

“A Chiefly Approach to the Problem of Marine Debris in the Republic of Palau”

The Council of Chiefs



Problem



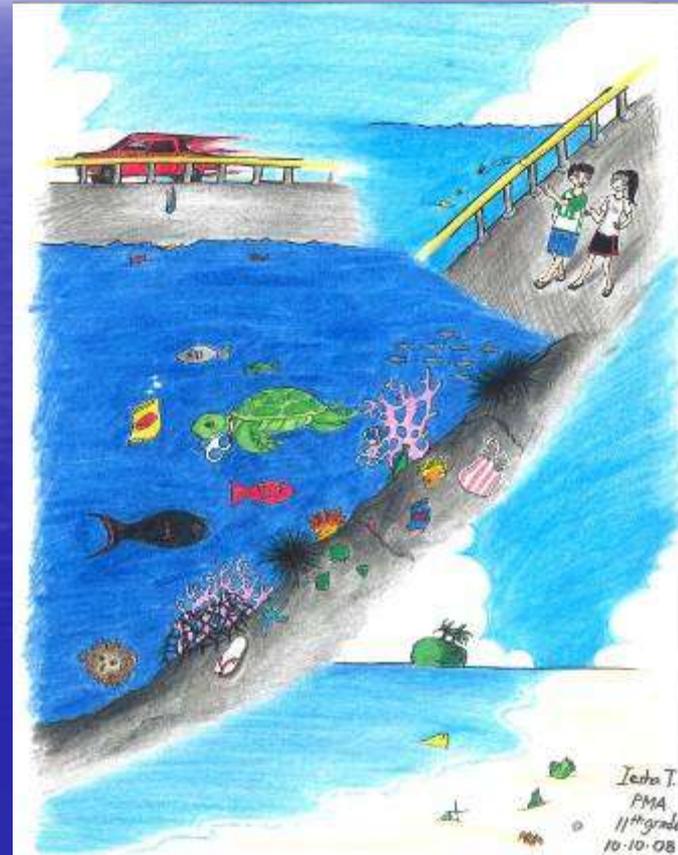
- Marine Debris in Palau is a growing problem
- Increase in commercial fishing is causing an increase in disposal of derelict, synthetic fishing gear into the waterways
- Need for coordinated, comprehensive Republic-wide cleanup efforts

Our Solution



Education and Outreach

- Radio Shows
- Youth Poster Contests
- Publications
- Community cleanups



Workshops to Promote Use of Traditional, Naturally-made Fishing Gear



- Increase the number of fishermen using indigenous gear
- Increase the number of fisheries using indigenous gear
- Designate areas for indigenous techniques only

Coastal Cleanups

- Coordinated, comprehensive coastal cleanups for entire Republic
- Engage community, dive shops and businesses
- Improved marine habitat for fish and coral reef systems



Monofilament Recycling Program



- Reduced mortality and damage from monofilament debris
- Increase number of public marinas with maintained recycling programs

Evaluation

- Most common forms of debris
- Origin of debris: Local or External
- Lb. value of debris collected
- Monofilament removal project



Results



- Over 40,510 lbs of debris collected to date
- Implementation of monofilament recycling program in 5 public marinas; Naturally locals are being used to recycle or reuse drifted object such as slippers, fishing nets, floating markers, bottles.
- Nearly 400 volunteers involved

