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Introduction

In 2014-15 Clallam Marine Resources Committee (CMRC) coordinated or participated in several marine debris events. This report summarizes the highlights of these events including media releases, articles, produced materials and evaluation results. The 2014-15 events included:

- April 25th Earth Day cleanup.
- Fourth of July Parade.
- July 5th Ediz Hook beach cleanup.
- August 2nd Ediz Hook beach cleanup.
- August 17th Intern Celebration.
- September 19th International Coastal Cleanup.

Each of these events are described in more detail within the following sections.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup

CMRC supported the beach cleanup efforts on April 25th by providing a dumpster for the marine debris and covering the tipping fees and cleanup materials for beach cleanups at and west of Clallam Bay.

Media Coverage

The cleanup efforts along the Strait of Juan de Fuca coastline were advertised by Washington CoastSavers. The Earth Day event was posted on CMRC website.

Produced Material

The flyer below was made by CMRC and posted at several locations throughout Port Angeles and at Clallam Bay Visitor Center.



Clallam Bay—Sekiu & Western Straits

COMMUNITY BEACH CLEANUP

Saturday, April 25th, 2015

*Please join us in celebrating Earth Day by helping remove
litter from our local beaches-Pillar Point to Bullman Beach!*

TRASH BAG & GLOVE HANDOUT & SIGN UP : 9 AM

CLALLAM BAY VISITOR CENTER (Coffee & Goodies, tool)

HOKO RIVER/VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD BY MAILBOXES

SEKIU RIVER (NW CORNER PAST BRIDGE)

SHIPWRECK POINT (PULLOUT WITH HISTORIC MARKER)

RAY'S GROCERY

A dumpster will be available at the Clallam County Park in Clallam Bay.

Bring your "Most Unusual Finds" to the Visitor Center for
display & prizes by 3 pm Saturday!

1-4 PM: Complimentary BBQ, Refreshments and

Music at Chito Beach Resort

FOR INFO: Call Roy & Nancy 963-2442

Clallam Bay-Sekiu Litter Club



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Evaluation Results

The following article was posted in the NWSC newsletter.

"Best Turnout Ever" for Clallam Bay – Sekiu Beach Cleanup, April 25

Great weather and an enthusiastic crowd contributed to the best turnout to date for the Clallam Bay-Sekiu beach cleanup on April 25.

49 Volunteers donated 119 Hours and cleaned about 20 Miles of beach from Deep Creek to Bullman Beach. The volunteers collected 1.4 tons of debris and enjoyed a post-cleanup barbecue and music. The Clallam Marine Resources Committee donated bags, gloves, and rental and tipping fees for a 20 cubic yard dumpster.

An unusual anchor with rope entwined won first prize in the "Most Unusual Find" contest at the Clallam Bay Visitor Center. A piece of fiberglass boat won second prize.

Thanks to all who participated.

Fourth of July Parade

On July 4th CMRC members and Haley Gray, the marine debris summer intern, walked in the 2015 Port Angeles parade to promote beach cleanup of Ediz Hook Beach. To draw attention to the issue of marine debris a float was created around Sarah Tucker's "Merperson" sculpture which was made of marine debris.



Media Coverage

The Fourth of July Parade was posted on CMRC website and Haley Gray posted it on Facebook.

Produced Material

A float was made featuring Sarah Tucker's "Merperson" sculpture. The sculpture was surrounded by marine debris.

Evaluation Results

The streets from the Court House to the end of First Street were lined with people watching the parade.

