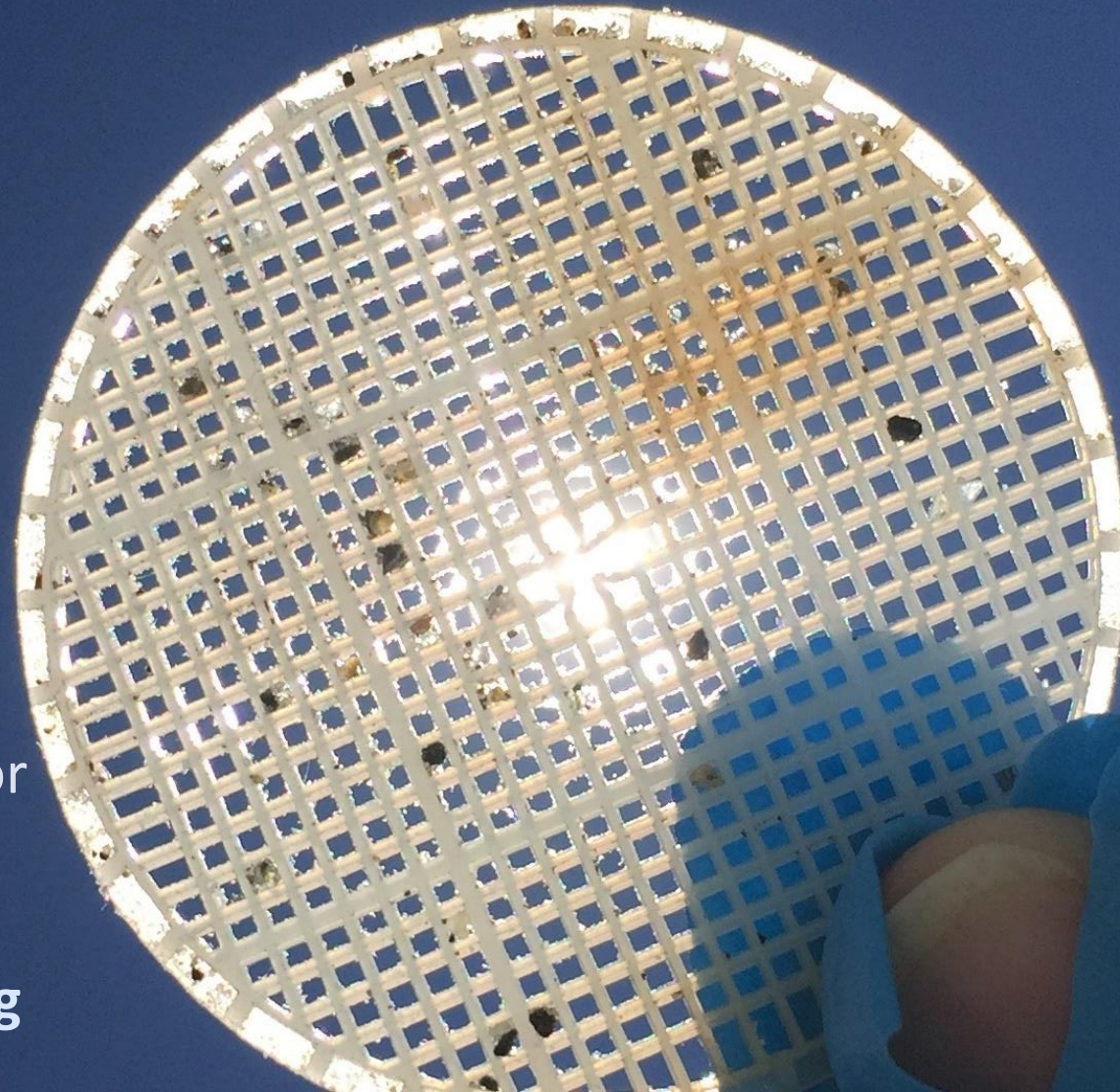


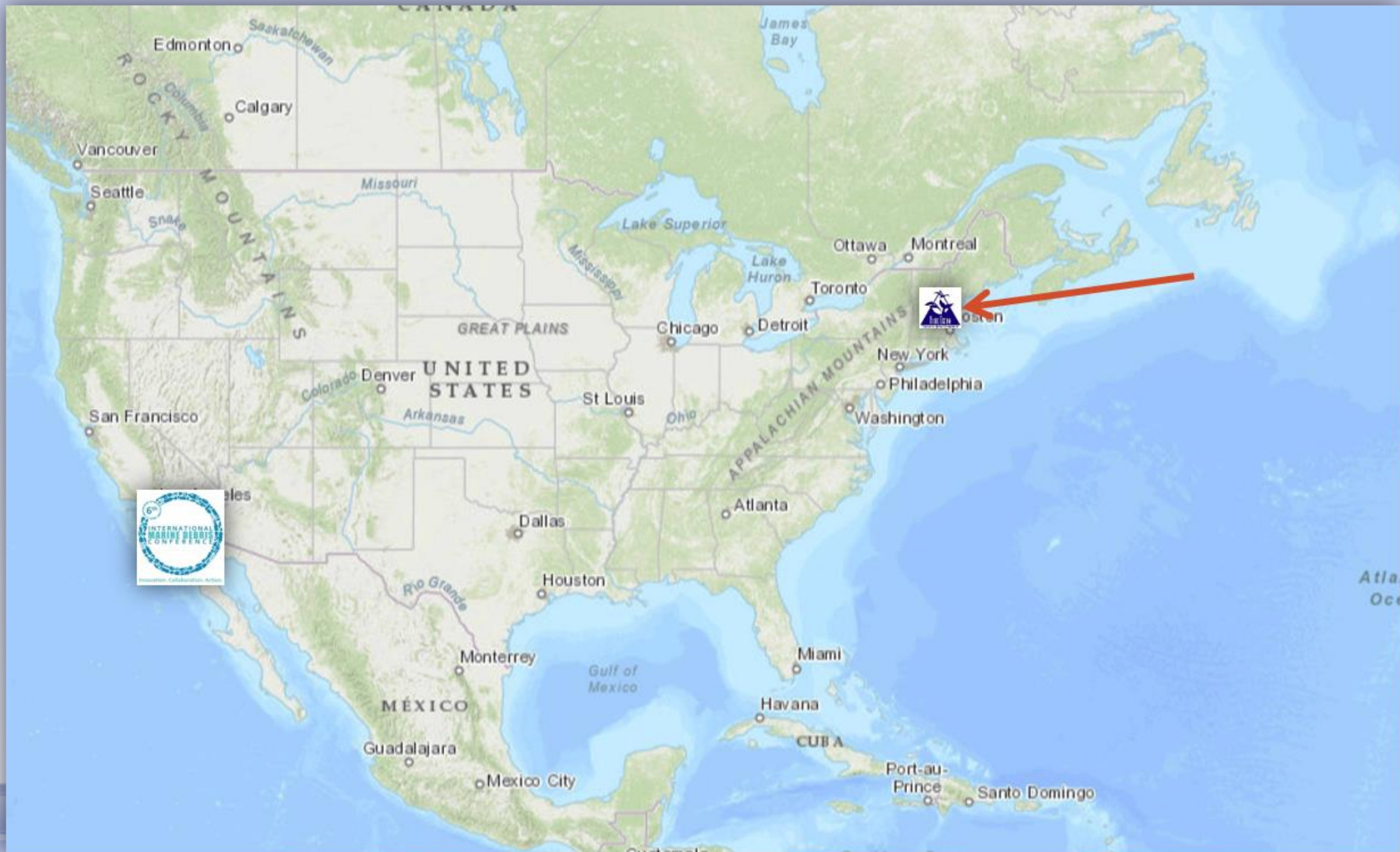
From New England to England

A Tale of Traveling Disks



Jen Kennedy, Exec. Director
Blue Ocean Society for
Marine Conservation
jen@blueoceansociety.org





