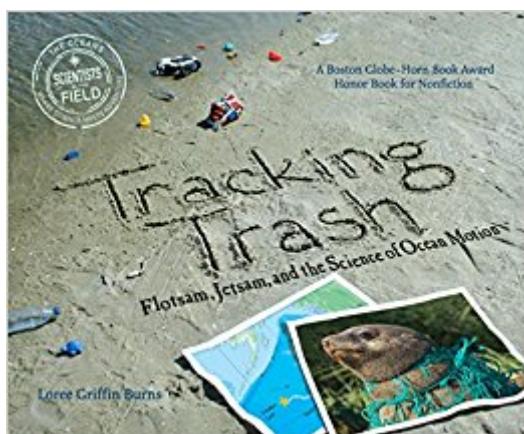


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# Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, And The Science Of Ocean Motion (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

Aided by an army of beachcombers, oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer tracks trash in the name of science. From sneakers to hockey gloves, Curt monitors the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean. The information he collects is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data. And with careful analysis, Curt, along with a community of scientists, friends, and beachcombers alike, is using his data to understand and protect our ocean. In engaging text and unforgettable images, readers meet the woman who started it all (Curt's mother!), the computer program that makes sense of his data (nicknamed OSCURS), and several scientists, both on land and on the sea, who are using Curt's discoveries to preserve delicate marine habitats and protect the creatures who live in them. A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book for Nonfiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 5. While the subtitle leads one to believe that the heart of this book is about the science of ocean currents, it's actually about why we need to protect our marine environment. Burns tells the tale of Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer who started to track trash (flotsam) that washed up on the shore near his Seattle home. Through floating sneakers and bath toys that accidentally fell off container ships and a computer program named OSCURS, Ebbesmeyer tracked the currents of the ocean. These experiments led to a discussion of

how debris is polluting our oceans and causing harm to marine life. Burns introduces the work of several scientists who are working to clean up ghost nets and other dangerous debris. The well-written narration will keep readers engaged, and it's excellent for reports. The science is clearly explained, and the vivid and lively photographs and well-labeled charts and diagrams help to create interest and build understanding. This title will get readers thinking and possibly acting on these problems. *•Esther Keller, I.S. 278, Marine Park, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1990, five containers packed with Nike sneakers were swept off a cargo ship during a storm at sea. In 1992, 28,800 floating bathtub toys spilled into the Pacific in a similar mishap. The book profiles two oceanographers who devised experiments using computer-modeling programs of ocean surface current movement to predict the landfall of these drifting objects. They also gathered data from the beachcombing community to test their hypotheses. The last third of the book describes the mounting problem of plastic trash in the oceans and shows how this debris is destructive to marine life. Back matter includes a glossary, bibliographic notes, and short annotated lists of books and Web sites. Spacious layout, exceptionally fine color photos, and handsome maps give this book an inviting look, though its higher reading level indicates an older audience than some earlier titles in the Scientists in the Field series. A unique and often fascinating book on ocean currents, drifting trash, and the scientists who study them. *Carolyn Phelan* *Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My grand kids loved it

TRACKING TRASH by Loree Griffin Burns is a trip to a different world -- our oceans. The author won a well-earned Boston Globe - Horn Book Award for this work of non-fiction that's as transporting as any novel. My kids - 5 and 10 - were entranced as I read out loud about huge cargo spills of sneakers and bath toys, where the items washed up on beaches all over the world, and what it taught scientists about ocean currents. They were horrified -- and so was I -- by stories of "ghost nets" that are abandoned in the seas to become garbage magnets and death traps for wildlife. This is an important book that teaches stewardship without ever feeling preachy, and it's well-deserving of the honors it's receiving.

We checked this out at the library for our very science oriented family, specifically our 5yo son. My husband and I were absolutely amazed by "ocean drift" and found the book just as captivating (or more so) than our son. We decided to buy it on to permanently have for ourselves and have already shared it with many of our friends. Great pictures, very readable and understandable for young children even. If you know someone who likes nature /ecology/ oceanography/ conservation of any age- this would be a great gift!

If you have any interest in the environment, you will really be fascinated in this book Enjoy!

Eye-opening and kid-friendly. Great addition to science classroom.

This book is a terrific introduction to the science of ocean currents. It's straightforward, clear and conveys accurate information in a way that is easy to comprehend. The maps of trash as moved by ocean currents are really helpful. This book is a great start for anyone who is interested in this subject.

So wonderful. A real eye opener for me.

Great for a young reader interested in the ocean.

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