

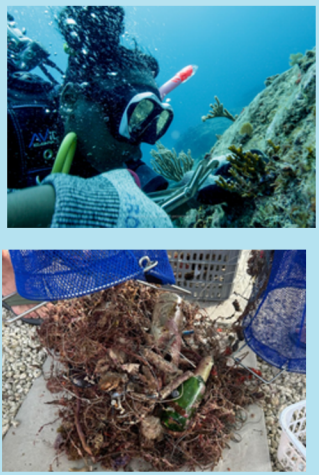


ANTIGUA & BARBUDA OCEAN TRUST

Protecting Our Marine Environment NEWSLETTER - June 2026

ABOT Completes UN Underwater Cleanup Project

After 481 dives and hundreds of hours underwater, ABOT successfully completed our UN Underwater Cleanup Project. Our Volunteer Dive team members, including our recent EcoDiver graduates, did an incredible job in removing 2486 pounds of debris from our cleanup sites. None of this could have happened without the help from numerous groups including our dive operators, our volunteer divers, our funders and our admin members. It was truly a team effort that resulted in a significant positive impact on the health of our in-shore reef ecosystems.



UN Project Data

Total Dive Days	48
Total Dives	481
Total Divers	313
Hours underwater	486
Sites cleaned	22
Pounds of debris removed	2486
Pounds of fishing line removed	254
Approx miles of line removed	17.68
Hooks removed	450
Fishing weights removed	277

ABOT Receives a Second Round of Funding for Next EcoDiver Courses

After seeing the overall impact of our first two EcoDiver courses in 2025, our two private donors have each agreed to fund another course for 2026. After receiving over 20 applications, we just recently completed swim tests and interviews for our latest group of applicants. We will run two classes simultaneously, from August 8 -23, allowing students to participate during their summer break. Students will graduate with their PADI Advanced Open Water certificates as well as a broad range of knowledge from local experts in environmental subjects. We look forward to them joining our Volunteer Dive team upon graduating in August.



Remote Coastal Cleanups

The 110+ members of our Wild Coast Cleaners group have been doing a great job in not only conducting initial cleanups, but also in maintaining several remote areas on a regular basis. So far, they have removed over 5644 cubic feet of debris from areas such as Sandy Island, the Willoughby Bay coastline, the east coast of Barbuda and numerous other remote coastal areas around Antigua.



Did you know that ABOT is a 100% volunteer-based nonprofit?

We rely entirely on our passionate volunteers to help with every aspect of our organization.

Signing up on our website is easy. Join our team and help preserve our marine environment for future generations.

ABOT Marine Conservation Guidebook

A huge thank-you to Antigua and Barbuda Environment Fund who has generously agreed to fund the creation of a comprehensive Marine Conservation Guidebook which is scheduled for release in November of this year!

Support Us

We have no paid staff and we rely entirely on our volunteers, donations, fundraising events and our annual Supporter Program.

- Become a Volunteer
- Become a Supporter
- Make a Donation
- Plan an Event
- Host a Dock Party
- Follow Us



- [aboceantrust](#)
- [Antigua & Barbuda Ocean Trust](#)
- <https://abocean.org>
- abot@abocean.org



ABOT Volunteer Dive Team

We couldn't do what we do without the help of our 70+ volunteer divers who donate their time and skills to cleaning the waters around Antigua and Barbuda. After removing approximately 17+ miles of fishing line with our UN grant, we are now planning on maintaining the 22 sites we have cleaned, as well as discovering and cleaning additional ones around our shores. We are so fortunate to have a solid core of lead divers who show up to most of our cleanups, but we also rely on our growing number of visiting divers from around the world. Please fill out our volunteer application form if you'd like to join our team of passionate divers!

Safe Sunscreen

Last October, ABOT participated in a government-led meeting designed to develop a path forward for a total ban on toxic sunscreens here in Antigua and Barbuda. With the intention of joining 8 other countries and territories such as Palau, Aruba and Bonaire, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands, we are hoping that a ban on these toxic chemicals will take place in 2027.

In the meantime, we are actively engaged in not only continuing to educate our community and visitors as to why we should avoid sunscreens containing reef-harming chemicals, but we are also trying to increase the availability of reef-safe sunscreens in our stores around Antigua and Barbuda.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Just because a sunscreen says it's "reef-safe" does not mean that it actually is?

Be sure to only use sunscreens with Non-Nano Zinc Oxide as the only active ingredient.



ABOT Movie Nights

Since initiating our ABOT Movie Night Series in 2025, we have hosted nine evenings of environmental films which have covered a wide range of ocean-related topics such as whales, sea turtles, coral reefs, Redonda and community initiatives. Thanks to our hosts Dina and Andrew at Rotten Hill Studios, we are so fortunate to be able to hear from local experts about the important work that they are doing here in Antigua and Barbuda. Come enjoy educational and inspirational films and learn how you can help bring about change.

IWC70 Meeting in September

The next International Whaling Commission meeting (IWC70) is scheduled to take place this September in Hobart, Australia. ABOT is working in collaboration with international organizations, OceanCare and Animal Welfare Institute, to work to reverse Antigua and Barbuda's history of voting in favour of whaling. Stay tuned to find out how you can help us to ensure that our country protects these majestic animals that migrate through our waters.



ABOUT ABOT The Antigua & Barbuda Ocean Trust (ABOT) is a registered non-profit marine conservation organisation (CO202/2023), established in 2023 and Run entirely by volunteers. We rely on donations, fundraising and sponsorships to support our marine conservation projects. Certificate of Incorporation and latest financial report available on request. Directors:Julie Harvey Esty, Tim Woodward, Louis Evans, Eloise Green, Blake Rose & Jane Ayres.

ABOT Sponsors



ABOT would like to thank the above sponsors for their hugely important in-kind donations to our organization.