July 5th Ediz Hook Beach Cleanup



The July 5th beach cleanup on Ediz Hook was organized by the summer intern, Haley Gray, and it turned out to be a big success. Thirty-five volunteers, the youngest only 5, worked together to fill 20 bags worth of debris. Walking the two miles of shoreline on the bay side and parking areas at the Hook, volunteers reported the most common items found were sparkler sticks and other firework remains. The Clallam MRC provided gloves and bags and the City

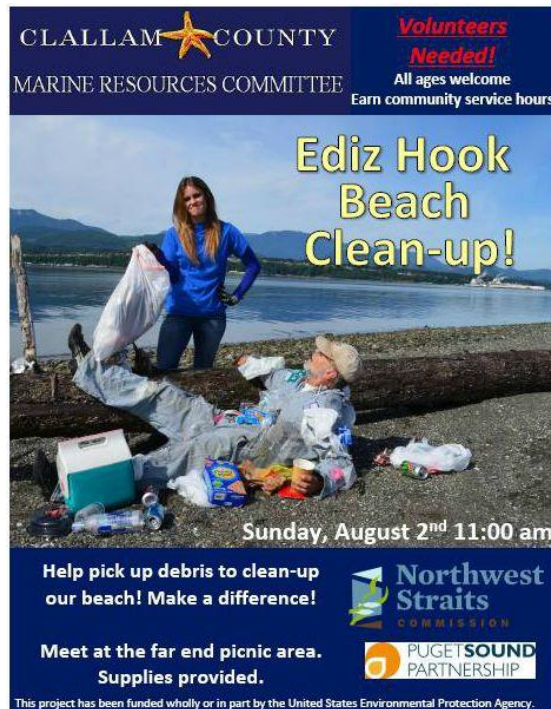
of Port Angeles provided the dumpsters.

Media Coverage

The beach cleanup event was posted on CMRC website, the "Revitalize Port Angeles" website and Haley Gray posted it on Facebook.

Produced Material

The flyer below was made by Haley Gray and posted at several locations throughout Port Angeles. The same flyer was used again with a changed date for the August 2nd cleanup. The poster below is from the second cleanup event.



August 2nd Ediz Hook Beach Cleanup

A smaller group of volunteers came for the second Ediz Hook beach cleanup. Together they collected about seven bags of marine debris. The debris included fast food containers, Styrofoam, clothing, rope, cigarettes and plastic and tin cans. The Clallam MRC provided gloves and bags and the City of Port Angeles provided once again the dumpsters.



Media Coverage

The beach cleanup event was posted on CMRC website, the "Revitalize Port Angeles" website and Haley Gray posted it on Facebook.

Produced Material

The flyer above was made by Haley Gray and posted at several locations throughout Port Angeles.

Evaluation Results

Seven volunteers collected about seven bags of marine debris.

August 17th Intern Celebration

The five students completed their CMRC internships August 17th by giving poster presentations for the local community at the Port Angeles Yacht Club. Haley Gray had made a poster focusing on marine debris. She discussed the impacts of marine debris, the results from the two cleanup events and what the individual person can do to help.



Media Coverage

The following press release was sent to Peninsula Daily News and the presentation event was posted on CMRC website.

Clallam County MRC Celebrates Student Interns

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee invites the public to a free event to celebrate the work of its student interns. The event will be held on Monday, August 17th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Port Angeles Yacht Club at 1305 Marine Drive.

Each year, the Clallam MRC utilizes part of a grant from the Northwest Straits Commission to provide learning experiences for local students interested in environmental science. This year, the MRC is sponsoring five interns: Emily Larson, Haley Gray, Kelli McHenry, Katelyn McLean, and Victoria Cantelow.

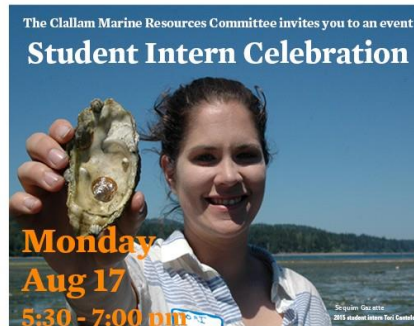
The students have been working closely with MRC members and other partners to study the environmental effects of marine debris and invasive plants on marine and nearshore ecosystems, collect baseline environmental data to support oil spill preparedness activities, participate in restoration efforts to reestablish Olympia oyster populations in Sequim Bay, and develop community involvement and outreach events to raise public awareness of existing and emerging issues and challenges that could affect local marine resources.