Major Programs



Marine Debris Research and Cleanup



Outreach to Schools



Whale Watches & Whale Research



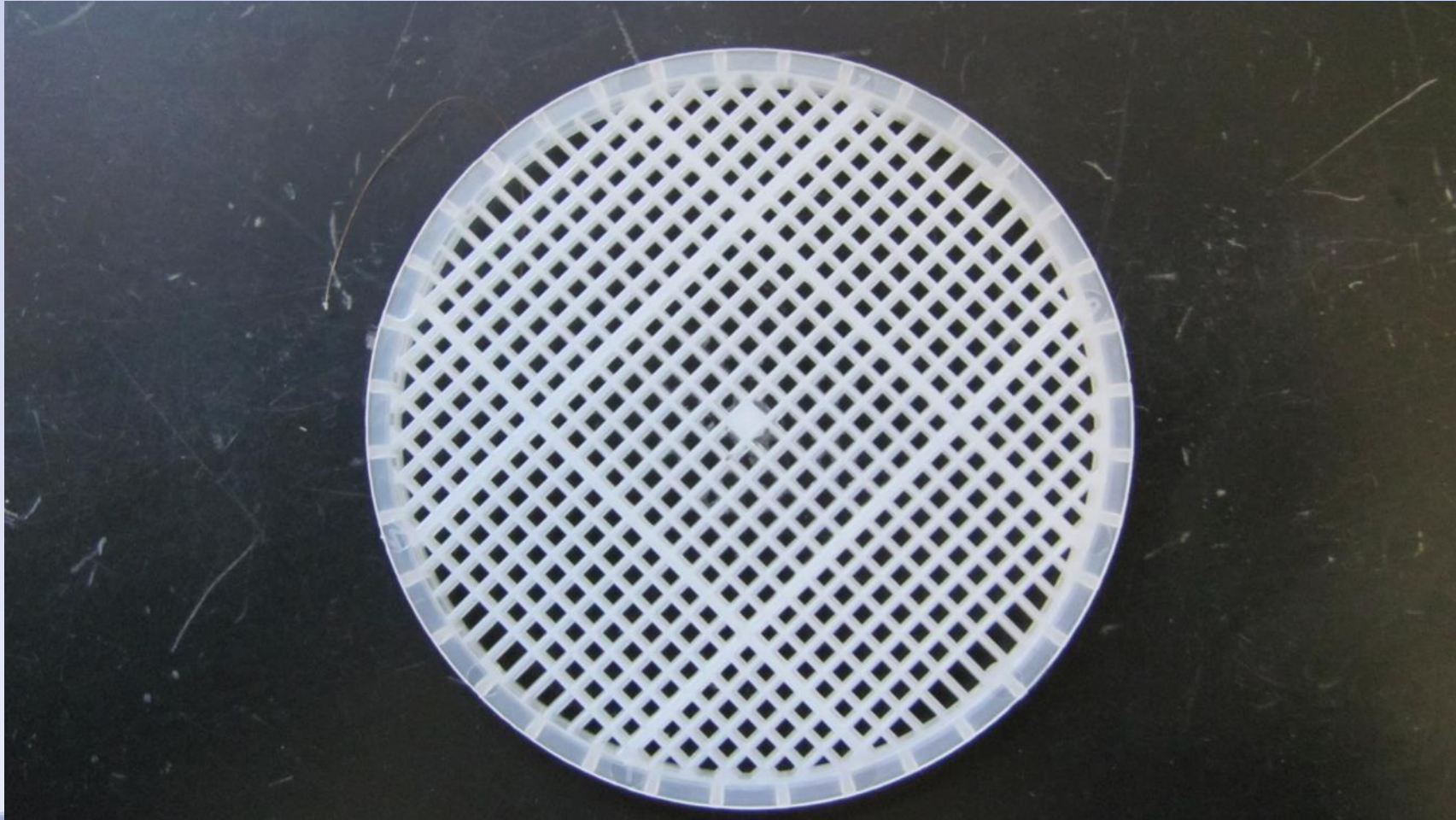
Blue Ocean Discovery Center

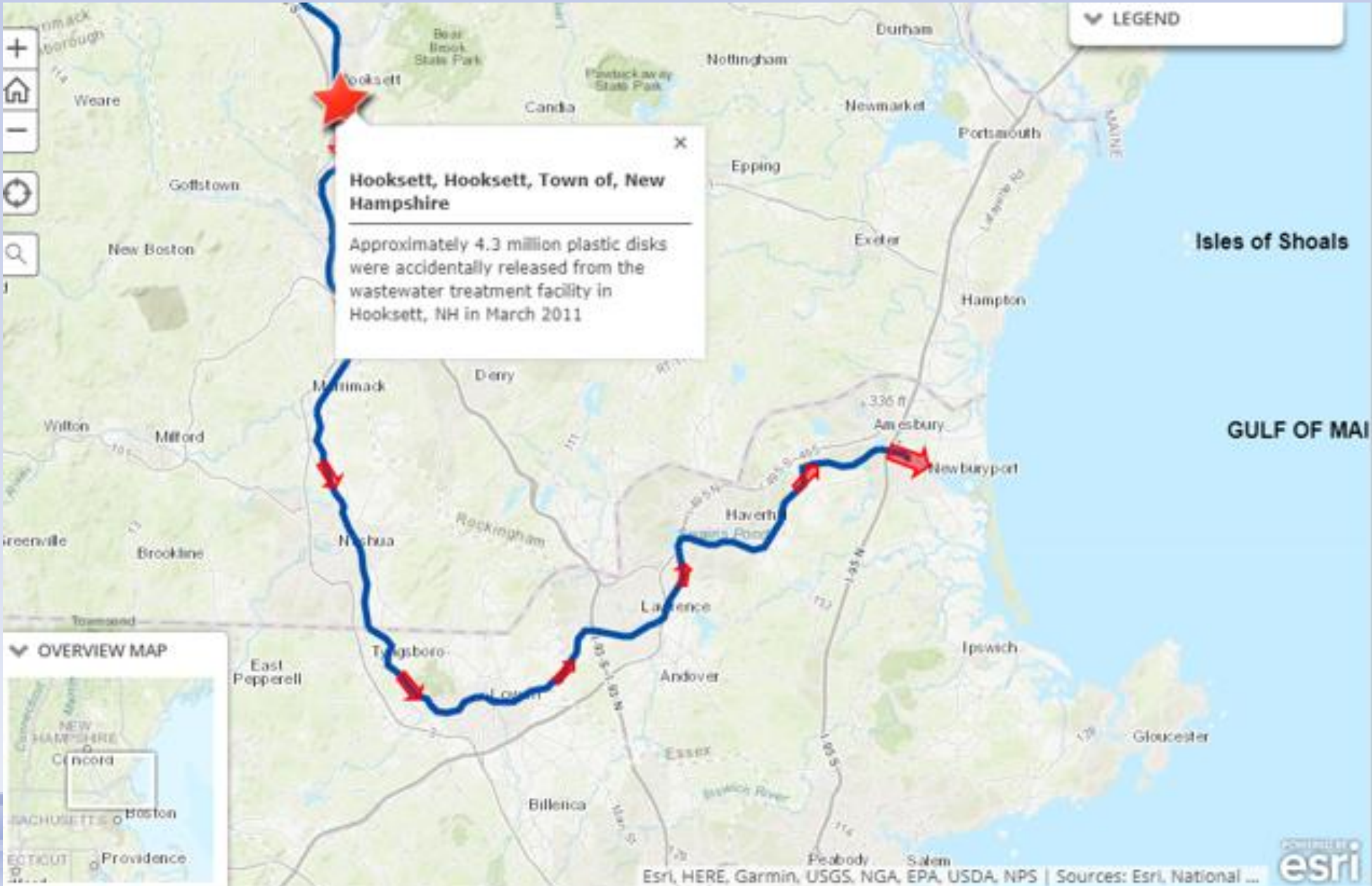
Marine Debris Projects

- Beach cleanups
 - Mainland, Isles of Shoals
 - Since 2001, removed more than 179,000 pounds (81,193 kg) of litter from coastline and Isles of Shoals
- Offshore observations
- Microplastics
- Data → Action



How Trash Travels







ashvaprana_barre_yoga_ • Following
Tiptoe Mountain



22 likes

ashvaprana_barre_yoga_ It was on our list to
Disk. Louisa FOUND one!! Hooksett Disk! Vinalh



SMS/MMS

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

A



Laurie Marshall Holbrook ▸ Blue Ocean Society for
Marine Conservation

December 6, 2017 · 🌐

Look what washed up on Cable today! (Reported to DES)



Salish
at ra

right?



newquaybeachco...

FOLLOW

114 likes

2w

