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Marble treasure hunt hitting Boston Harbor beaches

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Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's (SHSB) fifth annual "Simply Marbleous" Treasure Hunt is hitting the harbor once again, and the group has announced that more than 30 pounds of marbles are being dropped into the Boston Harbor.

"We've released 30 pounds already and we'll be releasing another 30 pounds over the course of the summer," said SHSB Spokesperson Bruce Berman. "Most of the ones that have been found so far have been found while at a beach event at Carson Beach in South Boston."

The 30 pounds of marbles, Berman said, was set to help celebrate this year as the 30th anniversary of the Better Beaches Program events that include several beach festivals around the harbor and in South Boston. Any resident who finds a blue marble on the beach, or in the water, and takes a photo of themselves with it and posts it to social media with the hashtag "#savetheharbor" will be entered to win two round-trip JetBlue flights to any domestic destination the airline serves from Logan Airport.

"In the five years since we began this event with our friends and partners at JetBlue, Save the Harbor and our corporate and community partners have removed more than 150,000 pounds of trash and debris from our beaches," Berman said. "There are also several organizations involved in the cleanups this year, and in fact they're lots of fun and extremely important. These are the (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation) DCR's beaches, but they need our help to take care of them."

The contest started five years



If you find one of these marbles at the beach this year, send a photo to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

ago to help residents take stock of their beaches and get them cleaned up. Berman said it was during those cleanups that the idea for the marbles came into view.

"We thought as we were planning the first cleanup, you know, what if instead of taking stuff off the beach, maybe we could put something on the beach?" he said. "We've spent a lot of time with the 30,000 residents we serve each year, and one of the things that excites them is beach glass... On Spectacle Island, it shows up periodically and washes up on shore. We thought wouldn't it be cool if we could find the right kind of marbles."

The marbles themselves are

hollow frosted glass and this year they are blue. Berman said the contest will be a fundraiser for cleanups and other beach programming throughout the year. In its 30 years of existence, SHSB has helped to make the Boston Harbor a clean and safe place to find recreation. The Better Beaches Program was started in 2008 to help create and sustain events around the beaches after the historic \$3.8 billion cleanup of the area started in 1995. According to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the cleanup may be done, but they are still watching and testing the area to make it does not fall into the polluted and unusable beachfront it once was.