


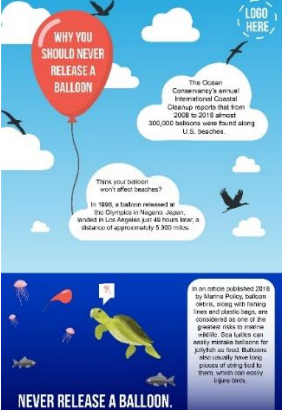


# PETF Reducing Aquatic Litter Debris Infographics and Toolkit

## February - Balloons

The following are guides to social media posts for the Reducing Aquatic Litter Debris Infographics and Toolkit. In the tables, are the images and captions that are meant to be posted with one another. Each month there will be a focus on one item of litter that is commonly found. There will be four posts a month that follow this pattern: an Adobe stock photo announcing what the topic of the month is, a simple graphic with a fact about the item, an organization that targets this item of litter and an infographic about this month's topic. In each graphic, there is room for a logo. While it is not mandatory to put logos on every post, it is mandatory for the first post (the adobe stock image).

Image	Caption
	<p>Free flying balloons pose a threat to wildlife. From inland to coastal areas, birds and marine life have been found entangled, strangled or suffocated by balloon pollution. Released balloons have also been known to cause power outages by interfering with power lines. Never release a balloon and pick them up and throw them away when you spot them!</p>
	<p>There are two different types of balloons, mylar and latex. Mylar balloons usually have a metallic finish and are made from metallicized polyester. Latex balloons have a rubber like appearance. Both can take years to break down into microplastics. Be aware of how much damage a balloon can do the environment, wildlife and people. Reduce your use of balloons to help the environment and always throw away balloons when you find them!</p>
	<p>The nonprofit organization, Balloons Blow, focuses on preventing and cleaning balloon litter. Along with educational materials, they also provide environmentally friendly alternatives to use instead of balloon releases. Go to <a href="https://balloonsblow.org/">https://balloonsblow.org/</a> to learn more!</p>
	<p>Despite what you might think, balloons can travel far distances. A balloon you release could easily end up in an ocean, miles from where you live. Consider alternative options to balloon releases such as a garden planting in remembrance, a candle lighting ceremony or blowing bubbles.</p>