newquaybeachcombing In 2011, millions of these plastic disks were accidentally washed out of a wastewater treatment plant in Hooksett, USA and into the Merrimack river. We regularly find them washed up on our beautiful Cornish beaches here in England. I found this one washed up a few days ago. Nearby was a lobster tag from Canada.

Sometimes the disks are complete. Sometimes we just find fragments.

#hooksett #hooksettdisk #merrimack #newhampshire #flotsam #strandline #washedup #beach #beachcombed #beachclean #cleanbeach #beachfind #beachfinds #beachcombing #beachcomber #plasticpollutes #plasticpollution #Marinedebris #2minutebeachclean #litterati #oceandebris #marinelitter #oceanplastic #oceanlitter

newquaybeachcombing @blueoceansoc

Log in to like or comment.

...

Story Maps

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Harness the power of maps to tell yours.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com>

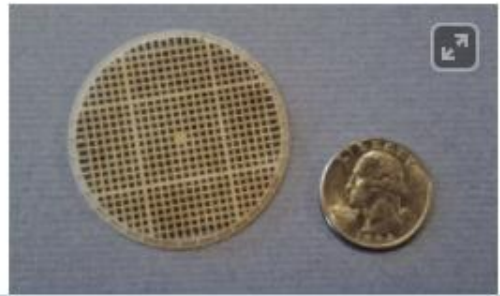
Get the latest Story Maps news delivered directly to you. Sign up today.