Debris Collected in Palau

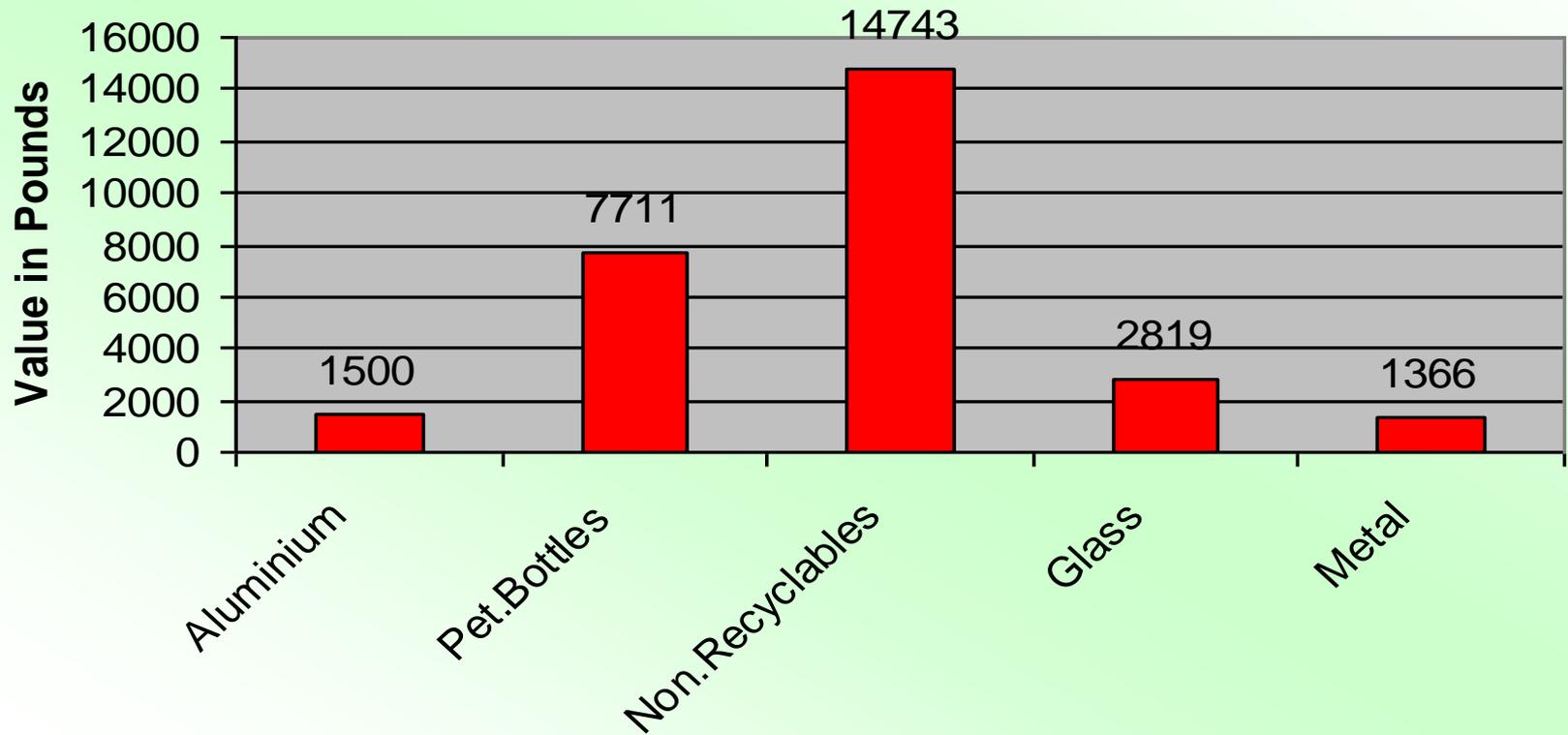
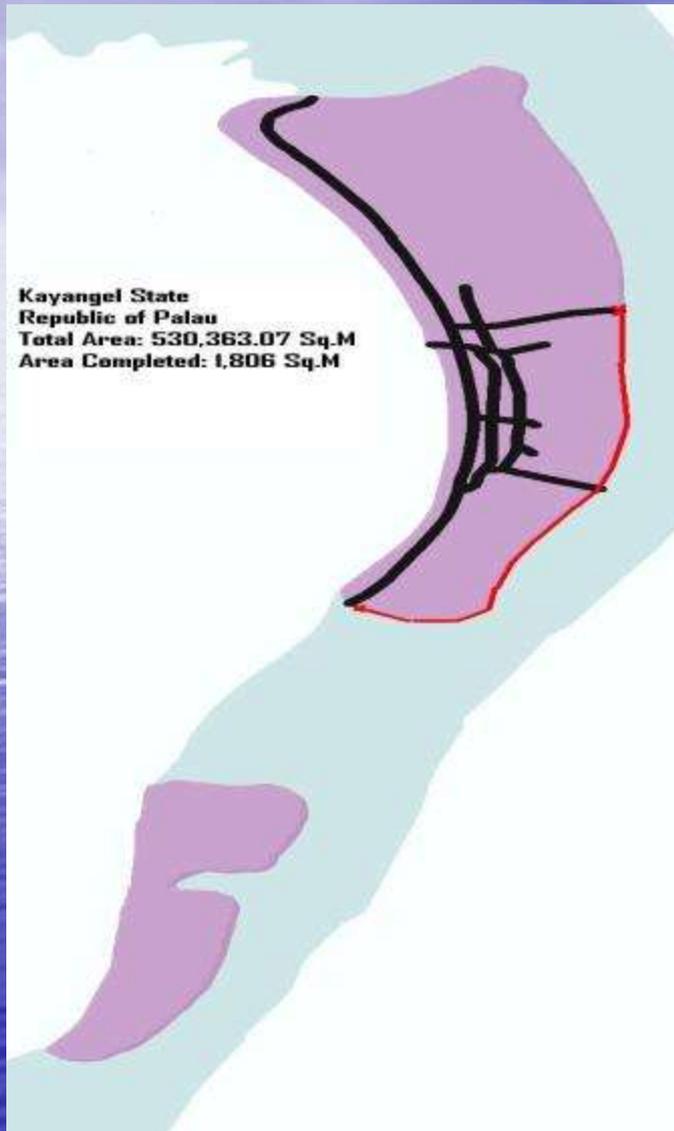


