

[From Fall 1995]

1995 Beach Cleanup a Big Success

The 1995 fall beach cleanup at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, held on Saturday, September 16, was a huge success. Refuge Manager John D. Schroer would like to thank the many volunteers who removed a large amount of trash from over 14 miles of refuge beach.

Every year, thousands of marine animals die due to the direct effects of litter in our oceans and lakes. Ocean debris such as rope, nets, and monofilament fishing line entangle turtles, sea birds, marine mammals, and fish. Also, plastic bags and balloons are mistaken for food and ingested by sea turtles and other animals. Tons of such litter wash up on America's beaches each year and, unfortunately, the pristine beach on Assateague Island is not immune to such debris.

The beach cleanup was a success due to the involvement of the following organizations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon Naturalist Society, National Park Service, County of Accomack, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, Town of Chincoteague, U.S. Coast Guard, Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, Assateague Coastal Trust, and students from Chincoteague High Against Pollution. Each organization's contribution was of paramount importance to the success of the event. All participants are commended for taking pride in the environment and The Chincoteague National Wildlife refuge.