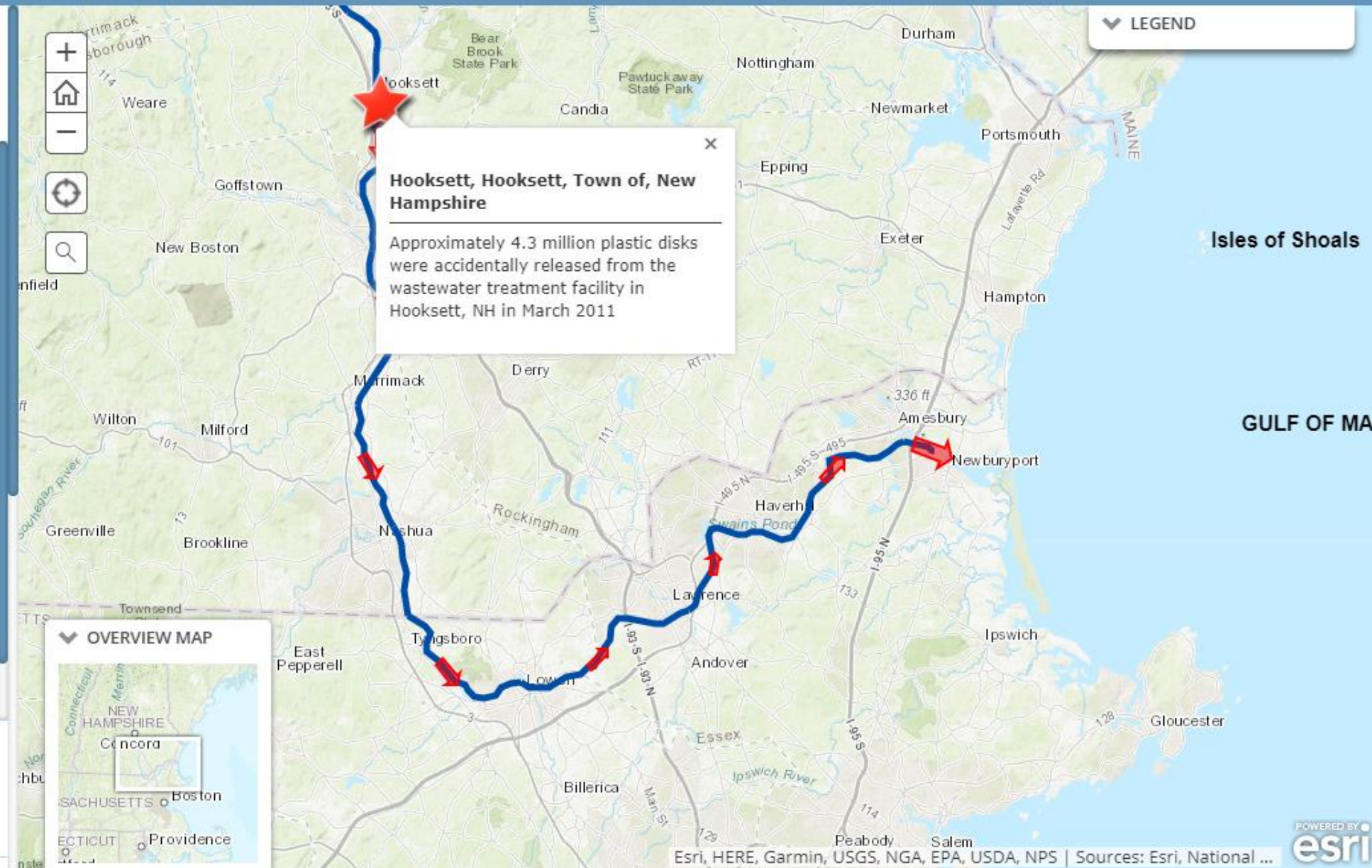
1 The Accidental Spill

On March 6, 2011, over 4 million plastic disks were accidentally discharged from the wastewater treatment plant in Hooksett, NH. The disks, also known as biofilm chips, were designed to assist with water treatment by providing additional surface area for bacteria to remove excess nutrients from the wastewater.

The white disks are about 2 inches in diameter. They were released into the Merrimack River, which is the thick blue line shown on the map. This river provided a pathway for the disks to reach the Gulf of Maine.



2 The Clean-Up





1 The Accidental Spill

2 The Clean-Up

Beachgoers and boaters began finding the disks along the Merrimack River and on area beaches. One month after the spill, volunteers picked up hundreds of the disks during a beach cleanup in Provincetown, MA.

The town of Hooksett hired ENPRO Environmental Services to organize the cleanup effort. They also partnered with Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, NH Department of Environmental Services, local towns and other organizations to communicate with beachgoers and engage volunteers in picking up and reporting disks found on area beaches.



The Story of the Hooksett Disks

2 The Clean-Up

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Disks found at Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown on April 8, 2011

