



Action today so future generations can enjoy ocean activities



Clean Ocean Access (COA) is requesting the communities of Newport County (Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport, and Jamestown) to create an ordinance for the elimination of single-use carryout check out bags. It makes good sense for the community of Newport County to develop and implement this ordinance in a uniform and consistent manner.

COA supports the benefits of eliminating single-use plastic bags, as we have removed 15,097 plastic bags from the shoreline since 2013 and the percentage has increased each year. Newport County is dependent on a healthy ocean, it makes sense that ocean health is a constant priority and we are seen as a leader for environmental sustainability.

The bag ordinance should have a strong message of sustainability with a focus on reducing the amount of material consumed, rather than recycling. It is not a question of “paper or plastic”, it needs a theme of “bring your own” with a focus on durable reusable bags.

The negative impact of single-use plastic bags is real. Caught in storm drains and it can lead to flooding, constantly are seen in trees and bushes, very difficult to remove, and can reduce ecosystem connectivity. They create artificial environments for water to pool rather than being absorbed into the ground, allowing for mosquitoes to breed. Bags break down into tiny pieces, can absorb toxins, and can become part of our food chain. The impact to marine life is perhaps the most visible in today’s world, the bags look just like jellyfish and are ingested mistakenly by sea life, and more and more we are hearing of dead marine life that contain some form of plastic.

COA believes that the elimination of single-use plastic is a good first step to tickle moral persuasion so people start making better choices with a goal of reducing all single-use plastics. Thank you for protecting and improving the environment of Newport County.