During the celebration at the Yacht Club, the students will present the results of their work during a poster session, and be available to answer general questions from the public. Clallam MRC members will also be present to describe the work being done locally and regionally that benefits the residents of Clallam County as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative, a Federally authorized program that promotes restoration and protection of the marine resources in the Salish Sea.

In addition to the funding provided by the Northwest Straits Commission, the work of the MRC is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Northwest Straits Foundation, the nonprofit part of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Produced Material

The Northwest Strait Foundation made the following flyer which was distributed throughout Port Angeles and posted on CMRC website.



Port Angeles Yacht Club | 1305 Marine Drive

Students will share their summer projects, engaging community members to address troubling issues that affect the people, species and habitats of our local marine waters, including:

- marine debris and invasive species
- Olympia Oyster restoration in Sequim Bay
- oil spill preparedness

All community members are welcome to this free event to thank Emily Larson, Haley Gray, Kerri McHenry, Katelyn McLean and Victoria Cantelow and learn more about Clallam MRC's marine restoration and stewardship projects. For more information contact Helle Anderson at ardeaco@yahoo.com and 360-808-4964.

The Clallam County MRC Student Intern Program is a project of the Northwest Straits Commission and Puget Sound Partnership and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

event sponsored by:



partners in marine conservation

www.clallamcountymrc.org

www.nwstraitsfoundation.org

The poster below was made by the summer intern, Haley Gray.

CC MRC Internship Project: Marine Debris Clean-up
Clean the Environment. Spread the Awareness

By Haley Gray
An Internship project sponsored by the Clallam County Marine Resource Committee

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency

INTRODUCTION

The beaches of the Pacific Northwest are some of the most beautiful places to visit due to their astonishing vegetation and marine life. However, these beautiful areas and creatures are at risk because of Marine Debris.

Definition of Marine Debris

Any human made solid trash that enters the coastal waters and/or coastal shoreline. Common examples of debris are plastic bags, cigarette, rubber, and aluminum cans.

What is the harm?

- Animals can consume Marine Debris. Thinking it is food, which can lead to health complications.
- Animals can become entangled in debris, which can limit mobility and cause physical pain or even death.
- To the general public, debris is unsightly and can be dangerous to walk on.

Therefore, the purpose of my project is:

- To collect and remove Marine Debris from local beaches in order to reduce the potential damage it can cause to wildlife. During the summer I was to plan two clean-up events:

- July 9th @ Ediz Hook: an annual CC MRC clean-up to remove firework debris from Fourth of July celebrations.
- August 2nd @ Ediz Hook: a date/location chosen by me and was a standard clean-up.

JULY 9th EVENT RESULTS

Location: Ediz Hook Beach in Port Angeles
Time: 11am-1pm
Tide @ noon: -1.3

Purpose: To remove firework remains from July 4th celebrations along shore and parking areas.

Notes: The 2015 clean-up was anticipated to produce a larger amount of firework debris than past years because it was the last year fireworks were allowed in the city.

- Spent Advertising: CC MRC members and supporters walked in the Fourth of July Parade in Port Angeles.

The Tossout

Volunteers: 35
Approx. Age Range: 5-60
Approx. Number of Bags: 29
Approx. Area Cleaned: 75% (inner) & 35% (outer)

Items Found:

Spentier Sticks	Food Remains
Plastic and Glass Cans	Mortar Holders
Paper	Flarecans
Cigarettes	Plastic Strips

Figure 1a: Map of Ediz Hook in Port Angeles

Figure 1b: pictures from clean-ups and parade

AUGUST 2nd EVENT RESULTS

Location: Ediz Hook Beach in Port Angeles
Time: 11am-1pm
Tide @ 10:45am: -1.1

Purpose: To remove as much Marine Debris from the upper shoreline as possible.