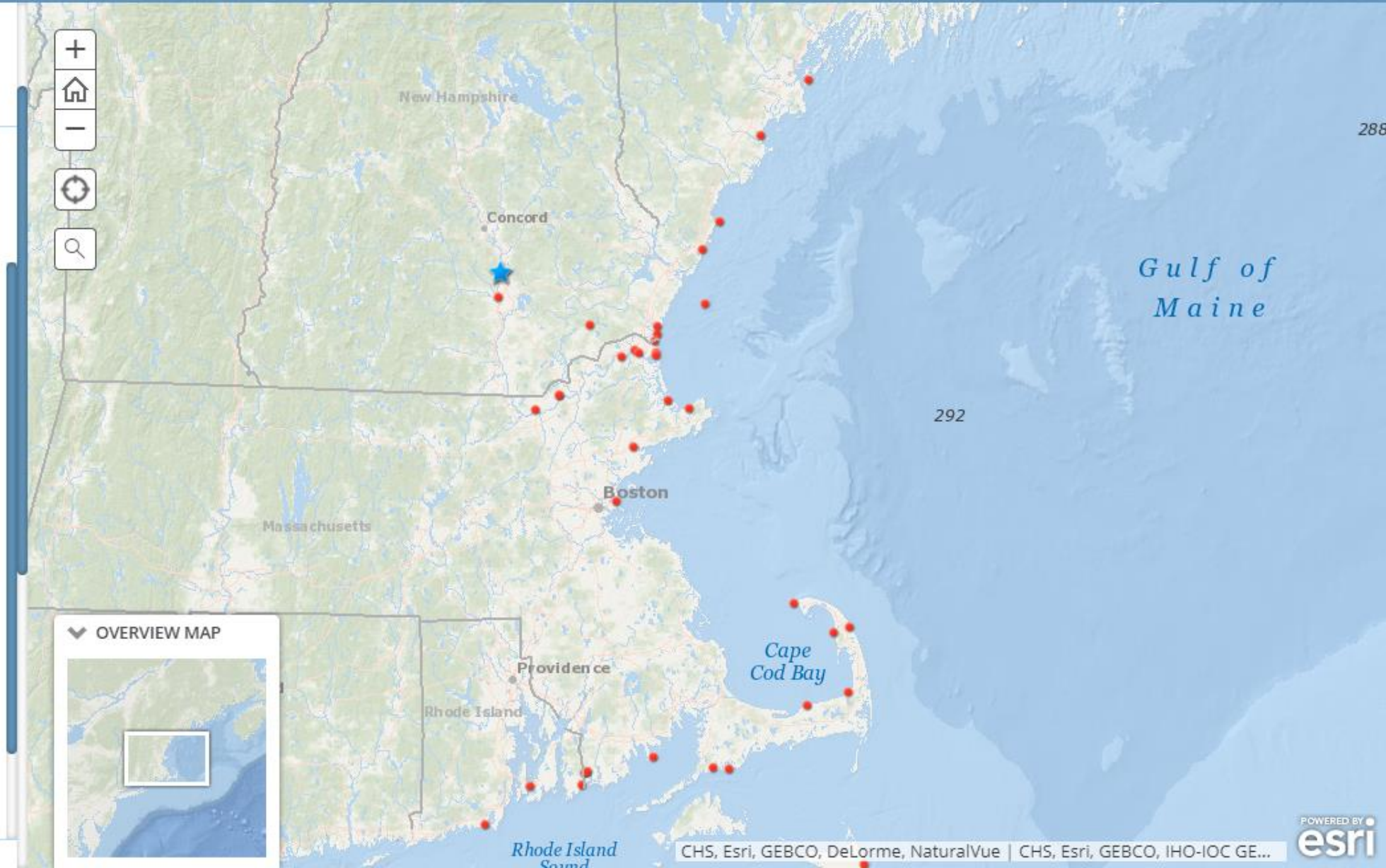
3 Tracking the Disks



2 The Clean-Up

3 Tracking the Disks

Soon after the spill in March 2011, the New Hampshire Coastal Protection Partnership created a Google Map to track reports of disks. These reports were incorporated into the map shown here. The red dots represent reports of disks from the public. In addition to the reports shown here, ENPRO Environmental Services picked up approximately 4 million disks (over 90% of those released; not mapped here) along the coastline from March-September 2011.





4 Across the Ocean...

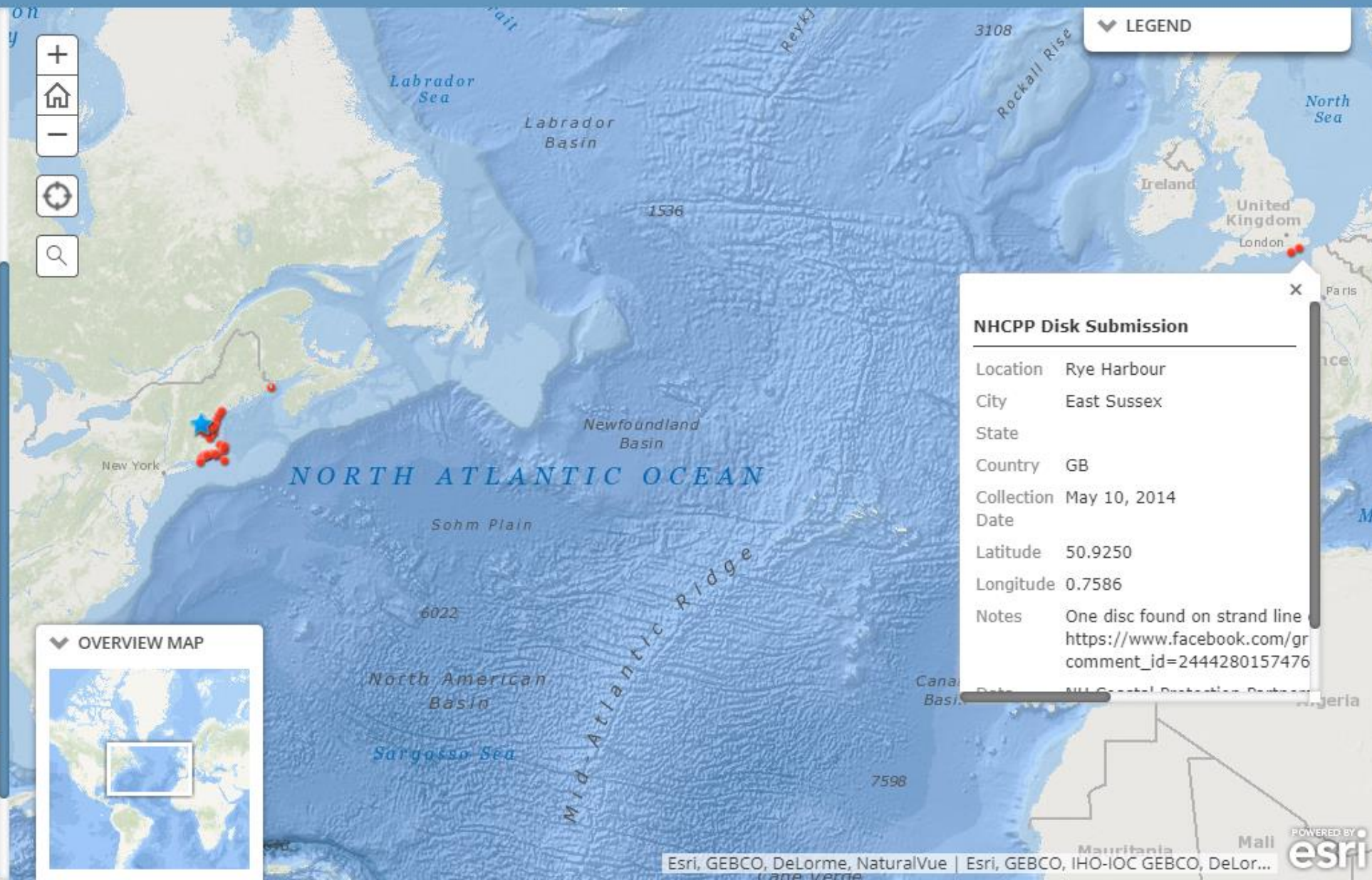
As the months and years wore on, reports of disks continued to come in from various sources, and Blue Ocean Society continued to find the disks at beach cleanups. In 2014-2015, reports started coming in from England - those disks had made a journey of over 3,000 miles!



Google map showing New England, USA and England, United Kingdom

5 Have You Seen a Disk? We Want to Hear from You!

6 Report Your Sighting!




LEGEND

NHCPP Disk Submission

Location	Rye Harbour
City	East Sussex
State	
Country	GB
Collection Date	May 10, 2014
Latitude	50.9250
Longitude	0.7586
Notes	One disc found on strand line https://www.facebook.com/grcomment_id=2444280157476

OVERVIEW MAP

POWERED BY 



4 Across the Ocean...

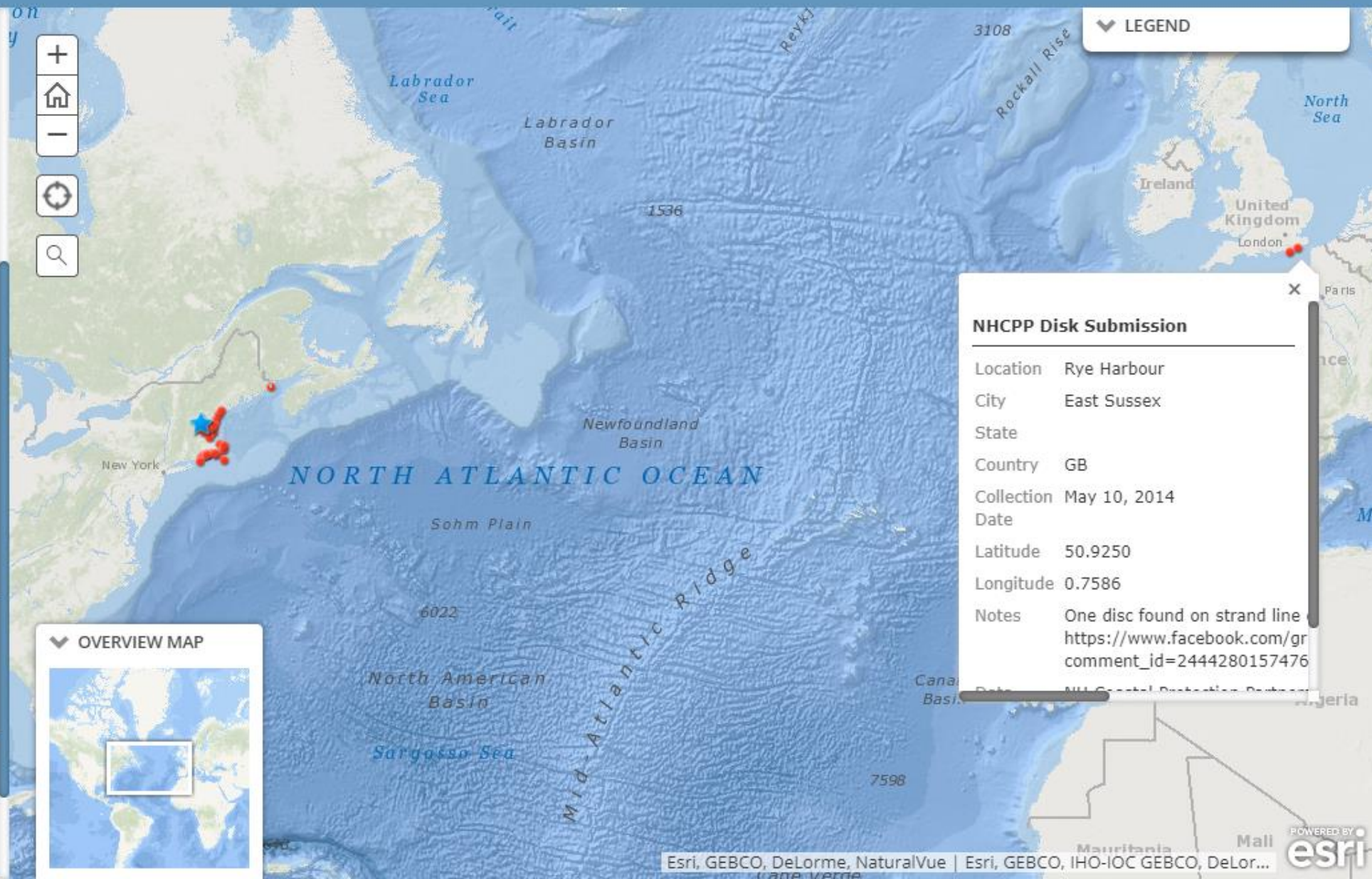
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Notes	One disc found on strand line https://www.facebook.com/grcomment_id=2444280157476

OVERVIEW MAP

Map labels: Labrador Sea, Labrador Basin, Newfoundland Basin, North Atlantic Ocean, Sargasso Sea, Mid-Atlantic Ridge, North American Basin, Canada Basin, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, United Kingdom, London, Ireland, Paris, France, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria.

Map controls: +, Home, -, Refresh, Search.

Map features: New York, Rye Harbour, 3108, 1536, 6022, 7598.



The story of the Hooksett Disks

5 Have You Seen a Disk? We Want to Hear from You!

Have you seen a Hooksett disk? We are cataloging disk sightings from around the world, and trying to gather all the disk reports into one map.

You might find a disk at the beach, along a river, while kayaking or swimming, so keep an eye out and submit your sighting!



Disk found at a beach cleanup

6 Report Your Sighting!





4 Across the Ocean...

5 Have You Seen a Disk? We Want to Hear from You!

6 Report Your Sighting!

Click the + Report Disk Sighting(s) button to report your sighting! Please include a photo. Thank you for your contribution to this project! Your reports will help us learn more about how trash travels, and educate people about our impacts on the environment.



Explore!

In addition to reporting your own disk sighting, you can view other disks reported so far. To view sightings, click Explore Map. Click on a sighting dot to see details about each sighting. By zooming out, you can see all the sighting locations reported across the world.



