



Flotsam and Jetsam

March 2012

Welcome to the Argyll and Bute Beach Forum quarterly e-bulletin. The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum is a project run by The GRAB Trust (as part of our Beaches and Marine Litter Project). Our main aim is to raise awareness of the impacts of and reduce beach and marine litter and to support communities to take action by cleaning beaches.

We hope you will find our e-bulletin interesting. The bulletin is also available by post and on our website. Your contributions are always welcome. We want to make this bulletin as useful as possible. Tell us what you would like to see in the bulletin, it is your bulletin!

National Spring Clean

Keep Scotland Beautiful is excited to announce details of Scotland's biggest annual litter clean up, National Spring Clean, and this year we're hoping it will be the biggest and best yet.

This year's campaign will run from **1st April – 31st May 2012** and this year we've set ourselves the ambitious target of getting 200,000 participants.



Make a difference to your favourite place

Taking part in National Spring Clean is a great way to make a difference to your favourite place in Scotland.

Whether it's your local park, a favourite beach, the route of your Sunday walk or an unloved piece of land that you pass everyday there are thousands of places that would benefit from a bit of TLC.

So this Spring why not spend an hour or two with your family, friends, colleagues or community group to improve your neighbourhood.

How you can help

Sign up to now to receive your FREE Clean Up Kit. Your kit contains everything you need to get started including tabards, posters, a 'how to' guide and details on how you can get the litter you collect picked up afterwards.

Visit www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org to find out more, including details of great competitions and how to get your hands on some tasty Gregg's treats.

End of Life Management of Fishing Nets

Contributor—Polly Mather, Re-JIG's Beach Ranger

On Thursday 9th February 2012 Zero Waste Scotland, in partnership with KIMO UK, Waste Free Oceans and Plastics Europe hosted a free one-day event focused on the issue of derelict fishing gear and the impact it has on the Scottish Fishing industry and the marine environment.

The event was an opportunity to hear from CETMAR (Centro Tecnológico del Mar) about the findings from their recently completed 3R Fish Project and also to help inform and shape any potential interventions Zero Waste Scotland might undertake to reduce waste and increase recycling in this area.

The keynote introduction speaker was Professor Richard Thompson from the University of Plymouth who is concerned with marine debris and micro-plastic in the environment. He reported that 95% of dead fulmars found and examined have stomachs full of plastic, although it is difficult to prove that this is how the birds have died. Plastic in the sea breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, and moves around the oceans by winds, tides and currents, and it is difficult to assess the harm that is being done by it. Professor Thompson came up with several solutions for us to consider, but ended by saying that there is no single solution, only different solutions to different end of life products.

Tom Piper who runs the Fisher for Litter campaign spoke next about the economic impact of marine litter. Fishing for Litter is part of KIMO, a European-wide initiative composed of 15 countries. He works with Scottish fishermen, encouraging them to keep and appropriately dispose of rubbish caught in their nets. He talked about the impact marine litter has on fishermen when their fishing boats and equipment get damaged or contaminated, and the time it takes them to sort this out, when they could be catching fish. The fishermen are asked not to throw rubbish back into the sea, but to put it into hard-wearing bags and take it to the quayside for disposal.



The next speaker was Juan Pablo Perez from 3R Fish Project which is based in northern Spain. There, they have been trying to recover lost nets and other fishing gear and recycle them. Fishing is a huge industry in Galicia with 5,000 registered fishing boats. 3R's objective is—at sea, nothing thrown overboard and on land—zero waste. The fishing nets they were dealing with are extremely heavy and are made up of different types of plastic and, therefore, need to be disposed of differently. They found a recycling company in Spain for a year or so, but that company had to fold due to economic pressures. Apparently, Asia and China offer the best prices for some types of plastic fishing net, but not all. At the end of the day, the nets are very difficult to process. They are very dirty and smelly, and

have to be separated into their different plastic parts which are all tangled together. It is very labour-intensive and although fishing net recycling is possible, the profit margins are very slim.

Unfortunately, the speaker from the Icelandic Take Back Scheme could not attend, but had forwarded her notes for our information. In Iceland, they send some of their end of life fishing gear to be recycled in Lithuania, but they also recycle at home. In Iceland's recycling plants, the cost of cleaning plastic is kept down by using the underground hot springs which supplies free steam.

