

Seabin will tackle ocean trash

Paul Johnston



Seabin Project managing director Pete Ceglinski and Andrew Turton, inventor, director and co-founder (File photograph)

A new addition at the Hamilton Princess and Beach Club marina will look to play a small part in cleaning up ocean trash.

The device — called a Seabin — is affixed to docks and marinas to siphon plastic, debris, detergents and oil from the water before they can make their way out to sea.



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The first of its kind in Bermuda, it comes through a partnership between Butterfield and the Seabin Project, the organisation behind the device.

Curtis Dickinson, executive vice-president, group head of private banking at Butterfield, said that the Seabin will help play a small part against global problem.

“Our oceans are in crisis,” Mr Dickinson said at a press conference marking the installation today. “They are literally awash in trash.”

According to Mr Dickinson, there are currently 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic trash in the world’s oceans. Another eight million tones are added annually, he said.

“That is the equivalent of a garbage truck full of plastic being dumped into the sea every single minute, every day.”

Pete Ceglinski, CEO and co-founder of the Seabin Project, described the partnership between his organisation and the bank as “absolutely amazing”.

An educational component is also part of the agreement, Mr Ceglinski said.

“This is a big part of the programme as well, and this is something we are also very proud about,” he said.

The device is only a first step in a cultural shift, he said.

“The Seabin is not the solution — the solution is ourselves changing our culture of what we consume, what we buy, what we recycle.”

Jonathan Starling, executive director with Greenrock, said the project represented exactly the type of co-operative initiative needed to tackle environmental issues.

“A healthy ocean is critical to our survival,” he said.