Hooksett Disk Map

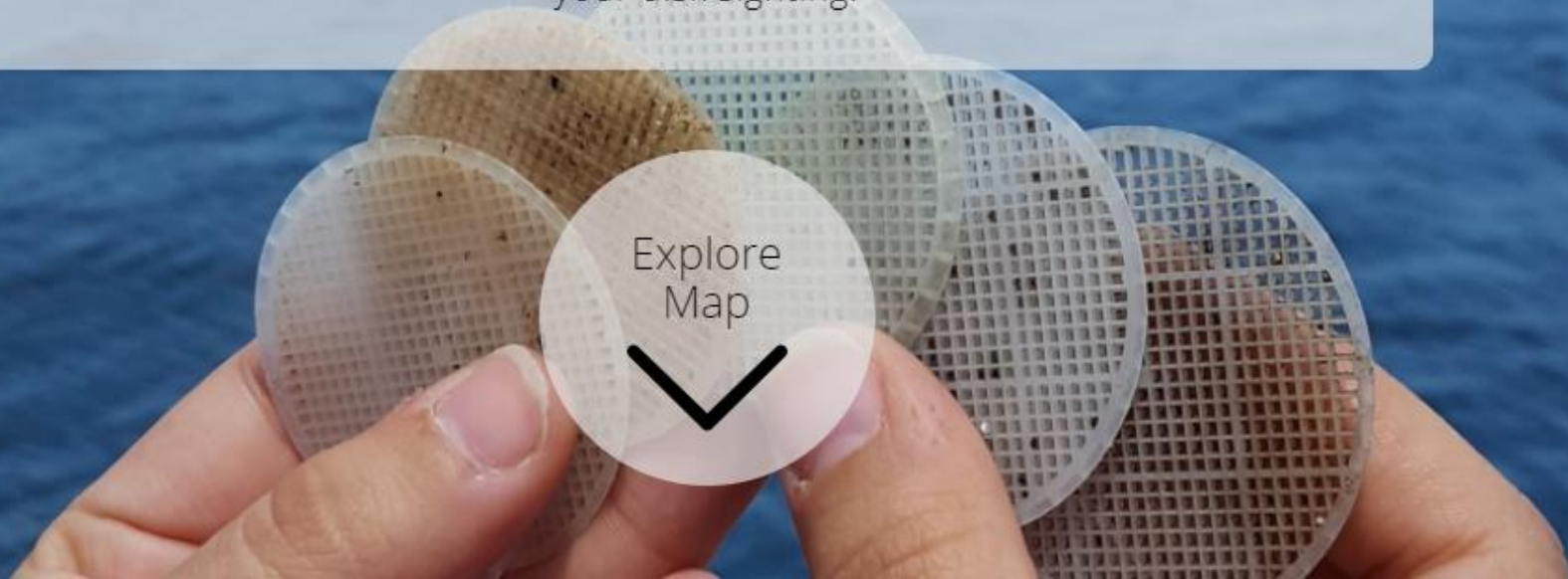
[+ Report Disk Sighting\(s\)](#)



Hooksett Disk Map

Have you found disks like these? The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation is cataloging all the "Hooksett disks" found throughout the world. Use our "Report Disk Sighting" form to upload the location and photos from your disk sighting.

Explore
Map





4 Across the Ocean...

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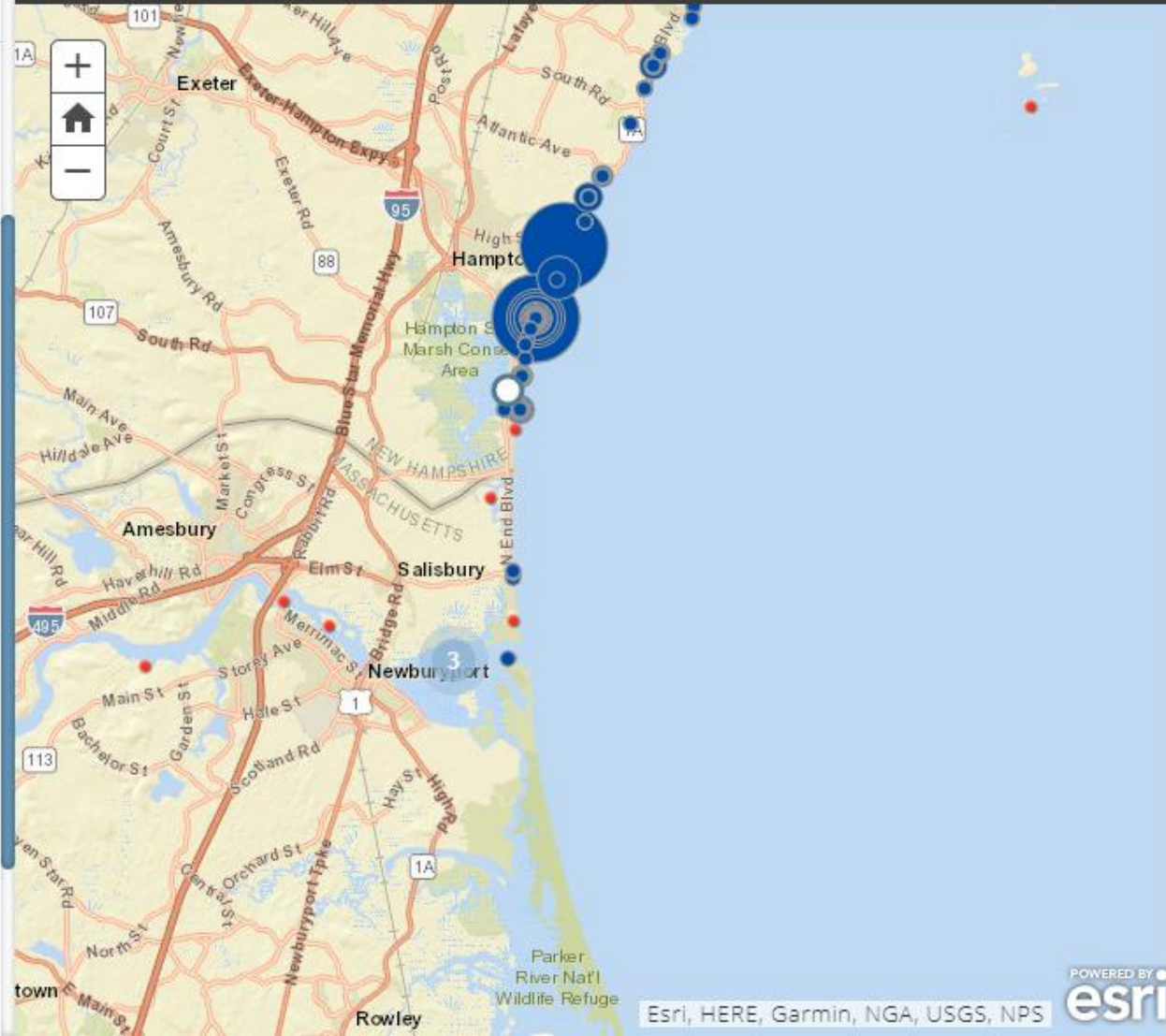


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Hooksett Disk Map



Sign In

Sign in with ArcGIS

Sign in with Facebook

Sign in with Google

Continue as Guest

To participate, please use one of the options above.