At the end of the day, it was agreed that a co-ordinated approach was essential on a European level and the need to change the properties of fishing nets to make them more recyclable is necessary.



Working together for
a world without waste



PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

Local community, business and schools pull together to clean up Westport Beach

The GRAB Trust
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

On Tuesday 13th March over 80 children and adults were involved in helping clear the litter that had piled up at Westport beach after the horrendous storms this winter. Those present on the day included Castlehill & Dalintober Primary Schools and local surfers who, under their own steam, removed the huge amount of netting that had gathered, and then dedicated two hours of their surfing time to help clear the beach and the sand-dunes of the unwanted and unsightly litter debris. Also present were local Councillor Rory Colville, local farmer James Young who brought along his Manitobe vehicle to remove the larger mounds of rotting weeds and litter by the footpath leading down to the beach, and Argyll & Bute Council staff who helped clear the larger items with the quad bike and trailer.

There were several other groups that turned out to help and we are truly thankful for the great job they all did with helping to clean up a tremendous amount of litter that had accumulated over several months. The clean-up filled one huge skip full of weeds, litter and netting with at least 100 bags of litter removed alongside larger items thrown in separately. As usual there were several unusual items discovered two of which were a fire extinguisher and a rotting inflatable rib!

Julie Fairbrass (GRAB Trust) would like to say a big thanks to all of the participants who took part on the day; your help was tremendous and without this help we could not have cleared so much. Also a big thank you to Shanks staff who provided skips for the litter and debris. There is still some clearing up to do and we hope to be down again in May to make sure the smaller bits of plastic get removed.



If you would like to get involved in any beach cleans or would like help organising one, email or phone Julie Fairbrass at the GRAB Trust on 01631 569174 or julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk or Owen Paisley routemanager@kintyreway.com

Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2012

“Dynamic Coasts”

Friday 13th April



West Park Conference Centre, Perth Road, Dundee

For further details please contact Laura Booth (TEF Project Officer)

t 01382 384933 e TayEstuaryForum@dundee.ac.uk w <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/TEF/>

Festival of the Sea

Planning for the Festival of the Sea 2012 for Oban, Lorn and the Isles is well under way with an exciting programme of events taking shape across the area. From the busy SAMS Open Day to the Virtual Landscape Theatre with its interactive science workshop, marine-themed art exhibitions, guided walks & talks, renowned authors and storytellers, historic castles near the sea, ships, boats and seafood



It's all happening near here for you!

We want to celebrate the beauty, diversity, power and productivity of the sea that surrounds us – why not come along and join in the fun!

You will find the Festival website at www.obanseafestival.org

If you have a sea-themed event you would like to include in the Festival, please contact Helen by e-mailing Helen.McNeill@sams.ac.uk Tel. 01631 559430

Cardross Primary Outdoor Club Cleans up Cardross Beach

On 1st March, pupils from Cardross Primary Outdoor Club braved the rain to go out and clean-up Cardross beach. There had been a dressing up day at the school, so the group included various elves, princesses and an astronaut.



The amount of litter on the beach was unbelievable! The winter storms had deposited several tonnes of rubbish on the beach and foreshore area, and it was not a pretty sight! The children, however, were not put off by the scale of the task and with help from parents, teachers, The GRAB Trust and the local Environmental Warden, they removed around 20 bags of rubbish from the beach. Looking at the litter still left on the beach at the end of the clean-up, one of the children said, "Oh well! We'll just have to come back and finish it off next week!" Best of luck to them and well done to everyone who took part – you did a great job!



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List of acronyms used in the bulletin:

KSB: Keep Scotland Beautiful

SAMS: Scottish Association for Marine Science

HWDT: Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

SNH: Scottish Natural Heritage

FoCF: Firth of Clyde Forum

MCS: Marine Conservation Society

SEPA: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

TEAR: Tیره Environmental Action and Recycling

Disclaimer

Thanks for reading. Please note that all views expressed are not necessarily the views of the GRAB Trust or the Argyll and Bute Beach Forum. We hope that you have enjoyed our e-bulletin. We would like to hear from you and would appreciate any comments you may have about it.

The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum,

The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum is funded by the following Organisations:

