

SPACE DEBRIS SYMPOSIUM (A6)
Poster Session (P)

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SPACE DEBRIS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

Space debris causes significant concern for current space activities and this concern will only increase in the future. Space debris has social, cultural, economic, and political implications that parallel the marine environment. This paper discusses space debris through a marine debris lens. It identifies lessons learned within a marine debris context that can be applied to the space environment; potential challenges that may arise in the future, and why we are positioned comparatively well to solve space debris problems. Marine debris challenges and solutions have provided opportunities and adaptable tools in policy, management, and clean-up for the space debris context. Additionally old and new technologies designed and aimed at marine debris removal can be applicable to space debris.