Close

Report Your Disk Sighting



Disk Photo *


By submitting this photo you consent to allow the Blue Ocean Society the right to use the photo and data in our research, education, web site, social media and other materials. Drag and Drop
or
Click to pick a file

Title *

e.g., Beach name or site where found

Location *

Use Lat and Long or the buttons below to locate your disk sighting

 Find on Map

Disk Description *

Enter a description (200 words or fewer please)

Number of Disks *

Enter number of disks found

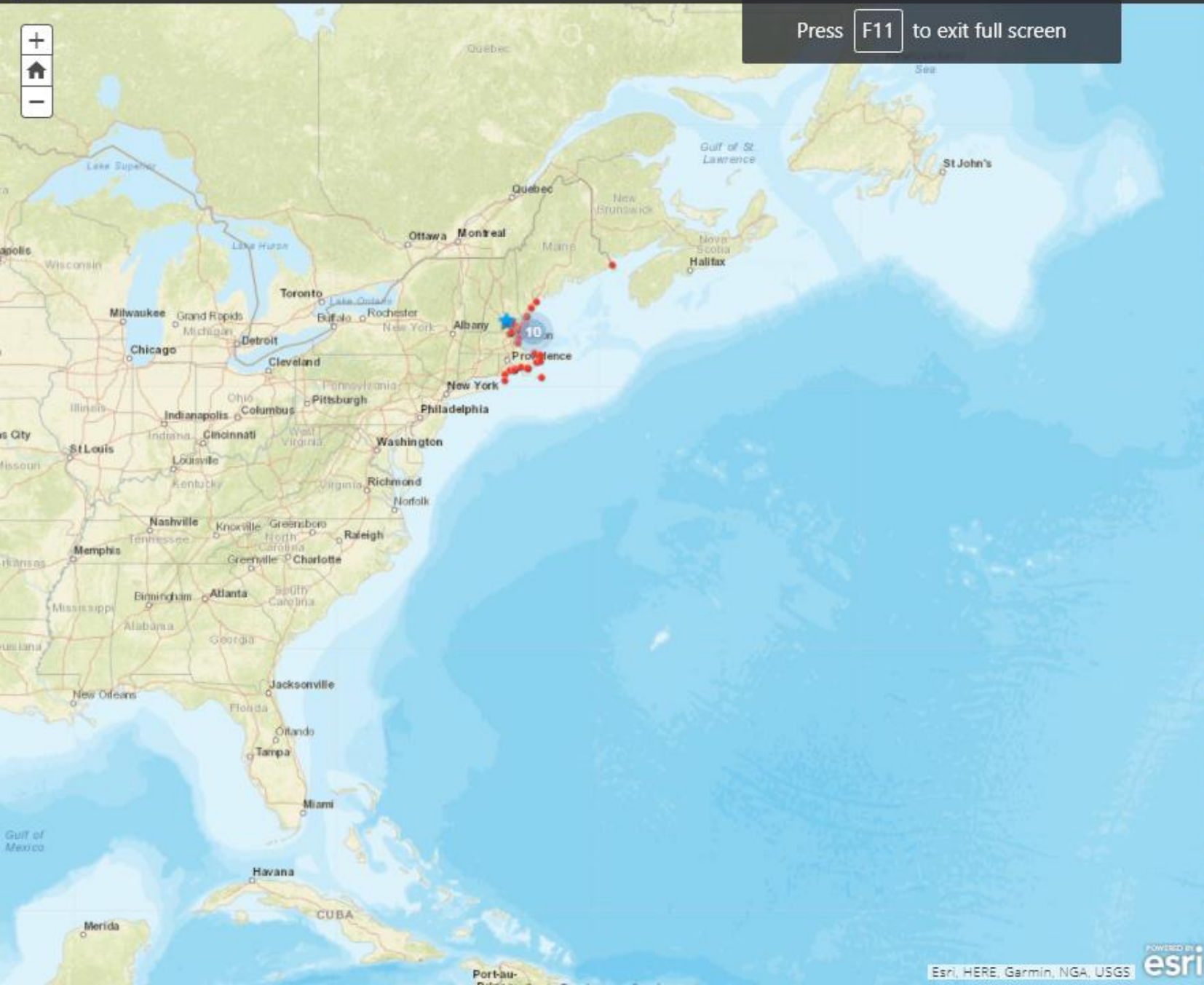
Disk Condition *

Disk whole or part of a disk

[Show terms and conditions](#)



Press **F11** to exit full screen



Long Beach, at Marblehead Neck



Pleasant Bay, Chatham, Cape Cod



Brave Boat Harbor



Nauset Beach Orleans Mass



Seabrook Harbor



Provincetown-Herring Cove



On dock at Plum Island Point



Newburyport, MA



Bar Harbor



Salisbury Beach State Reservation



The story of the Hooksett Disks

5 Have You Seen a Disk?
We Want to Hear from
You!

6 Report Your Sighting!

7 Learn More

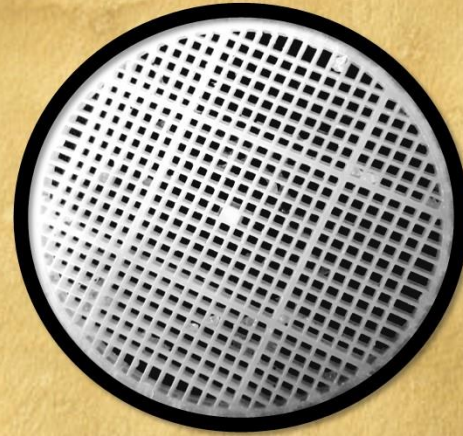
All trash can travel, although it may not be as easy to track as these disks. Litter in the ocean or on land can be harmful to wildlife and humans and expensive to clean up.

Want to help?

- Always dispose of your trash responsibly.
- Use less plastic, especially single use disposable plastic such as bottled drinks, foam cups, straws and plastic grocery bags.
- Join a beach cleanup, adopt a beach, or participate in marine debris research! [Click here for details](#)
- [Volunteer](#) with Blue Ocean Society to help us spread the word!



WANTED



DISK SIGHTINGS **— Reward —**

Bragging rights and the knowledge that you're helping a local organization learn about and fight marine pollution

www.ReportDisks.org



What is that thing?

In 2011, over 4 million two-inch white plastic disks were accidentally discharged from the wastewater treatment plant in Hooksett, NH. We are cataloging reports of these disks. Questions? E-mail jen@blueoceansociety.org or call (603) 431-0260

Lessons Learned/Limitations

- Difficulties in account set up/ server issues
- Limited customization for Story Maps / Crowdsourced maps
- Can we incorporate ALL the sightings?
- Other spills – double-checking that all these sightings are really from Hooksett

Thank You



University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

Michael Toepfer, UNH Cooperative Extension



New Hampshire
Coastal Program

All the cleanup volunteers and beachcombers!

www.travelingtrash.org



Questions?