Density and Distribution of Marine Debris on Select Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska

Results of the 2012 NOAA Marine Debris Surveys

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2012 Densities of All Marine Debris
(95% Confidence Intervals indicated)

2008 to 2012 Change in Marine Debris Densities

Do ocean currents influence the distribution of marine debris?

All marine debris items/km shoreline length
(95% CI indicated)

Alaska 2012 marine debris potentially resulting from the 2011 Japanese tsunami
Translations courtesy of Dr. Tokuroh Arimitsu

Conclusions
- The surveys revealed a 274% increase in the density of all anthropogenic marine debris from the 2008 levels, when the last survey was conducted.
- The highest density in 2012 was found on Kayak Island with an average of 2,656 items per kilometer shoreline length, double the amount found in 2008 (1,412 items/km).
- Circumstantial evidence of the presence of debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami.