

Here at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium we participate in many different aspects of water conservation. From the Oceans to our local waterways, we place a great importance on protecting water and the organisms who live in water ecosystems. Below we will highlight 3 different programs that aid in the conservation of water-based ecosystems!



Caitlin Leary
Conservation Education Coordinator
educate@omahazoo.com

Cleaning Up the Environment

Cleaning up debris in your local area is one way that you can make an

immense impact on the health of not only local bodies of water, but on oceans as well.

Trash Collected

MOST LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS:	TOTAL #	FISHING GEAR:	TOTAL #
<input type="checkbox"/> Beverage Cans:	==	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Buoys, Pots or Traps:	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Bottle Caps:	==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing Net:	==
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cigarette Butts:	==	<input type="checkbox"/> Rope (1 meter = 1 piece):	==
_____	==		
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Cups:	==	OTHER PACKAGING	TOTAL #
<input type="checkbox"/> Containers:	==	Plastic or foam packaging, wrapping bands, tobacco packaging	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Wrappers:	==	<input type="checkbox"/>	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Glass Bottles:	==	PERSONAL HYGIENE:	TOTAL #
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper:	==	Combs, mirrors, syringes, tampons	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Bags:	==	<input type="checkbox"/>	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Bottles:	==	TINY TRASH LESS THAN 2.5 CM:	TOTAL #
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Cups:	==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foam Pieces:	==
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Six Pack Holders:	==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plastic Pieces:	==
<input type="checkbox"/> Straws:	==	OTHER TRASH:	TOTAL #
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utensils:	==	<input type="checkbox"/> Balloons:	==
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clothing, Shoes:	==
TOP 3 ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	TOTAL #	<input type="checkbox"/> Foam:	==
Identify the top 3 items found that are not listed on the card		<input type="checkbox"/> Tires:	==
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:	==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toys:	==
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:	==		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:	==		

Thank you for contributing to trash free Nebraska lakes, rivers and streams.



In the past years, we have partnered with both Keep Omaha Beautiful and Diventures to put on in-person Lake Clean-Ups to promote ocean health from the Midwest.

2020 has looked a bit different as instead of in-person events we launched a weeklong clean-up campaign that encouraged participants to head out into their communities and pick up trash left behind from Fourth of July festivities.

Going out and cleaning your community, local park, lake, or any outdoor area is an amazing way to reduce the amount of debris that end up in local waterways and eventually the ocean.

What we pick up matters!

Sorting and counting the debris that are picked up is a great way to engage in citizen science. Why is knowing what trash we pick up important? That data helps us determine what the most common types of debris are found in our area. Knowing what trends are happening with debris aid us in targeting our education to the public. For example, when national trends pointed to plastic straws in 2018, we launched a straw free campaign to help in the reduction of plastic straw usage!



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Seafood Watch Program

Sustainable eating is a great way to be conservation minded every day. How do we know which foods are sustainable and which is not? When it comes to seafood, Monterey Bay Aquarium has us covered with their Seafood Watch Program. We have adopted this program to continue the education of choosing sustainable seafoods.

So, what is Seafood Watch?

This program considers the ways that the harvesting of each seafood impacts the environment, ecosystems, and wildlife itself. The rankings between all these aspects add up to classify the types of seafood into 3 categories; “Best Choice” “Good Alternative” and “Avoid.”

One type of seafood can be harvested from different geographical locations and using different methods so, they take time to categorize each combination, so the consumer knows what their best choice is.

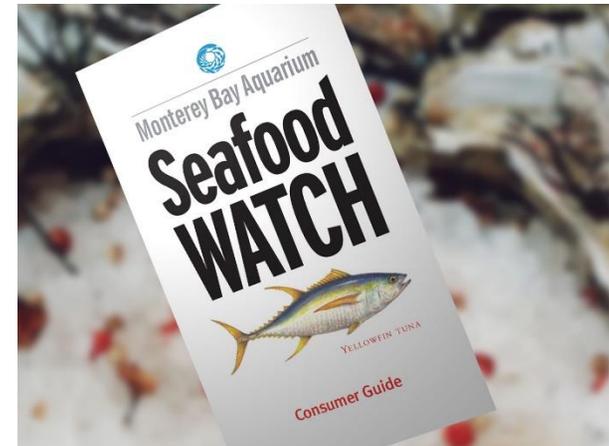
Where can we find these choices?

The Seafood Watch program releases pocket sized cards every 6 months that is easy to keep on hand, in a pocket, or in a wallet. If you are looking for an even more convenient way to eat sustainably the Seafood Watch app for your devices is the way to go.

Check out this video below to learn how to use the Seafood Watch App.

For a Seafood Watch card be sure to stop by the Education Center at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium to pick up some for you and your family.

For further information about Seafood Watch visit their website at <https://www.seafoodwatch.org/>



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Amphibian Conservation and Water Quality

Why Amphibians?

Amphibians, such as frogs, have semi-permeable skin. This means that they are sensitive to changes in water quality. These unique qualities of an amphibian make them indicator species. Changes in water quality due to causes such as pollution can be noticed by the way amphibians in the area are behaving!

Frog Population Study

At both Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium and Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Safari Park we are conducting a population study to find out which species of frogs that we have on grounds at both locations. We are conducting this using sound recorders that we place in different areas we have known to see frogs or toads in. We set the devices to record periodically using FrogWatch USA protocol. After we collect these recorders, we analyze the data by listening to which frog calls we hear and matching the call to a specific species. Once we have this base of which frogs we have in both locations we can help conserve them and eventually use their presence to keep track of water quality!

Listen below to hear a recording taken from the Wildlife Safari Park. Can you identify any frog calls within this 5-minute recording?



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