The intentional jettisoning of trash has been the subject of strict laws such as MARPOL-Annex V and the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, and regulations imposed by various agencies including the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *SONOCO adheres to the guidelines of the operator in trash and food disposal. They structure their disposal rules to conform to these governmental regulations.*

Operators have become more proactive in avoiding accidental loss of solid waste items by developing waste management plans, posting informational placards, manifesting trash sent to shore, and using special precautions such as covering outside trash bins to prevent accidental loss of solid waste. *If there is some question concerning the disposal of an item, **ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR.***

Therefore, you should exercise special caution when you handle and dispose of small items and packaging materials, particularly those made of non-biodegradable, environmentally persistent materials such as plastic or glass that can be lost in the marine environment and washed ashore. Increasing your individual workers' awareness of the problem and emphasizing their responsibilities will help reduce the litter problem further and control the unintended loss of items such as empty buckets, hard hats, shrink wrap or strip lumber (*from pallets*). *If there is a question concerning the disposal of an item, **ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR.** Remember, never throw anything overboard.*

Following these requirements will reduce, if not eliminate, trash intentionally jettisoned into the Gulf of Mexico. But MMS is still concerned about the accidental loss of articles from structures and vessels.



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This type of littering results from poor waste management practices (e.g., no lids or unsecured lids on waste receptacles), but in others, it is caused by the failure of individuals to secure materials and personal belongings aboard vessels and facilities. To reduce further the accidental introduction of marine trash and debris into the Gulf of Mexico, SONOCO has implemented the following program in cooperation and as part of our customers policy and governmental regulations.

## Marine Debris Placards

### WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

**Marine debris** is any object or fragment of wood, metal, glass, rubber, plastic, cloth, paper or any other man-made item or material that is lost or discarded in the marine environment. Marine debris may be intentionally dumped, accidentally dropped, or indirectly deposited. Whatever the source, marine debris is a direct result of human activities on land and at sea. Depending upon its composition, marine debris may sink to the seafloor, drift in the water column, or float on the surface of the sea. Certain debris, such as plastics, can persist for hundreds of years in the marine environment without decomposing.

### WARNING!

### YOUR ACTIONS MAY SUBJECT YOU TO SEVERE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES!

The disposal and/or discharge of any solid waste anywhere in the marine environment (other than ground-up food particles) is strictly prohibited by U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. **THIS INCLUDES MATERIALS OR DEBRIS ACCIDENTALLY LOST OVERBOARD.**

The disposal of equipment, cables, chains, containers or other materials into offshore waters is prohibited by the Minerals Management Service (30 CFR 250.300(b)(6)). **THIS INCLUDES MATERIALS OR DEBRIS ACCIDENTALLY LOST OVERBOARD.**



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SEMS 9-5

## **ATTENTION!**

### **MARINE DEBRIS MAY CAUSE SEVERE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE!**

Marine debris discarded or lost from offshore and coastal sources may injure or kill fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds and other wildlife.

Thousands of marine animals, including marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds, die every year from entanglement in fishing line, strapping bands, discarded ropes, nets and plastic six-pack rings. Additionally, unknown numbers of marine animals die each year from internal injury, intestinal blockage and starvation as a result of ingesting marine debris. Marine debris fouls boat propellers and clogs water intake ports on engines thereby endangering the safety of fishermen and boaters and resulting in heavy loss of time and money.

Marine debris detracts from the aesthetic quality of recreational beaches and shorelines and increases the cost of park and beach maintenance.

## **ATTENTION!**

### **SECURE ALL LOOSE ARTICLES!**

NOAA Fisheries now expects petroleum industry personnel to pick up and recover any articles lost overboard from boats and offshore structures as safety conditions permit. Protect marine animals, as well as your valuable time and money, by doing the following to prevent accidental loss of these items: Properly securing all materials, equipment and personal belongings. Articles such as hardhats, life vests, sunglasses, cigarette lighters, parts bags, buckets, shrink wrap, strip lumber, and pipe thread protectors become marine debris when lost overboard. Making sure that all trash receptacles have tight fitting lids and that the lids are used.

Providing and using secure cigarette butt containers. Cigarette butts are one of the most common forms of marine debris. Many cigarette butts contain some form of plastic and do not decompose in the ocean. Cigarette butts pose a major threat to marine wildlife as they resemble food and cause gut blockages and starvation when ingested.

Do your part to eliminate marine debris. Encourage others to be responsible about marine debris by making suggestions to secure potential marine debris on your boat, structure, or by participating in a beach cleanup.