Chart Above shows the amount of marine debris in pounds that have been collected with in the coastal areas of Palau. The marine debris collection project is on going; therefore this numbers will change in any given time.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

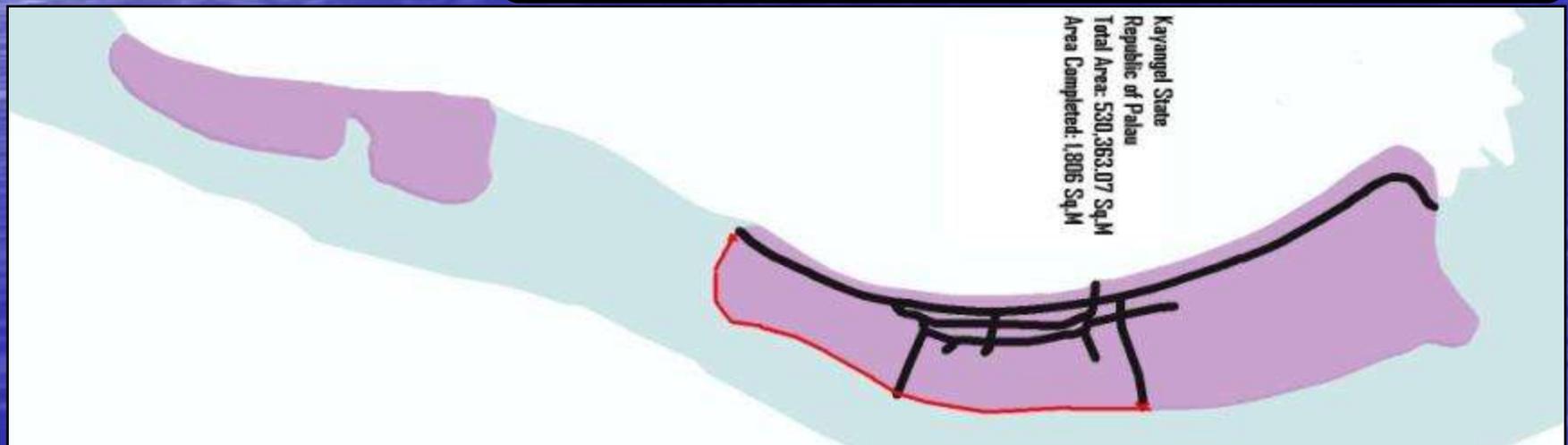
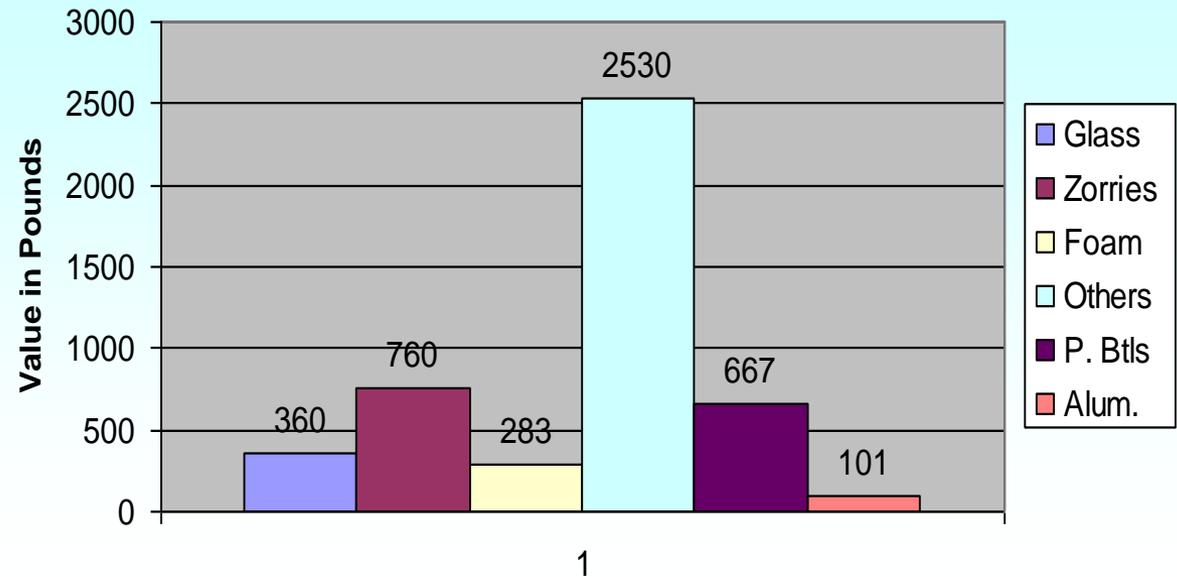


