

17th Patong Coastal and Reef Cleanup on 1st Nov 2007

The event to clean up the beach and the ocean in Patong bay, helped raise awareness to the public, tourist, and business sector around Patong, involving everyone in the conservation of our coral reefs in Phuket. Activities over the day included the Release of 8 young turtles from Phuket Marine Biological Center into the sea. A Beach clean up by local students and an underwater clean up race in the bay. Green Fins Display.

Due to the fact that different types of waste materials affect coral at various levels and some can be more difficult to collect and therefore need more delicate techniques and time to remove. Therefore, marks were allocated by Kg depending on items collected and the risk they pose to coral reefs.

1. Fishing and line 15 marks per 1 kg.
2. Plastic materials, paper, cloth 10 mark per 1 kg.
3. Rope 1 mark per 2 kg.
4. Wood, metal 1 mark per 10 kg.
5. Other materials 1 mark per 10 kg.



It is recommended that natural materials such as coral fragment, Algae etc No mater alive or dead should not be collected. If it is collected, the mark will be decreased 1 mark per 1 kg.

Record showing the collected garbage within the Patong Bay from 2002-2006

Type of Garbage	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Glass and ceramic	0	11.5	1.1	20.3	16.7	16.3
Fishing gear	661.9	803.7	1,217.9	131.3	369.6	474.2
Fabric and paper	0	13.1	33.5	2.5	22.8	23.3
Plastic and foam	48.8	43.9	9.3	17	128.7	43.9
Wood	0	150.6	31.7	242.1	458.2	53.9
Metal	207.1	186.5	140.4	49.8	54.5	213.1
Miscellaneous	140.9	203.1	50	1.8	34.9	205.4
Total/ Kilogram	1,058.7	1,412.4	1,483.9	464.8	1,085.4	1,030.1

The records showed garbage found comes mainly from Household Items and fishing boats. They included fishing net; drift wood, and construction material, anchors, tires, plastic, fabric and glass bottles (mostly alcohol containers). **This Garbage can be recycled, including the small pieces of fishing nets.** Fishermen normally dump straight into the ocean while they fix their tools and equipment. Once the nets cover the coral reef, not only do they damage the scenery but also cause the coral and reef fish to die. The tangled net traps the sediment which blocks the sunlight causing the coral to die, therefore reducing the biodiversity of the underwater environment as indirect impact.

There is much more garbage from humans under the sea. In order to conserve the coral reef for sustainable tourism, cooperation from all is required. Some simple ways we can all help are; use of mooring buoy instead of anchoring on the reef, not throwing any garbage into the ocean and environment and disposing of it appropriately on land, not stepping or standing on the coral reef and carefully fishing in areas surrounded by coral reefs.

Congratulations to the winners and the 19 teams who attended to clean up Patong.

1st winner team is **Number 1** - 897 scores with No. 74 long tail boat. (4000B)

2nd winner team is **Urak-Rawouy** – 858.6 scores with No. 16 long tail boat. (3000B)

3rd winner team is **Nok Samkha** – 494.1 scores with No. 50 long tail boat. (2000B)

This event was organized by Department of Marine & Coastal Resources, Patong Municipal, Patong Long-Tail Boat Club, Phuket Marine and Coastal Resources Network, Phuket Travel and Sport Center and the Tourism and Business Sector.