Notes: Advertising was aimed to CC MRC members and High School students seeking community service hours.

The Tossout

Volunteers: 7
Approx. Age Range: 12-65
Approx. Number of Bags: 7
Approx. Area Cleaned: 60% (inner) 5% (outer)

Items Found:

Plastic and Tin Cans
Paper
Cigarettes
Clothing
Styrofoam
Fast Food Containers
Fishing Line
Rope

Figure 1b: pictures from clean-ups and parade

DISCUSSION: What can you do to help?

- Be respectful of your environment
 - Pick up after yourself!!!!
 - Dispose ALL trash properly
 - Pick up other trash, even if not yours
- Reduce to limit your carbon footprint

Reason: to maximize the worth of what you got

Recycle to limit and re-purpose trash
- Participate in local clean-ups like these ones
 - Support foundations dedicated to Marine Life and limiting Marine Debris.
 - Coastalcare
 - Naturealls
 - NOWA
- Spread your awareness of Marine Debris to others

CONCLUSION: What was learned

What

It was easy to. It is to make a difference in a short amount of time.

Collected 27 bags in only 4 hours (combined events)

Realized there is always more to be cleaned.

The Best way to Advertise

I designed signs for the events. They were distributed via Facebook, posted on environmental sites (CC MRC and Coastalcare), emailed to interested parties, and posted at local businesses. The most successful advertising sources were email and Facebook (especially Port Angeles).

INTERVIEW/GRAND SUPPORTERS

Clallam County Marine Resource Committee (CC MRC)
Clallam County Sheriff Department: Provided drinking water at the clean-up
Port Angeles City: Collected garbage bags
Helle Anderson: Project Coordinator
Bob Vreeland: My Project Supervisor

CONTACT

Haley Gray
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Phone: 360-808-7180
Marine Debris Intern

Timeline of Decomposition

Paper towels: 2-4 weeks
Newspaper: 6 weeks
Apple core: 2 months
Cotton gloves: 1-5 months
Foam cups: 50 years
Plastic bags: 1-20 years straw, paper, Styrofoam: 80 years
Aluminum can: 200 years
Plastic bottles: 450 years
Fishing line: 600 years (from the Environmental Protection Agency)

Where does Marine Debris Come From? (NOWA)

49% land-based sources
18% ocean-based sources
33% combination

Evaluation Results

About 30 people enjoyed the intern presentations and the provided refreshments.

International Coastal Cleanup 2015

For the September 19th ICC event CMRC Project Coordinator, Helle Andersen, coordinated the cleanup efforts in the Strait of Juan de Fuca with Jon Schmidt from Washington CoastSavers. The coordination effort included finding volunteers for the registration booths, distribution of cleanup materials (signs, gloves, bags etc.) and organizing debris deposits at the landfill. Five community members volunteered to register people for the cleanup efforts of the following areas; Dungeness Spit, Peabody Creek, Ediz Hook, Freshwater Beach, Pillar Point, Deep Creek, Twin Rivers, Clallam Bay, Hoko River, Sekiu River, Shipwreck Point Beach and Bullman Beach.

Media Coverage

The cleanup efforts along the Strait of Juan de Fuca coastline were advertised by Washington CoastSavers. The ICC event was posted on CMRC website.

Produced Material

None

Evaluation Results

The participation in the cleanup efforts varied greatly depending on the area. Only 12 volunteers showed up to work on all the beaches west of Ediz Hook, whereas more than 40 volunteers cleaned up Ediz Hook (4 adults and the entire ROTC from the Port Angeles High School – about 40 students). About 20 volunteers worked on cleaning up Peabody Creek. An estimated 20 bags of marine debris were removed from Ediz Hook. The heaviest haul, about 200 lbs, which included a swing set came from the beaches around Clallam Bay. Rainy weather may have been a factor in the low turnout.