



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA OCEAN TRUST

Protecting Our Marine Environment

NEWSLETTER - November 2025



ABOT Receives US\$50,000 Grant from the UN for Underwater Cleanups

In June, ABOT received their first installment of funds for a US\$50,000 grant from the United Nations Small Grants Programme. Our "ABOT Dive Cleanup Project" has enabled us to do an extensive amount of cleaning around our coastline. Thanks to the UN and to our amazing volunteers, we have been able to remove over 1183 pounds of debris and approximately 4.67 miles of fishing line so far.



Our First Ten Youth EcoDivers Graduate!

We are happy to announce that in October, ten young Antiguan graduates from our first two EcoDiver programs. These students all received their PADI Advanced Open Water diver certificates and learned about a wide range of marine conservation issues. They have all become our newest Volunteer Dive team members. Thanks to our two generous sponsors, we have two more programs scheduled for 2026.



Remote Coastal Cleanups

Our 85 members of our Wild Coast Cleaners group have been doing a great job in not only conducting initial cleans, but also of 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, Willoughby Bay coastline, and remote beaches inside of St John's Harbour. While we recycle some of the debris, if possible, ABOT is currently in discussions with international partners regarding ways we can better upcycle our Abandoned, Lost, Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and our endless number of locally distributed single-use water bottles.

2025 At-A-Glance

Number of ABOT Volunteers	136
Number of Volunteer Days	659
Hours of Underwater Cleaning	353
Approximate # of Miles of Fishing Lines Cleared from Reefs	10+
Number of Fishing weights removed	3107
Pounds of trash removed from our waters	4,447
Cubic feet of debris removed from our remote beaches	5600+



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

Support Us

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

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



aboceantrust



Antigua & Barbuda Ocean Trust



<https://abocean.org>



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ABOT Volunteer Dive Team

ABOT has been fortunate to have established a wonderful group of over 65 volunteer divers who give up their time to help us clean the reefs around our coastline. So far, they have cumulatively spent over 353 hours underwater this year as they gently remove miles and miles of entangled fishing line, discarded fishing gear and other debris that washes up on our reefs. Our team members range from very experienced Dive Instructors and Dive Masters to newly certified divers from our youth EcoDiver program. Our days on the water can be challenging at times, but our wonderful team members always make it very fun, while making a difference.

Safe Sunscreen

After three years of highlighting the negative effects of toxic sunscreens on our marine environment and on ourselves, the government of Antigua and Barbuda recently created a group of government officials and NGOs to implement a plan to ban these toxic chemicals going forward. ABOT has been invited to take part in these discussions and has offered to assist in any planned community education initiatives. We are continuing to broaden our reach with updated posters and communications with hotels, tour operators, dive/watersports shops and retailers. The government is hoping to have these bans in place by mid-2026. We will be looking for numerous volunteers to help with this initiative once the government finalizes their plans.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

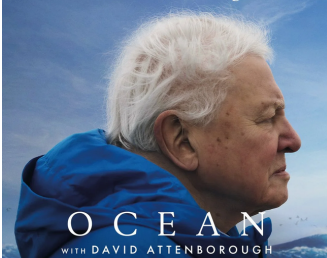
Just because a sunscreen says it's "Reef-Safe" does not mean that it really is?

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



Only Use
Non-Nano
Zinc

"If we save the sea, we save our world"
– David Attenborough



ABOT Movie Nights

Due to the popularity of our first few movie nights, we are planning on making these events a more regular occurrence in 2026. We were fortunate to have received permission from the film makers to show "Ocean with David Attenborough" shortly after its release date. We are also in discussions with several film companies to show other marine conservation and ocean-themed films. A big thank you to Dina and Andrew for the use of their wonderful venue at Bodicharya!

IWC70 Meeting

The next International Whaling Commission meeting (IWC70) is scheduled to take place in September, 2026 in Hobart, Australia. During the last IWC meeting in 2024, Antigua and Barbuda submitted a resolution that would ultimately lift the decades-old moratorium on commercial whaling, which did not end up passing. ABOT is currently in discussions with other NGOs and individuals to encourage our government to change its position on this resolution.



ABOT Sponsors



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

ABOUT ABOT: Antigua & Barbuda Ocean Trust (ABOT) is a registered non-profit marine conservation organization (CO202/2023) that was incorporated in October 2023. We have no paid staff members and we are a 100% volunteer-based non-profit. We rely entirely on donations, fundraising events, sponsorships and on our annual membership program to keep our projects going. Please contact us to obtain copies of our Certificate of Incorporation and our latest financial report. Directors: Julie Harvey Esty, Louis Evans, Eloise Green, Blake Rose and Tim Woodward.