

Notes and Actions from Marine Litter Working Group, Ullapool, 28th November 2017

Some of what's already happening

1. **Marine Conservation Society:** Beachwatch beach cleans, with sorting of litter for data analysis. This data can be used to inform Scottish Government Policy and to work with partners in the Marine Litter Strategy Group - which now includes the Scottish Fisherman's Federation.
2. **Scottish Wildlife Trust, Living Seas:** <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/living-seas/> Marine rubbish plans include: continuing beach cleans, installing some more bins at hard to reach beaches, expanding the use for paper rather than plastic straws - with the aim of making Ullapool plastic straw free. Potential plan to have a clean up camp for the Summer Isles.
3. **Balnakeil beach clean and data analysis:** Undertaken by Julien Moreau and Joan D'Arcy
4. **Plastic@bay:** Potential social enterprise being developed by Joan D'Arcy and Julien Moreau, which could employ beach clean up/ education rangers
5. **Moray Firth Partnership:** Working with Skywatch, who will take aerial photographs (particularly of inaccessible beaches) and with the Marine Conservation Society to map coastal rubbish and pollution. This is a potential Eu funded project, for which the Highlands will be a pilot, and the programme could be adapted for use around the whole Scottish coastline.
6. **Fisheries Trusts:** Work with volunteers, water bailiffs monitor the coastline and could potentially help with litter removal from inaccessible areas.
7. **Highland Council:** Can provide black bags, litter pickers and gloves for schools undertaking beach cleans. Households can get larger recycling bins, if this helps with rubbish collection. Direct people to recycling centres.
8. **Ullapool Harbour:** Information sent by Kevin Peach, Harbourmaster : Ullapool are members of KIMO along with 15 other harbours, we pay £1000 a year into the scheme and for this we have a designated skip which is used mainly for fishing related waste such as nets, wires, rubbers, floats, creels, monofilament plus any plastic waste that fishermen collect and return to the harbour. We distribute 1m³ tote bags to the fleet and these are used to collect rubbish on deck and returned to the harbour for emptying into the skip. The skip emptying and any landfill charges are covered by being a member of the scheme. I would estimate that we collect in the region of 50 – 75 tonnes of waste annually. In 2017 through a KIMO contact (Terracycle) we started to collect all broken plastic fish boxes and have sent 800 away to be recycled . In 2016 again through a KIMO contact we collected all types of discarded netting and assembled two full artic lorry loads (approx. 40T) of netting which was taken to Denmark to be broken down and recycled - <http://plastixglobal.com>
9. **Ullapool Primary School:** Received funding from Tesco 'Bags of Help' to do marine litter work. The contact for Bags of Help is Tamara Hedderwick.

Some of the challenges

1. The scale of the problem
2. The inaccessibility of some of the beaches
3. Not enough people power to clean
4. Education and communication - with general public and with schools
5. What to do with the rubbish - the recycling challenge
6. The need to enforce the law on littering and pollution

Actions for the marine litter group

| Item | Action | Who |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | Members to consider the Highland Coastal Rubbish and Pollution project (attached with action points) and to consider writing a letter of support to the Moray Firth Partnership. The letter should go to Vicky Junik, who can also discuss the project in more detail. Email vicky@morayfirth-partnership.org | All |
| | Circulate a map of where Beachwatch surveys occur - so that members can highlight other priority beaches, and effort can be targeted on these | Catherine Gemmell to circulate map - members to respond |
| 2 | Find a beach clean analysis system that is compatible with Beachwatch survey, but practical on beaches with a high rubbish density. | Catherine Gemmell |
| 3 | Check whether Highland Council will be re-joining KIMO | Cllr Hugh Morrison |
| 4 | Follow up on the potential to work with KIMO on 'Fishing for Litter' and Pick up 3 Pieces' once a new representative is in post. | Caroline/all |
| 5 | Circulate details of the Ullapool Primary School Project, funded by Tesco 'Bags of Help'. Members to consider how they might promote this in their area. | Janis Patterson All |
| 6 | Scottish Wildlife Trust, Living Seas, to trial putting bins for beach litter at a few more remote locations. | Noel Hawkins |
| 7 | Ask Marine Scotland about Local Coastal Partnerships - and whether one could be established for West and North Highland? | Caroline |
| 8 | Establish smaller working groups to work on specific areas of action - see below. | |

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding:

Catherine suggested this on the way home - and I thought it was a good idea. We'll devise a simple statement/ several statements that we can agree on, and then we can comment / put out news releases as a group - but only with full agreement of the group.

Action: Caroline to devise a draft statement for discussion, amendment and agreement.

Future work:

We need to keep them focussed on what we can achieve collectively.

It might be good to initially see what we can achieve just by working together, and relatively cheaply - which will mean only undergoing the pain of funding applications where they will make a difference.

All groups will keep the others informed of developments by group email, or when we meet.

1. **To continue to meet** once or twice per annum to exchange information and ideas and to see where possible links can be made.

Possible working groups:

2. Develop a working relationship with the **Environmental Research Institute in Thurso**, so that volunteer effort and data collection could be used to support their research effort.

3. Roll out the **plastic straw free communities** project - in association with Scottish Wildlife Trust
4. Develop systems for the **disposal (and ideally recycling) of marine rubbish** from beach clean ups and Fishing for Litter. Include working with Highland Council and learning from the Environmental Research Institute work.
5. **Schools:** Develop links with them, and practical projects that can be undertaken (include the need for litter picking kits). Working with them on behaviour change campaigns.
6. **Harbours, Fishing, Aquaculture:** Establish areas of common ground, and where projects might be developed together.

Some useful links:

- [Highland coordination against marine plastic pollution](#) - sign up and promote to others
- [Highland and Moray Fisheries Local Action Group \(FLAG\): EU funding](#)
- [Plastic Free Schools](#)
- [KIMO - Fishing for Litter, Pick up 3 Pieces animation](#)
- [Circular Ocean - Environmental Research Institute](#)
- [Open Litter Map](#)