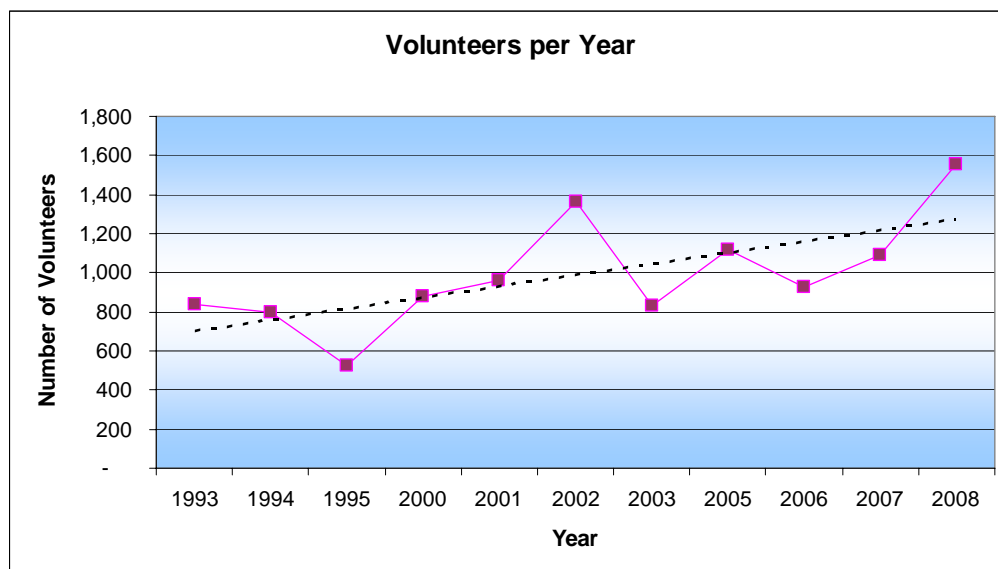


Volunteer Recruitment

Figure 7 shows the number of volunteers participating in the cleanup each year. There was a general increasing trend in participation rate over the years, with a range of 800 to 1,557 volunteers. Given that there is an increasing trend in participation, potential volunteers seem more aware of the cleanup and/or more likely to participate, possibly because of increasing environmental trends.

Figure 7. New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup volunteers per year, 2008.

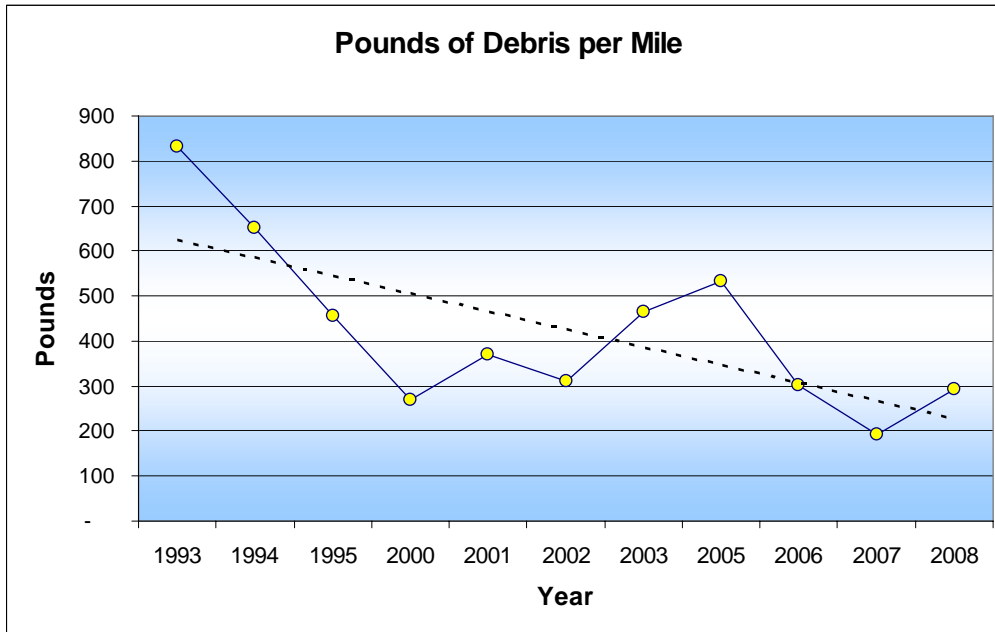


Items and Pounds

Since particular items collected can influence the pounds collected (e.g. collecting many heavy metal items may skew the pounds collected upward), it is helpful to look at a ratio of pounds collected per mile, and number of items recorded per mile, to see if these figures changed much over the past 15 years (Figure 8).

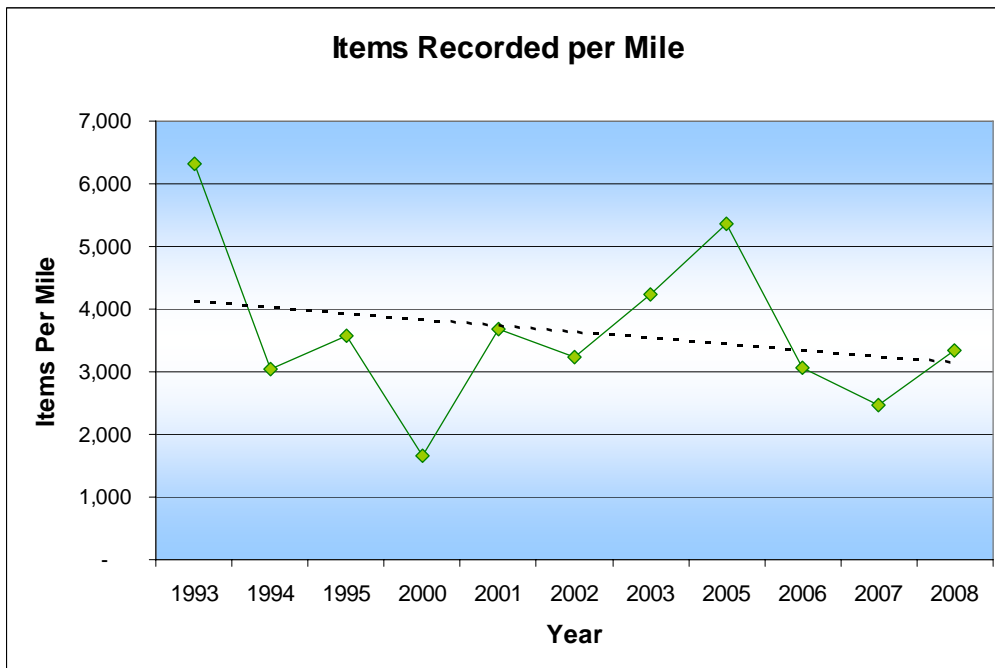
The pounds per mile for 2008 had a higher ratio than last year (294 compared to 192), but it was still lower than other years. Pounds collected per mile ranged from 192 in 2007 to 833 in 1993; with a general trend downward (Table 10, Figure 8). Either heavier items were collected in the early 1990's versus the last five years, or people began littering a lower volume of trash in recent years.

Figure 8. Pounds of debris per mile during New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup.



When comparing items recorded per mile for the past five years (Table 10, Figure 9), this year was higher than the previous two years, but lower than the rest of the years (3,332 items per mile in 2008 vs. 2,478 in 2007). There appears to be a slight downward trend in this category.

Figure 9. Items recorded per mile during the New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup.



Top Five

The top five items recorded were also compared for years when data were available (Table 10). In all years, cigarette butts/filters were the number one item collected.

This year, food wrappers/containers rose to the second item on the list, but the amount of rope decreased from last year. The number of cigarette butts found (58,634) was greater than last year, which is interesting since cigarette butts have been decreasing at our Adopt-a-Beach cleanups. This increase this year could be due to the huge increase in cigarettes found at the student cleanup (34,000+ this year compared to 21,000+ last year). Plastic bags also entered the top 5 for the first time, which is disturbing given the recent trend for shoppers to use cloth bags.