



## The National Aquarium is honored to be part of the **Our Ocean 2017** conference.

Today, we make the following commitments:

- *To divert at least one million single-use plastic bottles from the waste stream by 2020*
- *To decrease plastic throughout our operations by 50 percent by 2020*

Concurrently, as part of our broader efforts to decrease the amount of plastic pollution in our ocean, we will continue to conduct business without the use of single-use plastic bags or foodware.

We are proud to be one of the first aquariums in the U.S. to join the World Aquariums Against Marine Litter Campaign and be a founding member of the Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP).

The ACP is a consortium of 19 United States aquariums collaborating to combat plastic pollution. The collaboration's inaugural campaign shared plastic pollution messaging with over 120 million people this summer, and all member organizations are committed to eliminating single-use plastic straws and bags, as well as showcasing innovative alternatives in their operations.

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### National Aquarium Plastic Pollution Reduction Initiatives

- More than 15,000 guests have pledged to take a pass on plastic.
- Starting in 2014, we stopped the distribution of single-use water bottles and straws in our Cafés, and have since phased out all single-use plastic foodware. These changes will keep an estimated 300,000 single-use plastic bottles out of the waste stream annually.
- We have reduced plastic item inventory in our stores by 25 percent.
- Since 2014, over 730,000 plastic bottles have been diverted as a result of water filling stations in the Aquarium.
- We continue to look for innovative ways to recycle plastic throughout our campus, including using carpet made from discarded fishing nets from the Philippines in our Gift Shop.
- We are the Maryland state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Day.
- Since 1999, the National Aquarium has worked with more than 5,000 volunteers to clean up more than 1 million pieces of litter.

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The Organization's conservation priorities are climate change and resiliency, urban conservation and diversity, and the inextricable link between ocean and human health.

The National Aquarium is a nonprofit organization focused on changing the way humanity cares for our ocean planet. Through unparalleled exhibits, science-based education programs and hands-on field initiatives, we are creating a new community of hopeful conservationists, driven by our mission to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures.

For more information, visit [aqua.org](http://aqua.org) or email [info@aqua.org](mailto:info@aqua.org)  
For press assistance, email [media@aqua.org](mailto:media@aqua.org)