

biodegradation: A process by which microorganisms break materials down into compounds that can be reused in the environment.

buoyant: Capable of floating in water.

degradable: Capable of being broken down into smaller pieces by natural forces.

disposal: The permanent storage or removal of trash from the environment.

entanglement: The looping of a piece of debris around part of an animal's body. Entanglement may impair swimming and feeding, cause suffocation, decrease ability to elude predators, and cause open wounds.

ghost fishing: The capability of lost or discarded fishing gear, such as nets, traps, or fishing line, to continue to catch fish, shellfish, or other marine life.

marine debris: Objects that are found in the marine environment but do not naturally occur there.

medical waste: waste that comes from hospitals or other medical institutions and that may be infectious. Medical waste includes needles, bandages, glassware, and other items.

plastic resin pellets: Small, round pellets that are the raw form of plastic. Resin pellets are melted down and used to form plastic products.

recycling: The collection and reprocessing of materials so they can be used again.

source: A place or activity that generates trash that enters the marine environment.

stormwater runoff: The water that flows along streets or along the ground as a result of a storm.

