

We would like to personally invite you to attend the commencement of the Marine Debris to Energy program on April 18th at 10am in Seabrook, NH at the Yankee Fishermen's Cooperative.

Marine Debris to Energy is a project that takes a holistic approach to marine debris by tracking and cleaning up marine debris on the shore, underwater, and on the ocean. A large component of this project involves collecting derelict fishing gear at a collection bin and at monofilament recycling bins along the coast and converting it into energy via a waste-to-energy plant in New Hampshire. The project will also provide a collection point for data from beach cleanup volunteers, commercial and recreational fishermen, and other users of the coastline to report marine debris. Users of this web-based system will be able to generate reports and maps to learn more about marine debris along the New Hampshire coast and in the Gulf of Maine.

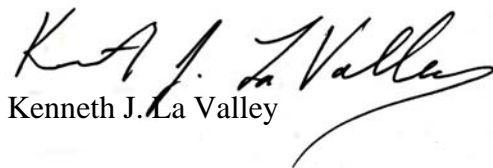
The objectives of this project are to better characterize ocean-based debris (e.g., derelict fishing gear) sources and distribution patterns, use underwater sonar to begin mapping derelict fishing gear and underwater debris along the New Hampshire coastline, investigate the prevalence of land-based debris sources, and mitigate the problems associated with marine debris through education and outreach in the community and fishing industry.

This project is funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Grants program and is conducted by a marine debris team formed by the University of New Hampshire's Environmental Research Group, NH Sea Grant, UNH Cooperative Extension, and the non-profit Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, with the support from many commercial and recreational fishermen, cleanup volunteers and educators.

This project also complements and hopes to enhance existing marine debris reduction programs – we hope the project components and educational programs developed can be used as templates for other areas in developing data collection procedures and outreach strategies for marine debris reduction.

If you or a representative from your office will be able to attend please RSVP to Dr. Ken La Valley, UNH-CE/NH Sea Grant at 603-862-4343 or via email ken.lavalley@unh.edu. Your support for this environmental program will accentuate the importance of mitigating marine debris from our coastal waters as well as increase local awareness and participation.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. La Valley