

Reports from the Field on the Marine Debris Removal Initiative

Expedition 1: Week 1-2 (Aug 18-26) Report

- Location: Southern portion of BC's central coast (mouth of Rivers Inlet and associated islands, Calvert Island, Goose Islands, McNaughton Group, Tribal Group Islands)
- Tonnes collected: **26.6**
- Coastline cleaned: **282 km**
- Anecdotal findings: This week's debris was about 2% plastic water bottles and 50% to 75% derelict fishing gear (varies by location). Other items found: Fridge, drums of oil, DFO data collection drift buoy, half an aluminum boat, 500 feet of cable.

Notes: This is rugged work! Although we imagine 'beach clean-up' as walking along a sandy beach picking up light objects, the reality on the BC coast is different. There are some sandy beaches (across which the crew's transport bags of debris weighing hundreds of pounds). There are a lot of rocky shorelines where plastic nets or plastic ropes or Styrofoam pieces or cables or bottles wedge themselves and need to be worked or cut free. There are fallen trees to climb over, and uneven rocky terrain to carry heavy items over. The crew are resilient and positive, very proud of the contribution they are able to make to places they love so dearly.

Expedition 1: Weeks 2-3 (Aug 27-Sep 7) Report

- Location: Southern to central portion of BC's central coast (Calvert Island to Athlone Island)
- Tonnes collected (cumulative): **61**
- Coastline cleaned: **600 km**
- Notes: Week three involved moving the collected debris onto the barge (tug and barge from the Heiltsuk community in Bella Belal) with the helicopter (helicopter from Airspan Helicopters) to bring it to Port Hardy. The tug crew were able to take almost an entire bin of dragger balls (part of the debris) back to the Heiltsuk community to gift to the herring roe-on-kelp fishers in the community. This traditional and sustainable fishery provides a valuable delicacy (herring roe on kelp) and industry in coastal nations. The dragger balls will be useful to the roe-on-kelp fishers to secure their lines of kelp. The SSTOA plans to ask other nations with a roe-on-kelp fishery if they'd like to have some of the dragger balls collected on the next expedition as well. The majority of the debris continued to be offshore fishing gear (nets, floats, dragger balls, ropes, etc.) and some plastic bottles. The vessels are having a turnaround anchored in Port Hardy and head back out for expedition #2 on Sep 9.

Expedition 2: Week 1 (September 9-13) Report

- Location: BC's central coast (Price Island, Aristazabal Island, nearby islands and islets)
- Tonnes collected on the second expedition only: **35**
- Tonnes collected (cumulative to date) - first and second expeditions: **96**
- Lift bags + lift bag equivalents second expedition only: **218**
- Lift bags + lift bag equivalents (cumulative to date) - first and second expeditions: **641**
- Coastline cleaned: TBA km
- Notes: This week's numbers are from 3.5 days of collecting (1.5 days' transit required to reach the work area). This is an astounding amount of debris for 3.5 days. Based on this rate, there will be more debris here than we can collect on this expedition (due to space on the barge, and weather considerations for the outer islets). We are also getting updates from the Kitsoo / Xai'Xais crew and the Gitga'at crews in other parts of the territory we're in, and the Heiltsuk south of us.
- For images from the field, follow [#BCCoastalCleanup](#) on Instagram!

Expedition 2: Weeks 2-3 (Sept 14-23) Report

All numbers are preliminary estimates

- Location: BC's central coast (Price Island, Aristazabal Island, St John Harbour, nearby islands and islets)
- Tonnes collected on the second expedition only: **66**
- Tonnes collected (cumulative to date)-first and second expeditions: **127** • Lift Bags + lift bag equivalents (cumulative to date)- second expedition only: **415** (includes some bags from a related project by Gitga'at community, Kitsoo/Xai'Xais community and Heiltsuk community)
- Coastline Cleaned: TBA
- Notes: As this report was filled the ships were waiting out a storm in a safe anchorage and hope to collect the last remaining lift bags from islands tomorrow and then head toward Port Hardy over the following couple of days.
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