Dive Against Debris

Since 2013, Big Blue has been organising clean up dives every 3 months. Volunteer divers pick up litter and rubbish that has made its way into the ocean.

The Data

Number of Dive Against Debris days	12
Number of individual dives	138
Kilograms of rubbish collected	3767
Number of pieces of rubbish collected	8820
Number of pieces plastic collected	3,327

The dives are survey dives as well as rubbish collecting dives. All the debris is collected and then sorted and counted. The results are uploaded to the Project Aware global database. The data from divers all over the world, including Vanuatu, are contributing to the figures that are used to influence decision-makers at the top levels.

38% of what we have collected is made of plastic. This is different to the beach clean up where 77% of the rubbish is plastic. The difference is because a lot of plastics float. The rubbish floats and is carried away on the currents and tides. The UV light from the sun degrades it and it breaks into smaller pieces then continues to float in the ocean amongst the plankton.

We find a lot of things that should never end up in the ocean. Some things get there from being thrown directly in to the water but most get washed there when they have been dropped on the street or the beach. Most of what we find is food and drink related, followed closely by household items.

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The International Cleanup is an initiative of Project Aware