

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Reports 860,000 Pounds of Trash Removed During 2016 International Coastal Cleanup of PA**

(January 4, 2017) - From September through October, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful worked with local groups and organizations to mobilize nearly 14,000 volunteers from 39 counties across Pennsylvania to canvass their communities and remove over 860,000 pounds of trash from Pennsylvania's waterways and coastal regions during the 2016 International Coastal Cleanup event. The top five types of trash, documented by volunteers, included:

- Cigarette Butts – 20,562
- Food Wrappers – 8,128
- Plastic Pieces – 5,281
- Beverage Bottles – 4,319
- Tires – 2,941

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to improve the health of the world's oceans and waterways. The Cleanup gives citizens around the world the opportunity to clean up their local waterways and to be a part of a larger movement.



This year, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Philadelphia Water Department, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry William Penn Forest District, Delaware Sojourn, United By Blue, Ridley Township Marina, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - Floatilla 04-76 and Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation joined forces for the 31st International Coastal Cleanup for a cleanup along the Delaware River and shoreline of Little Tinicum Island in Delaware County.

On September 30, with the help of 61 volunteers, 15,250 pounds of trash was removed from the project area.

"We are honored to partner with the Ocean Conservancy and coordinate the International Coastal Cleanup in Pennsylvania. This program continues to grow across the state and provides volunteers an opportunity to keep their communities clean and beautiful while also working to save our oceans from litter and debris that makes its way downstream," stated Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "We are grateful to all the volunteers who give up their personal time to get wet and dirty to help keep our waterways clean."

Funding for the International Coastal Cleanup coordination in Pennsylvania is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Bureau of Waste Management and Coastal Resource Management. For more information about the International Coastal Cleanup visit <http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/CleanIt/IntlCoastalCleanup.aspx>.

**About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 121 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org).

**About International Coastal Cleanup**

The International Coast Cleanup began in 1985 as an environmental study undertaken on the behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Toxic Substances. The first volunteer-driven Cleanup occurred in 1986 at South Padre Island, Texas. International Coastal Cleanup is one of the largest international volunteer events. The Cleanup gives citizens around the world the opportunity to clean up their local waterways and to be a part of a large, organized event. For more information visit <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/>.

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