- Kayangel State is located on the very northern tip of Palau.
- Total Land Mass Area **530,363.07 Sq. Meter**
- Only **1,808 Sq. Meter** was completed and total of **4,701 pounds** of mix debris were collected; mainly pet bottles, foams, rubber slippers, and Glass Bottles.
- Most of these products can be identified by their labels, and they are not sold in Palau.
- These type of debris are most likely being dumped by fishing vessels, or drifted to Palau from foreign countries.

Kayangel State

1808 sq meter out of 303,367 sq meter was covered and 4701 pounds of trash was collected. Mostly foreign products of self-hygienes, medication pills containers, glass bottles, Rubber Slippers and Floating Buoys, and Fishing Nets.

Marine Debris In Kayangel



Project Challenges

- Lack of Coordination between Community Members and project coordinator
 - Clan Disputes on Chief's ranks and titles pose weakness among chiefs appointees and community volunteers. **Solution: Chiefs are now working with state governors to appoint a state employee to help coordinate the project in their respective state.**
- Community; Not aware of the impact
 - Communities are not aware and therefore don't care on the effects of the debris to their environment. **Solution: Radio Talk-Shows, State Wide Campaign, Hands On Activities.**
- Small Pacific Islands against Foreign Fishing Industries
 - Fishing boats presumably also dump their waste to our waters. **Solution: Agreement between Island Nations and Fishing Industries and Shipping Companies on proper waste management including impact fees.**

COMPLETED STATES

- Ngerchelong
- Melekeok
- Ngiwal
- Ngerdmau
- Ngchesar
- Airai



ONGOING STATES

- Kayangel
- Ngerrard
- Aimellik
- Ngeremlengui
- Ngetpang
- Koror
- Peleliu
- Angaur
- Sonsorol
- Hatohobei

Kom Kmal Mesulang!

